

# Cougar softball squad takes third

*Mt. Hood knocks team out of title game as an expected Lower Columbia-Clackamas championship never takes place and Southwestern region schools sweep the top four placings*



## Tournament Standings

- #1 - Lower Columbia
- #2 - Mt. Hood
- #3 - Clackamas
- #4 - Olympic

JOHN THORBURN  
Editor-in-Chief

It wasn't supposed to be like this.

It was supposed to be the Cougars who faced the Red Devils of Lower Columbia College for the title.

It was supposed to be both teams' #1 pitchers throwing against each other—Melanie Warthen versus Misty Velke.

It didn't happen.

The Mt. Hood Saints dashed any hopes of "the big game."

The squad from Gresham waltzed through the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] tournament in Cinderella-like fashion before losing to top-ranked LCC 5-4 in 10 innings in Spokane on Sunday.

In a game that pitted the #2 team against the #3 team of the Southwestern Region—Clackamas against Mt. Hood—the winner moved on to face LCC for the championship.

Mt. Hood shut down Head Coach Paul Fiskum's squad with a 3-0 victory.

"Mt. Hood is a great team," said Fiskum. "I was actually more surprised with how poorly they played in the regular season than their performance at the tourna-

ment."

Melissa Borde, a converted pitcher who was recruited as an outfielder, picked up the loss.

The freshman righthander had won six straight games for the Cougars.

"Mt. Hood's pitching has gotten progressively better throughout the year," added Fiskum. "On top of that, they have two of the best hitters in the conference."

While the fourth-ranked Cougars ended the tournament with a loss, they started the two-day round robin championships with a loss as well.

Edmonds Community College, the third place team from the Northeastern region, upset Clackamas with a 3-2 victory which was marred by bad breaks and questionable calls from umpires, according to Fiskum.

"Both teams played an excellent game," noted Fiskum. "It was one of those games if the ball had gone two or three inches the other way, the outcome might have been different. I've told [the team] that if you are going to win a championship, you have to have three things—you have to be good, you have to play well and you have to get the breaks. We had two of the three."

"We also had to overcome some pretty lousy calls by the plate umpire," continued Fiskum.

"There were some blown calls but any great team must overcome that. It's just unfortunate to have to try to overcome bad calls in a championship tournament."

Jessica Farnsworth, who entered the tournament as the team's #1 hitter, struck out looking twice on pitches the homeplate umpire later said he misjudged.

Farnsworth went on to only hit .118 for the tournament.

After a loss to the Tritons, Clackamas faced elimination for the rest of the weekend.

The Cougars had to face formidable opponents.

Later in the afternoon, Fiskum's squad took on Spokane and Walla Walla—teams that finished tied for the region title in the Northeast. Spokane won a tiebreaker between the two teams sending them into the tourney as the #1 seed.

Ranked #2 and #3 in the Northwest, Spokane and Walla Walla couldn't overcome a determined Clackamas team as they fell 3-2 and 5-0, respectively.

Back-to-back wins on Saturday propelled the Cougars to a 3-1 victory over Olympic on Sunday morning.

The victory over the Rangers set up the Saints against the Cougars in a winner-to-cham-

pion, loser-out matchup.

While the Cougars were ranked behind two Northeastern teams, they joined three other Southwestern clubs as the top four finishers in the tournament—1. Lower Columbia, 2. Mt. Hood, 3. Clackamas and 4. Olympic.

Kirsten Richards will join five other second-year Cougars in tomorrow's All-Star game at Roy Morris Park in Longview, Wash. at 5 and 7 p.m.

The entire infield was named to the team as well as Farnsworth, who is a centerfielder.

Melissa Cedillo (third base), Vanessa Applegate (shortstop), Summer Conroy (second base), Richards (first base) and Warthen (pitcher) will join their outfielder to represent Clackamas at the games.

"Having six players selected to an 18-player roster is phenomenal," said Fiskum. "I don't think any team has ever had that many selected before. These players are chosen by other coaches in the region. Having this many players named to the team, it really shows how much respect this program has around the region."

*Next week: Paul Fiskum says farewell to 10 sophomores and looks for newcomers to fill some big shoes.*

## Team can't muster wins in final week, switches focus to rebuilding

MANDY GOOD  
Sports Editor

Recruiting and looking to improve the team is the next step for the Clackamas baseball team.

In the final games of the season, the team hoped to get at least one win, but the Cougars' season ended with three defeats by top-ranked Lane.

May 15, Ryan Oliver picked up the loss, 2-1. According to Head Coach Robin Robinson, Oliver threw a great game.

"Ryan Oliver threw the game, it was a great game against the league champions," noted Robinson. "He did a great job of keeping them off balance."

Mike Armstrong scored the only run of the game and Matt Cooksey had the RBI.

May 18, the team faced Lane again in a double-header. In the first game, Aaron Shanks started and Jason Farrimond picked up the loss, 12-8. Coyle noted that Armstrong and Cooksey contributed to the team as big hitters. In the second game of the day, Glenn Boss (1-1) started and Ron Landolt picked up

the loss, 9-0.

The Cougar squad started out the season beating teams that are top-ranked in the league. As the season progressed, the team jumped into a losing slump that they never climbed out of. Although the season was not the best that Clackamas has ever seen, there were some players who were picked Second Team All League and one player who was chosen First Team All League.

Selected for Second Team All League: Ryan Oliver—designated hitter; Cliff Johnson—catcher; Ryan Boyle—infield; and Will Schwisow—infield.

The only Clackamas player voted First Team All League was Ron Landolt—closing pitcher. According to Coyle, Landolt was a walk on who led the team in wins and saves and has earned the respect of his teammates and players within the league.

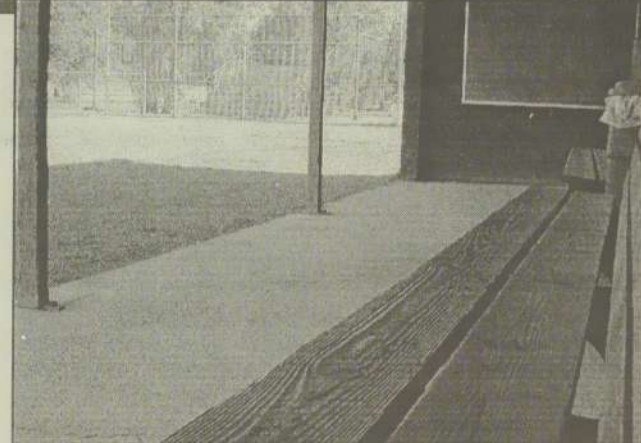
The season is over for the Clackamas baseball players, but for coaches Robinson and Coyle, the work is hardly done.

The team is actively trying to recruit about 16 players for various positions next fall. It has already recruited one player out of



Madison High School, in Portland.

"We feel like we have first base and second base pretty solid," said Robinson. "We are going to go and recruit at least two or three short stops, because they can play anywhere. We need catching because Cliff is gone; we have a couple of letters out to local catchers. We need to recruit almost an entire pitching staff—we have Aaron Shanks back and we don't know if Cooksey is going to be healthy enough to pitch so from there we are going to have to bring in at least ten guys to fill these spots."



PHOTOS BY JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

*A sign standing in front of the baseball field explains the story. The season is over for the Cougars who failed to qualify for the playoffs after starting the year 4-1.*