



Defense specialist #6, freshman Meghan Boeckman, dives for a dig. Outside hitter freshman Sabrina Arrayn looks on, prepared to help her teammate if needed.

PHOTOS BY DICK CLOUSER

CCC digs in, awaiting championships

ELENA BORYSKA

Staff Writer

This weekend the Cougars were at Bellevue, WA, taking 4th place out of 6, in the Bellevue Crossover Tournament.

Clackamas started out Friday with a win over Highline, in three straight games 15-5, 15-9 and 15-11. Their next opponent was Spokane, a team that has had a lot of success against Clackamas in the past. This weekend didn't change that, with the Cougars falling to Spokane in 5 games with scores of 15-12, 12-15, 7-15, 15-12 and 13-15. Those two games put the Cougars 2nd in their pool, which was a good spot to be in.

Saturday, the Cougars' first game

was against the tournament host, Bellevue, whom they beat in three games, 15-4, 15-5 and 15-5. After that seemingly easy win, the Cougars stepped up to play their rival Linn-Benton. Clackamas lost that game with scores of 9-15, 6-15 and 12-15. Even though the Cougars were unable to defeat Linn-Benton, that didn't stop them from once again beating Highline, 15-11, 15-1 and 15-12. The final game that the Cougars played was against Green River, and was for the 3rd place position. It was a long game, but Green River held on to win it in 5, with scores of 12-15, 5-15, 15-4, 16-14 and 13-15. After all of the games were completed, Linn-Benton was the champion, with

Spokane taking 2nd, Green River taking 3rd, and the Clackamas Cougars coming in at 4th.

The Cougars aren't really worried about not placing higher in this tournament, as long as they're ready for the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Championships, set for Nov 16-18.

"We are just gaining experience and practicing for the NWAACC," commented Head Coach Kathie Woods.

This was still a pretty good showing for a team that is missing four players. Lisa Free, Meghan Boeckman, Julie Dancer and Misty Bernhardt were all unavailable to play this weekend, for various rea-

sons. Cristina Merrill, who had some excellent play this weekend, was named to the All-Tournament team. Sarah Entenman had a great weekend as well, earning the Clackamas Player of the Week award.

Next up for the Cougars is Chemeketa, tonight at 7 p.m. This is the last league game of the season for the Cougars, and it is at home, where a good crowd is expected to come out and show support for Clackamas, and especially the sophomores who won't be returning next year.

"We would really like to see a lot of fans and hear some noise for the game," said Entenman, setter for the Cougars.



Setter Sarah Entenman earned this week's Player of the Week

Cougar cross-country prepares for NWAACC

JASON LINGEL

Sports Editor

Drive, teamwork, camaraderie, education, perseverance, ambition—the cross-country Cou-

gars will need them all as they face their ultimate test as a team, the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Cross Country Championships, Saturday No-

vember 11, in Spokane WA.

Everything they have worked for in the last five months will come down to one race, one final struggle to determine who is the best in the northwest.

Drive

The Cougar men are the reigning NWAACC champs and will be driving for their second straight title.

"We've got a lot more riding on it, as far as being able to repeat," said Sophomore Ryan Mastropietro. "It's one of the hardest things to do, to come back the next year and show them we mean business again."

Teamwork

The women have a strong team built on a solid foundation of teamwork.

"We have a lot of depth," said Tiffany Winsor. "Of all the teams that are in our conference, we have seven quality runners."

Camaraderie

The Cougars have formed friendships that will last a lifetime.

"This is one of the best teams that I've ever been on because we're so close," said Sarah Block. "This has been one of the funnest three months I've ever had running."

Dedication

The Cougar men have worked hard to stay at the top. Pulling together and not giving has been a key to their success.

"It's how hard the team has worked and how close we've gotten so fast," commented Trevor

Dodge. "With two sophomores and the rest freshmen, we've pulled the team together pretty well."

Ambition

The Cougars have shown improvement all over the board. Their ambition to win is shown in and out of competition.

"I think with the hard work these guys have put in, they're ready to kick anybody's butt in the conference," commented red-shirt Paul Kezes. "We just did a time trial last Friday for two miles and only two people didn't set a personal record."

Championship

The combination of these things has already led the Cougars to the Southern Region Combined Championship, and a regional championship for the men. Both the men and the women are confident they will take the 2000 NWAACC championships and are favorites to take it all.

"I think it's motivating and nerve racking at the same time," said Trevor Dodge, who is a hopeful for taking the number one spot in the race. "I definitely think I can do it."

The Cougars look on to the end of their season with a mixture of anticipation for a possible championship and the sadness of parting with the friends they have made over the past two years.

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