

Women's Basketball

Clackamas stands tough at home

JOHN THORBURN
Editor-in-Chief

The Clackamas women's basketball team is learning to play well on its home court.

After a 1-2 home stand two weeks ago, the squad has won two straight in Randall Gym to pull its record up to 7-3 in league, 16-8 overall.

Game Info

Who: vs. MHCC
When: Tonight
Where: Home

"We're starting to play better at home," noted Clackamas Head Coach Jim Martineau. "We didn't play our best two games of the season, but we still got

two wins."

Clackamas hosted Portland Community College last Wednesday night in a game that saw the Cougars pull away in the final minutes with a 64-57 victory.

The visiting Panthers, known as a team that has upset the Cougars at home, made a second-half run that saw a seven-point Cougar lead turn into an eight-point Panther advantage.

"It wasn't the prettiest effort in the world," said Martineau. "We had a seven point lead at the half, then [Portland] came out and hit six or seven of nine three-pointers. We did a real nice job of playing hard for the last 12 minutes. We kind of woke up and started doing some things on

defense to win the ballgame."

Clackamas had an off-night shooting from long range, according to Martineau.

Against Lane, Saturday, the Cougars needed a revived scoring performance from sophomore Kirsten Richards to push them past the visiting Titans.

Richards, who had been in a scoring slump for weeks, burst onto the score sheets with 19 points.

Clackamas won the game 73-70 in overtime.

"We were up six or seven at the half, then [Lane] made a run at us," said Martineau. "They took a two-point lead but then Kirsten came down and hit a big three for us. Trina Rogers had a bit of an

off-night for shooting so it was nice to have [Kirsten] make some big shots for us. We were down one with 30 seconds left before she hit a big three. Then she hit another one in overtime.

"Lane played very well and played very hard," added Martineau. "We played okay but not particularly well. We shoot the ball really well."

Michelle Thueson, sophomore point guard, was perfect from the free throw line with eleven tries. "Michelle was clutch down the

stretch as far as shooting free throws," noted Martineau.

She finished the game with 20 points.

Around the rest of the region, Umpqua upended first-place Chemeketa to pull into a two-way tie for the league lead. Southwestern Oregon, who leads the Cougars by one game in the standings, continued to win.

The two teams meet in the final game of the season in Coos Bay on Feb. 19th.

Tonight, the Cougars play host

to the neighboring Saints of Mt. Hood Community College.

The Saints, who are in fifth place and four games behind Clackamas, are a team that the Cougars must beat

if they hope to nab a regional playoff spot.

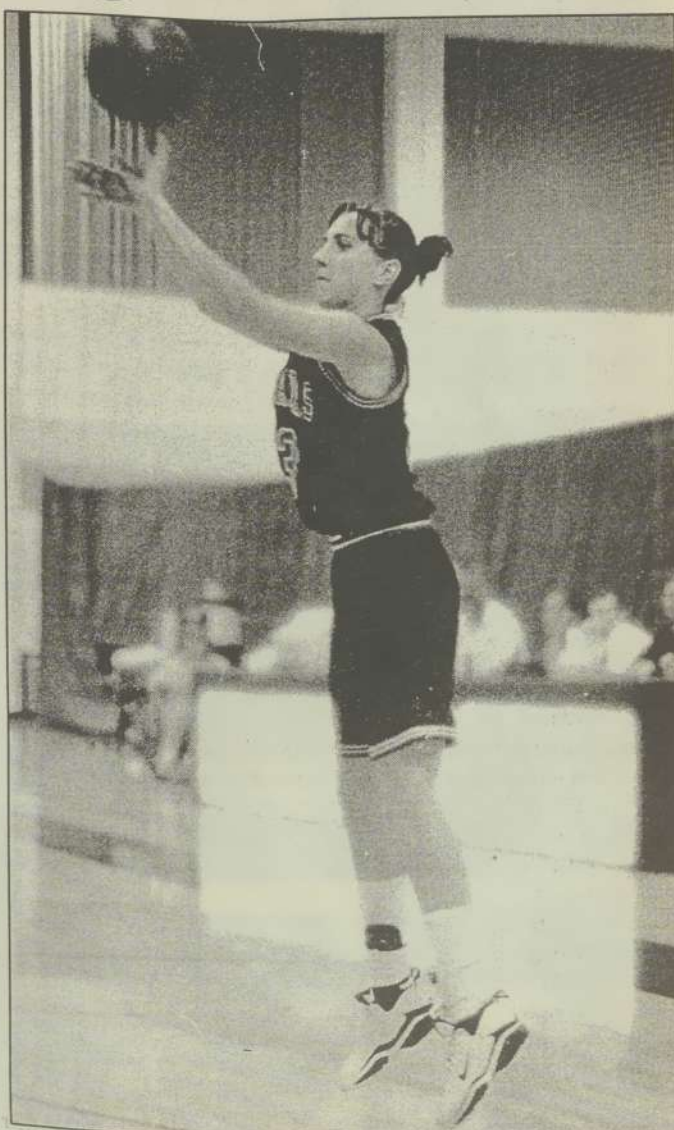
After tonight's matchup, Clackamas will take its 4-1 road record to Roseburg when it takes on Umpqua this Saturday night.

The Cougars have not defeated the Timberwomen on their homefloor in five years.

"For us to win that game," noted Martineau, "we have to play our best game of the year and hope that they don't play well on their home court. They're tough to beat at home."

We kind of woke up and started doing some things on defense...

Jim Martineau
Head Coach



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Kirsten Richards concentrates as she releases the ball against the Chemeketa Storm two weeks ago. Richards broke a season-long scoring slump against Lane with 19 points on Saturday.



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Michelle Thueson, sophomore point guard for the Cougars drives to the hoop against Chemeketa two weeks ago. Thueson led Clackamas past Lane with 20 points on Saturday.

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