

# Women drop to third place



CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Left to Right: Numbers 15 Danielle Tilton, 4 Kayla Steen, 25 Jennifer Lane, 20 Jennie Kooch, 23 Briana Anderson, 54 Amanda Lee, 14 Kathryn Kettles, 33 Mercedes Juarez, 32 Erica Hobart, 24 Lawly Redner, and 11 Kim McBride.

## JASON LINGEL

Sports Editor

The Cougar Women's Basketball team dropped to third place in league after two tough losses last week.

Wednesday's game brought the number one ranked Chemeketa Storm to the Randall Gym. A win here by the Cougars would have put them in a first place tie with the Storm. The Cougars went into the game with a 2-1 record against the Storm for the year. Unfortunately, the Cougars lost 89-71. According to Head Coach Jim Martineau, it was their worst game of the year.

"It was a very tough loss for us," said guard Kayla Steen. "We just didn't come out with the energy that we needed to."

Steen led the team with 20 points and 7 assists. Steen leads the North West Athletic Association

of Community Colleges in assists per game and is ranked eighth in scoring. Mercedes Juarez, who is ranked fifth in scoring, third in three-point percentage, and third in free-throw percentage, scored 16.

Saturday's game in Coos Bay against the Southwestern Oregon Lakers fared better, but not by much. The Cougars came out with what Martineau said was a strong defense. A mixture of poor shooting and missed free throws hurt the Cougars down the stretch in a very close game, as they lost 65-61.

"It was hard to come off that big loss and then lose again," said Juarez. "But it just makes us want to work harder."

Juarez led the team in scoring with 21 points. Kathryn Kettles scored 15 and Steen 15.

The two losses drop the Cougars to third place in the Southern

Region. With two games left in the season, Martineau expects to stay in third place.

"In a league like this unfortunately, as tough as it is, you go from playing for first to third," said Martineau. "Third is not a bad position in league."

Tonight's game takes the Cougars to Portland Community College to face the Panthers. The Cougars blew away the Panthers in their last meeting. Saturday brings the Cougars back home to face the Linn-Benton Road Runners. The Road Runners have also fell prey to the attack of the Cougars.

The upcoming NWAACC Championship Tournament will be held March 8-10 in Mt. Vernon, Wash.

"If we play like everyone on the team knows that we can, then we have a good chance of taking the tournament," said Steen.

# Cougar men prepare for championships

## DARREL HOBSON

Staff Writer

With only two games remaining in the regular season, the Cougars are already preparing for the NWAACC tournament in March. However, the players and the coaching staff cannot afford to look past any opponent because Clackamas can still win the league title and a first place seed.

Lane Community College lost on Saturday and Clackamas beat Chemeketa and Southwestern community colleges last week and now, both Lane and Clackamas are tied for first place in the league.

Last Wednesday, Cougars won a big game against Chemeketa. In the first half, the Cougars played great defense but had trouble on offense resulting in a 34-33 score at halftime. Then Clackamas came out in the second half and played some of the best basketball all season. If ESPN showed a highlight from this game, you would have seen Mark Campbell on the fast break in traffic passing the ball off the backboard to Nate Block for the dunk.

Campbell finished with nine points, 12 assists and five steals. Block had 12 points, 15 rebounds, four assists and three blocks. Chris Lohrey added 15 points and six rebounds. Matt Tabisz came off the bench and scored 14 points and had three rebounds. Tom Lenox had 12 points and Michael Kuebler racked up 17 points.

When it was all over, the Cougars forced Chemeketa to 25 turnovers and played with a lot of intensity and energy to win the game 90-76.

On Saturday, the men's team had to make the journey to Coos Bay to face Southwestern. The Cougars made the long trip worth it by winning 85-59.

The bench played very well with Jered Gritters scoring 11 points, five of six free throws, five rebounds and three steals. Lawson Struve added five points, five rebounds and four assists. Lenox was two of three from the three-point line and has moved up to first place in the league for three-point shooting percentage after last weekend. Campbell almost had another triple double with 14 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. Block played great with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Kuebler was four for seven from three-point range and scored 24 points in the win.

Teams have about 10 days to prepare before the tournament starts after the end of the season. Head Coach Cliff Wegner says his team knows what they have to do to be successful in the

NWAACC Championship.

