

Men's Basketball

Cougars on fire

MANDY GOOD
Sports Editor

The Cougars showed up ready to play basketball this last weekend, and showed that they were up to the challenge when it came to defending their second place standings in the league.

The Cougars went into the weekend tied three ways for second place with Lane and Chemeketa. Head Coach Cliff

Game Info

Who:
vs. MHCC
When:
Tonight
Where:
Home

Wegner and his squad defeated the Lane Titans at their own game: ball control and defense, the outcome landed the Titans a drop down to fourth in the league.

On Wednesday Feb. 2, the Cougars played Portland in a game that ended with the score of 131-87, with the Cougars overwhelming the Portland team. All 14 of the players on the team contributed with playing time on the court.

According to Wegner, the team put forth a sensational display of team execution and sharpshooting.

"We played well, we were ready to play basketball and I don't think that Portland really was, we caught them on a night where we played very well and they didn't," said Wegner. "We got out of hand early, we were 63-44 up by 19 at the half and it got worse from there. We got up to about a 60-point spread. We played all 14 kids, which is everyone that we had."

According to Wegner, Kyle Bracy keyed the fastbreaking attack, with 12 points and 12 assists, which is his first

double-double of the season. A hot-shooting Tom Lenox had a career high of 19 points, 7-9 from the floor, 3-4 three's and 2-2 free throws. Wing mate Mike Fisher was as hot, with 21 points, 7-10 from the floor, 5-7 three's and 2-2 free throws. Nate Block turned in another double-double with 17 points, 10 rebounds, 2 blocked shots and 2 steals. Wes Jennings also made his first start of the season, with 8 points, 7 rebound, 2 assists and 3 steals.

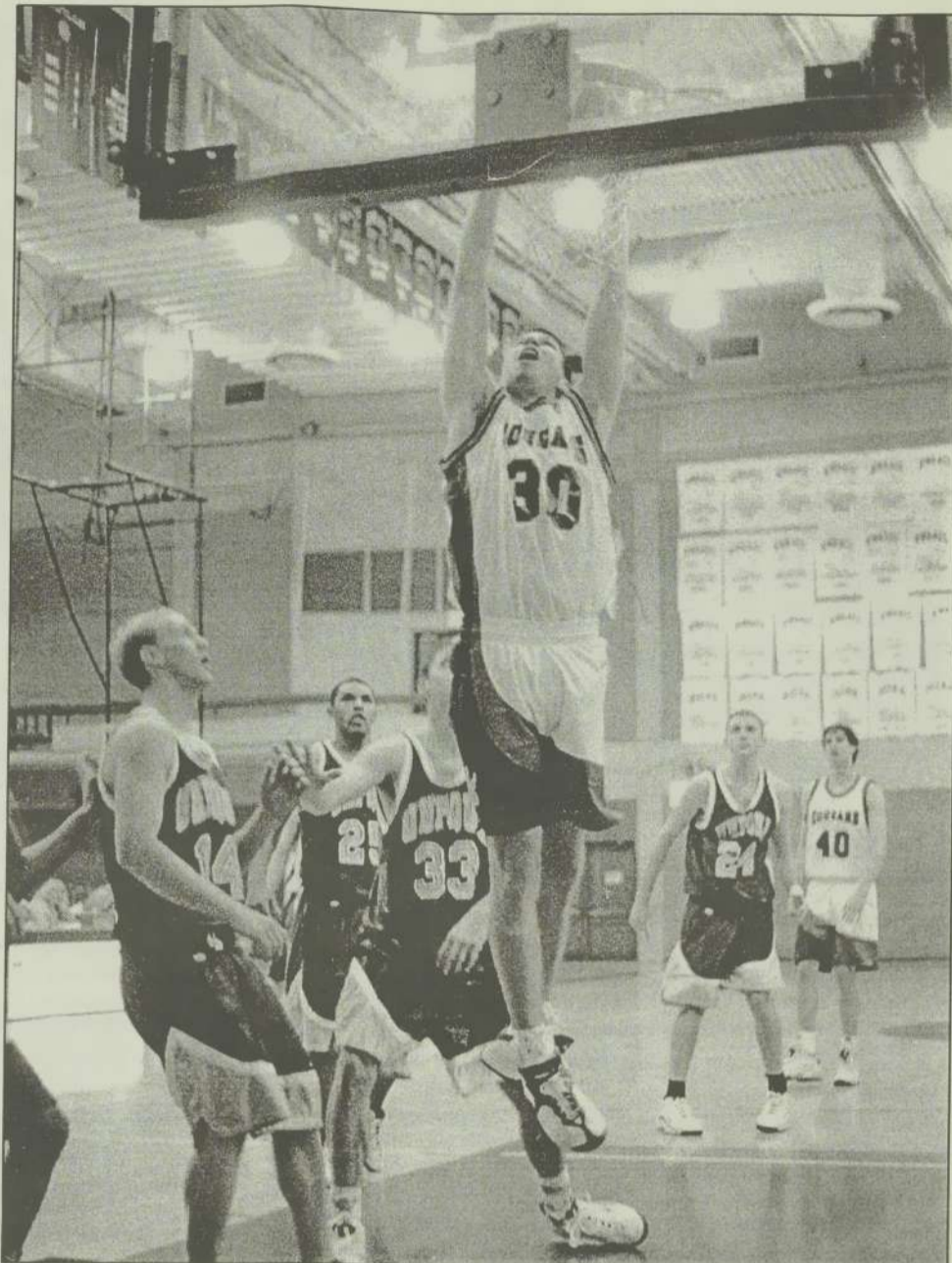
"We shot well, played well, we defended, we rebounded, it was really a complete game," said Wegner. "We really outplayed them in every facet imaginable."

