



Clackamas' Mike Armstrong, at bat, stares back at the pitcher in a game at home.

JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Cougars hoping to end season with a win

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Sports Editor

Lane. Lane. Lane.
Could one Clackamas win against top-ranked Lane be what it takes for the Cougars to end the season with their heads held a little higher?

The Clackamas baseball team will play against Lane, the number one school in the league, three times this week. Although the team is finished for the season, Assistant Coach Allan Coyle hopes that at least one win against Lane this week will help build confidence for the freshmen who will return to play at Clackamas next year.

Head Coach Robin Robinson's squad played two games against Linn-Benton at home on Tuesday. In the first game of the day, freshman Aaron Shanks picked up the first loss.

"We didn't exactly get a lot of defense for him," explained Coyle. He started to get a little bit tired because the inning was long and he ended up hitting a

couple of guys...they were curve balls so they were soft, but we ended up pulling him out. Then Jason Farrimond pitched very well and we stayed in the game. Jason doesn't pitch very much so he gets tired faster than the other guys, so when he got pulled out of the game, the guy that we put in for him [Clayton Schofield] really stunk up the yard."

According to Coyle, there were some good hitters in the game. Ryan Oliver was two for three. Oliver continues to hit well and has been a strong hitter for the Cougar team the entire year. Robert McCoy was also a strong hitting force with two for three.

"Game one was a disaster, we lost 14-2. The game was shortened because it was such a sound thrashing," explained Coyle.

The Cougars had another chance to play Linn-Benton that same day. Unfortunately, the team was not able to redeem themselves. In game one, which was considered a "disaster", at least they had some hitters that increased the performance; in game two that was not the story.

"Greg Palmer started out in the game, he pitched okay for a while. They really hit him around a lot. He has really never been hit like that all year, it was a weird thing for that to happen. We gave up a lot of hits. A

lot of them were weak hits, but they were still hits," Coyle continued. "So then we took him out and put Ron Landolt in, and he pitched pretty well."

Palmer picked up the loss for the second game of the day. That final score was 9-4.

The Cougars will play Lane

on Tuesday and again on Thursday. The Cougars beat all of the teams that are ranked at the top of the league in the beginning of the season. The team has slowly but surely lost confidence since then; as a result, they lost games, then their standing. Coach Coyle is confident the team has the ability to beat any team in the league, even top-ranked Lane.

The confident, winning Cougar team will have to be the team that shows up on the field willing to play in order to defeat the Road runners. The team will have home field advantage.

The question of winning seems to be a matter of confidence.

"It really depends on which team shows up. If the team that shows up wants to win today, I think that we have a good chance of beating anybody. In the beginning of the year we beat the teams that are ranked one and two in the region. We have the talent to compete with anybody in this league and I am willing to bet we have the talent to com-

The game was shortened because it was such a sound thrashing.

Allan Coyle
Assistant Coach

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