

## The greatest show you never saw

This term, I have had the privilege of being a part of something great. What is amazing to me is that most of you at this school could have been part of that something, but for some reason you chose not to. Right here on campus, there is an elite group of men who should be considered champions as a result of their hard work, dedication and their winning record.

Although you may not have heard of them or recognize them as they walk to and from class, I can assure you that they are for real. They may not look like much in street clothes, but when they put on their uniforms and play as a team, their opponents are often left with their heads in their hands wondering what hit them.

As some fans know, I am talking about the Clackamas Men's Basketball team. I commend the players' families, friends and Cougar fans for diligently attending home games. I realized, as the sophomore players and families were recognized before the last game of the season Saturday, that this is the last opportunity for anyone to see this great team play.

To give the non-fans an idea of who attends the games, let me paint a picture for you. As you walk in the gym, only half of the bleachers are pulled out for seating. At most games you'll see the parents, which is good. The players' close friends also attend. Most of the time, the women's team will stick around and watch the men play. The opposing team's family, cheerleaders or dance team will fill a section equal or greater to the home team's section. That is only if our athletic department has not invited the track or softball teams to the game. Even all these people don't fill the stands.

Our team deserves to play in a packed gym every home game. They work their butts off every day in practice and they put their hearts into every game.

It is really too bad that so many have never, and will never, see this Clackamas team play. I know there are basketball fans here at this

school that would enjoy Cougar Basketball. You watch the Blazers, Duke, UNC or you're a fan of Duck or Beaver basketball. The sad part is, that some of you spend lots of money and go to great lengths to see those teams play, yet you have a well coached, championship team right under your noses.

I would like to thank the coaching staff, the players and the players' families for bringing such a high level of play to Clackamas Community College. To the Sophomores, Mark Campbell, Tom Lenox, Mike Fisher, Nate Block, Jered Gritters and Chris Lohrey, we appreciate your commitment for the past two years.

Congratulations to all on a spectacular season. Good luck in the NWAACC Championship.

Continued from page 1

Gaurd Finnis Bassey warms up for a game.



DARREL HOBSON / Clackamas Print



DARREL HOBSON  
Sports Columnist

## Cougars: Men's basketball team dominates region

Continued from page 1

in the league and we showed it tonight," said Head Coach Cliff Wegner.

Last time these two teams met, Lane beat the Cougars at home by one point earlier in the season, Clackamas came from behind to win in Eugene.

Monday's final match-up of the season between these two division power houses proved to be just as exciting as the last two meetings.

The game remained close for the first five minutes, but once the Cougars gained a 17-12 point advantage, they never lost the lead. Lane made some good runs but could not tie. The Cougars had an eight-point lead at the half. Clackamas played tremendous team defense in the second half, forcing Lane to throw up shots as the shot clock was winding down. Lane went from shooting 58.6% in the first half to 33.3% in the second. Clackamas extended their lead to 18 at one point in the second half. Then the Titans cut into the lead by mak-

ing free throws and scoring on fast breaks and were only down by eleven. But the Cougars never lost their composure and were able to make tough shots, get to the free throw line and make great defensive plays.

"It was a sweet win. It feels good to be number one," said a smiling Chris Lohrey. "I can't wait for the NWAACC tournament, I think we will do well!"

The Cougars should do well in the NWAACC where they will probably face Big Bend Community in the first round. Big Bend is ranked sixth in the Feb. 25 NWAACC Coaches Poll. In the same poll, Clackamas is ranked second. The Cougars are capable of doing damage in the tournament, but players admit they still need to work on their game in order to be prepared.

"We need to work on our defense and our rebounding and when we get to the tournament, we want to take one game at a time," said Mike Misher.

The Cougars have until March 8 to practice for the NWAACC championship. The tournament will run March 8-10 at Shoreline College in Washington where #1 Clackamas will face their ultimate challenge of the season.



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## Intramurals

### Intramural Basketball Championship

Oliver Travels vs. The Cougars  
Thursday at Noon in the gym.

### Soccer Practice

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 p.m.

### Co-Ed Volleyball

Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon starting next week.