



Freshman wing Michael Kuebler defends against a Southwestern Laker. Kuebler had five steals in the game. GILBERT BARRETT / Clackamas Print

Men undefeated in league play

DARREL HOBSON
Staff Writer

It was a week of exciting basketball as the relentless Clackamas Cougars smothered the Umpqua Timbermen and the Lancers from Southwestern CC.

Last Wednesday's match-up was close one against Umpqua Community College. Midway through the first period, Umpqua called a time out to try and regroup because the Cougars were up 15-8 right out of the gate. CCC remained aggressive on the boards, pulling down 12 offensive rebounds and 14 defensive rebounds in the half. Their suffocating defense held Umpqua to just 33.3 percent from the field and forced them to turn the ball over 10 times. Clackamas enjoyed a 12-point lead going into the locker room, lead by Michael Kuebler. He was an amazing three for three from the three-point line and five for seven from the field.

The second half was a different story. The Cougar's sloppy defense let the Timbermen back in the game. CCC came within one point with

12:56 left to go and kept it close until the final minute of the game. The only thing that carried over from the first half was Kuebler's hot shooting. The Timbermen tied the score at 68 with fewer than seven minutes to go. Then Kuebler hit two straight three-pointers to put Clackamas up 74-68. Kuebler lit up on all seven of his three-pointers and scoring 35 points in the game. Finis Bussey and Nate Block controlled the boards with eight and 12 rebounds respectively. The Cougars held on to win this one 94-83.

Saturday night, The Lakers from SWCC had no answer for CCC's explosive offense and dominating defense. In the first three minutes of the game, Kuebler was up to his old tricks putting in three baskets and grabbing two rebounds and one steal. The Cougars were up 21-14 with ten minutes left in the half. That's when Block came off the bench and dominated the boards, blocking shots and getting the line. Late in the first half there were outstanding performances with Bussey cleaning up the defensive boards,

Kuebler hitting a three-pointer and Kuebler rattling the rim as he stuffed one in to put the Cougars up by 20 at halftime.

Even with the big lead, Clackamas did not show any mercy in the second half.

CCC continued to attack the basket while swarming the Lakers with great team defense. At one point, the cougars were up by 42 points. When it was all over, five Cougars had scored in double figures. Mark Cambell, who ejected with two technical fouls, had 15 points, five assists and two steals. Lawson Struve chipped in 16. Kuebler was solid with 17 points, seven rebounds, three assists and five steals. Bussey lead the scoring with 20 points, seven rebounds and three assists. Block had a double double for the second game in a row with 12 points, 11 rebounds, three blocks and two steals.

Overall, it was a great team effort on both sides of the ball. In the final score, the Cougars blew out the Lancers 103-65. The Men's team is on the road this week where they will face Chemeketa and Linn Benton Community Colleges.

The last hero

His eyes locked on the mound. As the pitcher went into his wind up, the man's hands wrenched the bat. With the fury of a thunderclap, he swung. But there was no "crack," only the dull thud of the ball hitting the catcher's mitt.

As he walked back to the dug-out, a cascade of boos followed him. He sat down and held his head in his hands. The fans - who he worked so hard to please - had turned on him. He would never forget that day.



RYAN BRINKLEY
Sports Columnist

Theodore Samuel Williams was 22 years old then. Now 82, the man who wanted nothing more than to be the greatest hitter in baseball history is recovering from a nine hour open-heart surgery performed last week.

Ted Williams' career with the Boston Red Sox began in 1939. That season, as was common in baseball, after every home run he'd tip his cap to acknowledge the fans. It was only after he was booed in 1940 that he vowed to never again tip his hat to the home fans in Fenway Park.

"Teddy Ballgame" went to bat 7,706 times. He struck out only 709 times and hit .344 for his career. Many believe that Williams would have topped every career-hitting statistic had he not stayed away from baseball for five seasons during his prime. Unlike some modern athletes, Williams didn't hold out for contract negotiations or criminal proceedings. He took the time off to serve his country, flying combat missions during W.W.II and the Korean War.

In 1941, Williams developed a harsh rivalry with Yankee great Joe DiMaggio. In an MVP season, DiMaggio captured the nation's attention by hitting in 56 consecutive games. That same magical summer, Williams' batting average soared to .406. Since then, no player has accomplished either feat.

It was also in the early 1940s that

Williams developed an adversarial relationship with the press. Williams didn't enjoy talking to reporters; he just wanted to play. Despite their combative relationship with Will-

iams, the sports writers honored him with the MVP award in 1946 and 1949.

Williams' last appearance at the plate came on Sep. 28, 1960. After a two-minute standing ovation from the fans, Williams stood in against the Orioles' Jack Fisher. The first pitch - a fastball - sailed past Williams' mighty swing.

Shocked, Williams composed himself. The second pitch was a ball. On the third pitch, as he had done 520 times before, he hit a home run. As the fans in Fenway Park roared, they intently watched Williams round the bases, hoping he would tip his cap. He did not. He walked to the dugout and sat down. The fans called out his name, hoping that he would walk out and tip his cap one last time. Not one for spectacle, Williams sat stoically in the dugout.

One of the last of his generation, Ted Williams is more than just another sports legend. The ballplayers of the 1940s and 1950s have become icons and represent a far more innocent time.

Simon and Garfunkle wrote, "Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio? A nation turns its lonely eyes to you..." Sadly, DiMaggio is gone. So are Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris. But thankfully for us, Ted Williams, one of the original "Boys of Summer" lives on.

When we go to the ballpark this summer to breathe in the aroma of the freshly cut grass and bask in the summer sun, I suggest that we take a moment to think about the men who played, not for the money or the accolades, but simply to be the best at something.

Mr. Williams, we tip our caps to you.

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Grill Special: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

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Thursday: Sloppy Joes
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Budget Entree

Wednesday: Linguine w/ Spinach pesto
Thursday: Mushroom potatoe deluxe casserole
Friday: Artichoke flan

Wrestlers with attitude

JASON LINGEL
Sports Editor

with a 22-15 win.

"We just showed up to wrestle this time," explained Head Wrestling Coach Loyd Martindale. "Last time, I think the guys went out taking it a little too light and we gave up some close matches we shouldn't have. This time we came out with six guys and only lost one match."

"Attitude," shouted the Cougar men in practice Monday after a tough weekend away. It's this attitude that earned the Cougars their number six national ranking.

Clackamas went to Yakima with six men Saturday expecting a rematch with rival Yakima CC. Unexpectedly, they found themselves faced with three dual meets. The Cougars attitude was put to the test.

First up was the rematch with Yakima after a heartbreaking loss in the final minutes of the meet two weeks prior. The Cougars brought attitude to this match-up as they avenged themselves

Next up was Douglass College, a tough team from Canada. The Cougars put all the attitude they could into this match-up winning 23-21. Last on the list was Pacific College. Clackamas had just enough attitude left as they pummeled Pacific 23-12.

The Cougars will wrestle next at the regional tournament on Feb 2. The Cougars will have the chance to show just how much attitude they have.