

Clackamas wins despite injuries and illness

DARREL HOBSON

Staff Writer

Coming from a tough loss to Lane Community College, the Cougars knew they had to get back on track against the Saints from Mt. Hood Community College at home, and on the road verses Umpqua Community College last week.

The Saints tried to take full advantage of Clackamas' injuries last Wednesday. The Cougars' wing, Lawson Struve, and post, Jered Gritters, could not play due to injury. Mt. Hood controlled the tip off and were playing competitively throughout most of the first half.

The Saints' largest lead of the game was four points, but it was quickly dismantled by Clackamas late in the first period. The Cougars' combined attack by Matt Tabisz, Nate Block, Mark Campbell, Michael Kuebler, Mike Fisher and Finis Bussey took the lead, 45-34 at half time.

After the break, the Cougars picked up where they left off and dominated the undersized Saints inside. Clackamas' post players had the advantage down low and made the difference in the game. Chris Lohrey finished with 22 points and nice rebounds. Nate Block added 20 points and 12 rebounds.

"Nate Block played with a lot of

energy in the second half on both ends of the floor," said Head Coach Cliff Wegner.

Clackamas finished off Mt. Hood 108-82 with six players in double figures.

"We wanted to make a statement after losing to Lane," said Mark Campbell, who had 10 points and 14 assists in the game. "We peaked early in the season; we have been hitting a low the last couple of weeks. Now we are trying to get back up to where we used to be."

Saturday, the Cougars went on the road to Umpqua Community College to face the Timbermen, who have played well as of late. UCC defeated Chemeketa, who recently beat the Cougars, and the Timbermen almost got a win against Lane CC. To make matters worse, many of the Cougars were fighting the flu. Mike Fisher could not play because he had a temperature of 103. Tom Lennox and Michael Kuebler were both sick but played anyway.

The Cougars opened up with a ten-point lead in the first half, but red-hot shooting kept the Timbermen in the game. Umpqua had a lot of momentum after the first half, only down by four with the score 44-40 in favor of Clackamas.

Clackamas never lost the lead and kept a ten point cushion throughout



Chris Lohrey prepares to go up for a dunk at last Wednesday's game against the Mt. Hood Community College Saints.

DARREL HOBSON / Clackamas Print

most of the game. Lennox, who started in place of Fisher, had a good game finishing with 14 points. Block added 14 points, 14 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 blocks and managed to hold Umpqua's high scoring post to just 10 points.

Lohrey scored 17 and pulled down 11 rebounds. Campbell, with a near triple double, scored 11 points, 14 assists and eight rebounds.

"We stepped up and won against a team that has been playing well. It was

a good win for us on the road," said Coach Cliff Wegner after the Cougars' solid performance last Saturday.

Tonight at 8 p.m., the men from Clackamas will battle Chemeketa Community College in the Randall Gym.

Cougars dominate courts, rolling through competition



DARREL HOBSON / Clackamas Print

Guard Kayla Steen dribbles around her opponent. Steen led the Cougars with 22 points against the Mt. Hood Community College Saints.

ELENA BORYSKA

Staff Writer

The Clackamas Cougars continued their roll through opposition last week, improving to 8-2 in league games.

Wednesday's game at home against Mt. Hood could hardly even be called a game. The Cougars so completely dominated the Saints that, by halftime, they were leading by 21 points. But that was only the first half. As the game wore on, Mt. Hood continued to struggle against the hot shooting Cougars. Led by Kayla Steen, who had 22 points and 7 assists, the Cougars easily defeated the Mt. Hood Saints, 78-48. Kathryn Kettles scored 16 points, Mercedes Juarez finished with 15 points and

Amanda Lee ended up with 13.

After that easy blowout victory, the Cougars traveled into enemy territory to take on the Umpqua Timberwomen. Umpqua is the defending Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Champions, and also a very hard team to beat. But as this game played out, the Cougars showed that, they too, are not easily beat. This was a very close game, one that went down to the wire, but Clackamas' good defense helped them to edge past the Timberwomen, 69-67.

"This was a big win for us," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "It was probably the biggest win of the season."

Mercedes Juarez was the leading scorer, with 21 points. Kathryn Kettles

was next with 20, and Jennie Kooch had 11. Both Kettles and Kooch finished the night with double-doubles, grabbing 10 and 13 rebounds, respectively. Kayla Steen also dished out a season high with 12 assists. That win puts Clackamas in a tie with Umpqua for second place. As the season winds down, it's becoming more and more important for the Cougars to win.

"Every game is big," said Martineau. "We can't afford to lose another one."

The Cougars will put a five game winning streak on the line, as they take on first place Chemeketa Storm tonight at home. This will be a huge game for both teams, and the Cougars' team is asking for your encouragement.

"We need a lot of support," commented Mercedes Juarez. "So come out and watch us get another win."

Mr. Stern's Problem

The NBA is so entertaining.

Not for the recent public relations exercise that it called "All Star Weekend," but for the fact that league officials continue to tell us that their league is not in a state of moral decay. There are seemingly endless reports of player misconduct, team feuds, franchises moving, falling attendance and poor television ratings.

In an interview with Fox Sports' Keith Olberman, NBA Commissioner David Stern asserted that the media contributes to the overall negative characterization of NBA players and that the media should concentrate on the good things about NBA players.



RYAN BRINKLEY
Sports Columnist

"You do a piece, you will lead with a player and mention his past misconduct. You never start with Dikembe Mutombo who is building a hospital in Kinshasa... it doesn't sell and the editors don't want it," Stern said.

While there may be a thread of truth to Stern's argument, the fact is that the players create the negative news - not the media.

Look at the Phoenix Suns. So far, three Suns players have been arrested this season (I say "so far" because we are only halfway through the season). First it was Anfernee Hardaway, arrested for waving a gun at his girlfriend.

Then it was Jason Kidd for hitting his wife. And finally, it was former Blazer Cliff Robinson, who was arrested for DUI and drug possession.

Forgive me, Mr. Stern, if I find the fact that a quarter of one team's roster running afoul of the law not only deplorable, but also newsworthy.

Then there's the model of team sportsmanship, the Lakers.

The feud between superstars Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant wasn't made public as a result of media speculation, but from direct quotes from the two stars. As recently as last weekend, the injured O'Neal expressed his desire to play for another team. Commissioner, are you listening? The fans are, and many feel these types of comments

don't exactly exude player loyalty to their team or fans. But I guess that's just the media's "spin" on things.

And then there's Allen Iverson of the Sixers, who was recently caught on camera making homophobic remarks to a fan. Again, very helpful to the league, Mr. Stern.

Iverson says that his use of the term was a result of a fan's use of the "N-word." The league fined Iverson but didn't suspend him. Again, it was Iverson who made the remark, not some media creation.

And how can we leave out the poster-boy for anger management, Rasheed Wallace. Sorry Mr. Stern, the media is not the role model for

how young players communicate with officials, number 30 is.

Commissioner Stern, while he doesn't deny that there have been players who have engaged in misconduct, does little to acknowledge that there's a real problem.

But there is a problem- I wish it was just a media fabrication, but it's not.

In the eyes of many, the NBA is becoming less associated with basketball and more closely related to players getting arrested, getting into fights, hitting their wives and girlfriends, quitting on their teammates and coaches, saying stupid things and losing respect for the game.

Stop selling the NBA, Mr. Stern, and start policing it.