"We are working on our defenses, rebounding and our focus. Over the break, we will have practices to prepare and we will use the time to rest too."

Clackamas will have to play Portland Community College and Linn-Benton Community College this week before wrapping up the season. Neither of these games can be considered easy wins because Linn-Benton has defeated some of the best teams in the league and the Cougars will have to play Portland on the road.

If the men's team wins both games and Lane loses one of its remaining games, then Clackamas will win the league title and a first place seed in the NWAACC Championship.

I asked Cliff Wegner if he was optimistic about his teams' chances in the tournament.

"We are one of the best teams in the NWAACC. We have Tacoma (the team that is ranked #1 in conference) to play and we are capable of beating them," he replied.

He also added that they were very close to being undefeated all season because the three games they lost were only by a few points.

The Cougars next home game is Saturday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m.

*"We are one of the best teams in the NWAACC"*

Cliff Wegner  
Head Coach  
Men's Basketball

# Confessions of an addict



RYAN BRINKLEY

Sports Columnist

I've finally gotten past the denial and I'm ready to admit to myself that I have a problem.

"Um, ahem. My name is Ryan...and I'm a sports-aholic."

I thought that there might be something wrong when I would stay awake well past midnight to watch America's Cup yacht races broadcast live from New Zealand. Also, when I recently found myself riveted to a documentary about racehorse Secretariat, I wondered if there was something else that I should be doing.

But alas, I can't tear myself away. I'm just glad that I don't have "all the ESPN networks," otherwise I might never leave the house.

The thing that's most troubling however is that we're headed towards spring, a very busy time in the sports year. And with summer around the corner, I'm not sure how long I'll be able to fight off my addiction.

After all, it's almost time to check the daily reports from baseball spring training. Also, college and pro basketball are inching closer to the most compelling point of their seasons - the playoffs.

And then there's golf. Will Tiger make history again? Will a clear challenger to his mastery emerge? I know I'll be watching. And golf is especially harmful to the sports addict because the tournaments last FOUR DAYS!

Then there's auto racing. I know, I know, some people don't consider it a sport and question whether drivers are really athletes. But come on, is there anything better than sitting on the couch for three hours and hearing grown men say things like "wreckin'" and "runnin' good?"

Don't get me started about tennis. Tennis was instrumental in my development as a sports junkie. I can remember those days of summer vacation when I was in grade school watching hours of tennis television coverage. Wimbledon marked the beginning of summer and the US Open signaled the sad end.

Perhaps the most exciting thing coming up is the NHL playoffs. The regular season doesn't really mean a thing, but the playoffs are intense. What better spectacle is there than the fans in Phoenix banging against the boards cheering for the Coyotes. Or what about Detroit, where fans toss dead sea creatures on the ice after victories? Who doesn't want to see that?

I can't tell you how hard it is to resist the sports world. I look to get my fix early in the morning. The Internet pushers like ESPN.com and CNNsi.com are always available when I need to score. They've got everything I need to start my day: stats, interviews, analysis, you name it. Whatever you want, they give to you. That's how they hook you.

Sports talk radio helps me through the day too. When I'm driving or whenever I can't be online, the news updates from talk radio serve as a quick fix.

Maybe I need to go to some rehab facility or something; somewhere where I won't be able to get my fix. Does such a place exist? What would one do if there was no sports programming? Is there a place where there are no televised games, no score tickers, no athletes talking about their "A game."

What would we addicts do? How would we survive without sports media? Would we go crazy? Would the withdrawals be insufferable? With no Sportscenter, Jim Rome, or ESPN.com's sort-able stats tables, would we spontaneously combust?

Perhaps we would resort to actually playing sports instead of just watching them!

THE HORROR!!!

## Cross Country Nationals

Clackamas student and runner Paul Keyes placed 30th Saturday at the cross country national championships. Read about him next week.

## Cougar Soccer

The Cougar soccer team needs players. Practices are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. on the soccer field. There will be a game Saturday. Be at the soccer field at 1 p.m. if you want to play. Practice is not mandatory. Contact Stefan Myers in the ASG office at x2544.

Saturday  
Support your



local Cougar  
Basketball  
Women 6 p.m.  
Men 8 p.m.