

Cougar men place 6th at NWAACC

DARREL HOBSON

Staff Writer

After an almost perfect season, Clackamas went to the NWAACC tournament to see if they could compete with the best teams in the Northwest.

In the first round, the Cougars remained confident even though their MVP point guard, Mark Campbell was out with an injury. The final score was 87-66 as Clackamas steamrolled the Columbia Basin Hawks.

The Cougars advanced to the next round to face the Highline Thunderbirds. Highline had one of the best team defenses in the NWAACC while Clackamas had

one of the best offenses. Clackamas played very well, outscoring the Thunderbirds in the first half, and shot a better percentage from the field and free throw line overall. However, Highline, who went on to win the tournament, controlled the offensive boards 21-7 and had only nine turnovers to Clackamas' 18. The Cougars lost 78-74, but still could have placed high in the tournament and broken CCC's record for the most wins in a season.

Next up were the division-rival Saints from Mt. Hood Community College. The Cougars won both of the regular season matchups and had no problem taking

care of them at the tournament. Clackamas beat the Saints 85-77. Finis Bussey led the team in scoring with 19 points and seven rebounds.

Sunday's game was a battle for fourth place against the Big Bend Runnin' Vikes. The Cougars wanted it bad and played harder than they had all tournament. Chris Lohrey had 16

points, 13 rebounds and three blocked shots. Lawson Struve played well all weekend in the absence of Campbell, and

had 11 points, five rebounds and four assists. Nate Block scored 11 points, four rebounds and four blocked shots. Michael

Kuebler, who received second team all tournament, had 25 points, five rebounds, six assists and seven steals. Despite the huge effort by the whole team, the Cougars could not overcome Big Bend's hot

shooting, where they were 12 of 24 from the three-point line. Clackamas lost 90-85 and took home sixth-place honors for the

2001 tournament.

"Most teams figured we would take an early exit, but instead we decided early on that we would not make any excuses (because of Campbell's injury). I am very proud of how hard our kids worked in the tournament and in the regular season," said Head Coach Cliff Wegner.

The final event for men's basketball is the all-star game. Cougar Coach Cliff Wegner will be coaching the southern division all-stars, which includes Nate Block and Chris Lohrey from Clackamas. The game is being played at noon this Sunday at Clark College in Vancouver Washington.



Cliff Wegner
Head Coach

He's an enigma wrapped in a riddle

I can't figure him out.

He's one of the best players on the planet. He's got 3 1/2 years left on a contract worth \$80 million. He's in Nike commercials and he's got his own website.

On the court, he's having the best season of his career - scoring, rebounding, blocks, steals, minutes, free throw percentage, and assists are all better than they've ever been.

So what is Rasheed Wallace so angry about?

Like many basketball fans, I watch the games and am routinely astounded by what Wallace can do on the court.

Turn-around jumper over Garnett? No problem.

Vicious block, sending the ball six rows deep? No problem.

Finish the break with an alley-oop, two-handed stuff? No problem.

Bury a jumper from behind

the arch? No problem.

Called for a blocking foul by Javie or Gerritson? BIG PROBLEM.

At every level, all coaches and some players lobby officials for calls. They ask them to watch a point guard that's carrying the ball or to watch number so-and-so who's handchecking.

They beg and plead, but can any of you recollect a time when you were at an

NBA game and after hearing a player say something like, "No f@#\$^&' way that was af@#\$^&' foul," and hear a ref say, "Well since you put it that way, I guess you're right - my bad!"

Has this ever happened? I haven't seen it.

Many say that Wallace is just intense and you want that "fire" in a player. I agree. In fact, I thought at one point that Rasheed's emotions were a

good thing, "pumping up" what is, at times, an incredibly apathetic team. I was wrong. Rasheed's constant grumbling towards officials has only caught on.

Every game I watch, the number of Blazers that I see "taking plays off" to argue with officials increases. Bonzi Wells does it, Steve Smith does it, Pippen's done it for years. Maybe after they're here for a while, Dale Davis and Shawn Kemp will make it a habit as well.

But Wallace is in a class of his own. It seems as though he's intent on being the MVP (Most Volatile Player). He's set to shatter his record of 38 technical fouls in one season. I think the league should honor Rasheed by naming the act of being ejected after him, "So-and-so got Wallace'd in the game last night."

Not only has the frequency of Wallace's tantrums increased, but also the intensity. His vulgar assaults on referees are becoming downright scary. I hate to think of what would he do if

his teammates didn't hold him back.

Of course, the sad part of all of this is that Rasheed's brilliance as a basketball player is overshadowed by his pattern of bad behavior. It's truly a tragic thing.

I'd love to write about Wallace turning the other cheek. I'd love to write about how he's changed and proved everyone wrong. I'd love to write about seeing Wallace shake the hand of an official at the end of a game.

But I don't think any of that is ever going to happen.

On a team where the only sign of unity is everybody wearing headbands or getting cornrows, I think the Blazers have got to realize something: Rasheed is not going to change. The technicals and ejections will most certainly continue.

It's unfortunate, but Wallace's temper is going to be the thing that defines him - not Dunleavy, the NBA, the media or even winning a championship can change that.



RYAN BRINKLEY
Sports Columnist

March 2001 Baseball Schedule

March 16-18
Bellevue Tournament
3 p.m. Bellevue, WA

March 22-25
Yakima Tournament
TBA

March 26
Green River CC
1 p.m. Home

March 31
Southwestern Oregon
CC Coos Bay



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Wednesday, March 14
Breakfast: British Sausage Rolls + Hash Browns
Grill Special: French Dip
Entree: British Bangers + Mashed Potatoes
Budget Entree: Cheese Tomato Pie

Thursday, March 15
Breakfast: Ham Scramble w/ Hash Browns
Grill Special: BBQ Smoked Chicken Sand.
Entree: Lasagna
Budget Entree: Chicken Caesar Salad

Friday, March 16
Breakfast: Chocolate Banana Pancakes
Grill Special: Shrimp Melt
Entree: Corned Beef + Cabbage
Budget Entree: Mushroom + Swiss Macaroni + Cheese

Picture of the winner and the prize of the *Name The Cafeteria Contest* on page two.


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