Saturday the Cougar squad played an important, tough game that squeezed Lane out of their tied position. The team's intention was a fast tempo game with a score in the 80's, but they did not get their way. Instead they beat the Titans in a low scoring game that usually would end in the favor of the Titan squad.

"It was the kind of ball game of spurts, they got up about 7-0, then we would have a spurt and we got up," explained Wegner. "We went from being down 18-12 to being up 25-18, so we got a nice run."

At half time the Cougar squad was up with a score that tallied 25-24, in the second half of the game the score was close. In the last two minutes of the game Lane was up by five and the Cougars rallied back and scored the last ten points of the game. The final score was 59-55.

"That was a really a great win for us, and it was the type of game that Lane typically wins, which is slow and a physical



Freshman Nate Block stretches for the dunk against Umpqua two weeks ago. Block led the Cougars to two wins this week—pulling the team into a second-place tie with Chemeketa.

JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

game," said Wegner. "Our big gun that night was Nate Block, with 24 points, on 10-14 from the field, 4-4 free throws, 11 rebounds and three steals. I thought that down the stretch he really put the team on his back and just carried us. He

was unstoppable inside and I thought that he played harder than anyone on the floor."

The team has four remaining games in the league before Region Playoffs. Tonight the Cougars will compete in Randall Gym against Mt. Hood and on Saturday the

team will travel to Roseburg to play against Umpqua.

"We've got four games left in league and they are all games we feel confident going into each one; we're just focusing on beating Mt. Hood Wednesday; they will be a handful," Wegner concluded.

Many will be remembered

A member of the Cougar family was lost last week when he took

From the Editor's desk...

It's sad that this had to happen at all. It's more upsetting that this happened this year when spirits have been so high among the Cougars.



John Thorburn
Editor-in-Chief

In high school, your class was a family. Your friends were probably closer to you than your own parents.

When people ask if I like Clackamas, I always say yes but not for the teaching or the education but because of the family—the community.

In the fall athletes come out and watch volleyball matches. In the winter, athletes come and watch basketball games. In the spring, teams show up to watch baseball and softball games.

Why? Because they are bored? Because it's the 'cool thing to do'?

The Cougar family exists because it is a special group of people. Every individual will leave his or her own mark on this school.

Ammon Bemis will be remembered for being someone who can fly.

Greg Palmer will be remembered for his style and humor.

Kimber York will be remembered for always being a cowgirl at heart.

Chris Chatfield will be remembered.

You don't believe there's been a change in spirit? Go to any basketball game on campus. Students are going to the games. They're excited about each other. They're proud of each other and this school.

I've seen a lot of faces come and go in my years at Clackamas. I've made dozens of friends. I've heard people outside of the family say that these athletes are 'stupid and immature ... they're just dumb jocks and they're not serious about they're education ... they act like they are still in high school.'

his own life.

This family will never be the same.

Chris Chatfield was a great athlete and an even better student.

I only had the chance to talk to him a few times over the last few years. I don't recall what was said, I don't know why we talked.

I didn't know much about him but I do know what the Cougar family is like.

This group leans on each other. They support each other. Ultimately, in a sense, there's love for each other.

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