

Men's Basketball

Clackamas within striking distance

MANDY GOOD
Sports Editor

The Clackamas men's basketball team is tied for third place, and is one game outside of second place, walking into two home games this week in Randall Gym.

Game Info

Who: vs. PCC
When: Tonight
Where: Home

According to Head Coach Clif Wegner, the squad plays very confident at home and the crowd brings a motivating lift to the team's game and performance.

"I thought that our crowd gave us a lift, when we were struggling our crowd stayed with us," explained Wegner in response to the home game against Linn Benton, last Saturday. "They got so loud that they had to be told to quiet down by the officials, which is great and the way that it should be."

The team played in an away game on Wednesday Jan. 26 against Chemeketa; the final score of the game was 68-79 and ended in a Cougar loss.

"We played a good first half, we were down 43-39 at the half, I thought that we were running our stuff and playing very well," said Wegner.

According to Wegner, a fac-

tor to the team's close and competitive game was the fact that the team did a great job of controlling three of Chemeketa's best players.

"In the second half of the game they came out and turned it up a little, I didn't think that we responded very well, we got a little stagnant on our offense and they got up to about a 15 point lead," said Wegner. We kind of went back and fourth, but we could never get close enough to put the real pressure on them in the end."

According to Wegner, two players really stepped up and dominated the courts with all-star playoff performances. Kyle Bracy and Nate Block are making a name for themselves in the league.

"We got a great game out of Kyle Bracy, he out played Chris Neal who is one of the top point guards in the league," explained Wegner. "Kyle finished with 18 points and 6 assists, only had one turnover in 37 minutes, and really defended Chris Neal in good fashion."

"Nate Block turned in a really good game at the post, I thought that he out played Chris Baert, who is one of the

leading posts in the NWACC," said Wegner. "Nate shot 11-18 from the field, had 17 points, had nine rebounds, blocked four shots, three steels, and had a really good all around game, he played very, very hard."

Wegner's squad played the Linn-Benton Roadrunners at Randall Gym on Saturday Jan. 29.

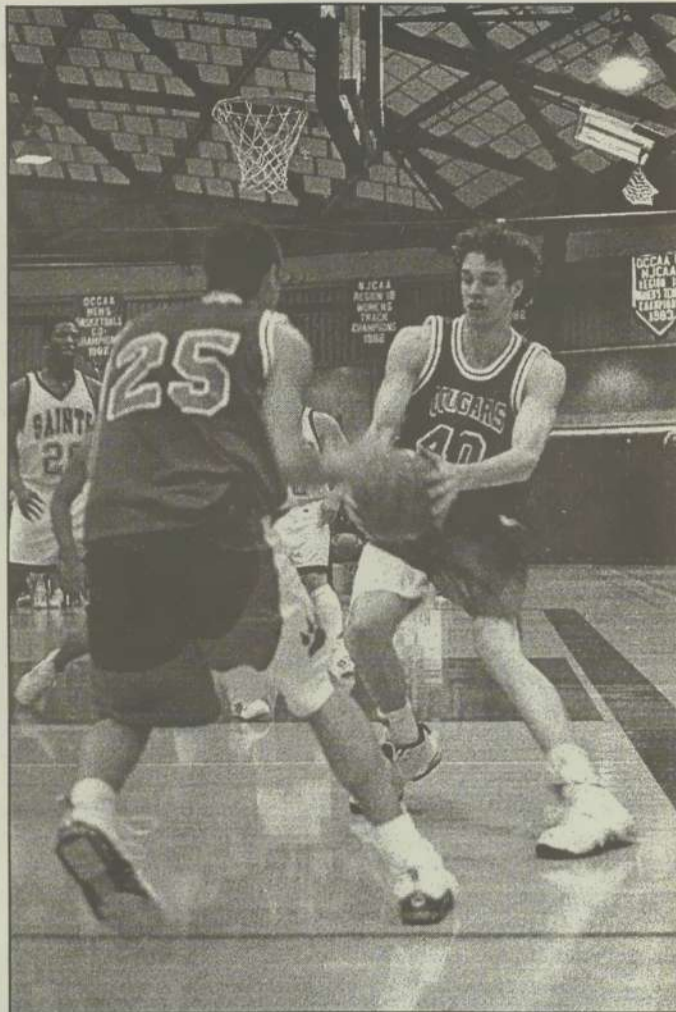
"We knew it would be a tough game, they have been playing very well lately," said Wegner. "We played very well in the first half it was 48-31 at the half, we got them down where we wanted them."

In the remaining half of the game, the Roadrunners made a rally in attempt to take over the game. The team saw some spots where they were able to take advantage of the situation.

"In the second half, they started shooting the ball pretty well, and taking advantage of some things. They were running some pick and roll plays, that we did not adjust to very well," explained Wegner. "They were able to get the score down to about four, then we kind of put it away at the

We were a lot fresher, a lot deeper, we had a lot more energy at the end of the game.

Clif Wegner
Head Coach



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Freshman Chris Lohery receives a pass from Mike Fisher and moves toward the hoop.

end. We won the game by 15 points, if we would have had five more minutes in the game, we could have won by thirty. We were a lot fresher and a lot deeper, we had a lot more energy at the end of the game."

Mike Fisher led the game in scoring with 19 points, he had 3 three pointers. Block had another good game with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Bracy, Ammon Bemis and Dallas Husak also brought a lift to the game with 9 points each.

"Ammon Bemis had an incredible dunk that really got the crowd going, it was highlight film material," said Wegner

The final score of the game was 88-73 and ended in a Cougar victory.

The team is now 5-3 and will play two home games this week that will be crucial to the team's rankings.

"We need to pick it up and win some big ball games," said Wegner.

Wrestling

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