

Time runs out for the Lady Cougars

ELENA BORYSKA
Staff Writer

Heading into the NWAACC Championships, expectations for the women's basketball team were very high. This was a good team. Good enough to win it all. But on a weekend where only the tough survive, the Cougars were outlasted.

The first game of the tournament for Clackamas was played on Thursday, against Big Bend. From the beginning to the end, the Cougars dominated.

Kayla Steen and Mercedes Juarez each scored 23 in this hard fought first round victory over the Vikings, 80-61. Lawly Redner also contributed with 10 points off the bench.

"We played very, very well," said Head Coach Jim Martineau.

After such a big win the day before, it looked as though the Cougars were ready for their next match up, against South Puget Sound. Looks proved to be deceiving.

The Cougars had trouble keeping up early on and found themselves down by ten at the half. But as the game continued, the Cougars were able to gradually chip away at the deficit, finally cutting it to two. With only three seconds to go, Jennifer Lane made a three pointer to put Cougars up by one, their first lead in the whole game.

But South Puget Sound never gave up. With about one

second on the clock, they sunk a three-pointer, once again giving them a two point lead. As time expired, Lawly Redner took one last shot, a three-pointer of course, to try and win it for the Cougars.

Even though it looked good, and even "should have went in" according to Martineau, it didn't. Those two points were enough to give the Cougars their first loss in the tournament and send them into the consolation bracket.

"It was real tough on the girls," said Martineau.

The statistical leaders in that game were Kayla Steen with 17, Amanda Lee, with 16 points and

8 rebounds and Kim McBride who brought 14 points from the bench.

After that heartbreaker on Friday, the Cougars got another tough break on Saturday.

Their next opponent was Highline, one of the better teams in the Northwest.

Highline usually would not be in the consolation bracket, but a loss from the day before put them head to head with Clackamas. Much like their last game, the Cougars dug themselves a hole early on. But also like the day before, the Cougars made a comeback late in the game. They got themselves within two, when a couple of calls that didn't go their way put them out of the game completely. They lost by four points.

"We played very good defen-

sively," said Martineau.

So good that their offense suffered. They struggled so much to make baskets that the only player to score in double figures was Mercedes Juarez with 17 points.

That loss put the Cougars out of the tournament and into the 8th place position overall.

"It was a disappointing end to a really good season," said Martineau. "We played okay, but we didn't finish as well as we would have liked."

The Cougars played hard and got some bad breaks, but their chances were there.

"We were three seconds away from the semifinals," said Martineau.

Even though they weren't able to win it all, this heart-breaking end by no means diminishes the great season by these Cougar women, who finished the year with an overall record of 22-10. It just gives next year's team something to shoot for.

"We were three seconds away from the semifinals."

Jim Martineau
Head Coach

The Winter Hawks are back on top but attendance remains fowl

Do you remember the Portland Winter Hawks? You know, the hockey team? They were the best hockey team in the WHL and won the Memorial Cup in 1998.

As of Sunday, the Hawks have mounted a three-game winning streak and have the second-best record in the WHL West Division at 33-24. After two rebuilding years, when the team went 23-36 and 16-49 respectively, the Hawks are going to



DARREL HOBSON
Sports Columnist

the playoffs and are capable of doing some damage.

Although attendance is slightly up from last year, the 25-anniversary season and a winning record has not been enough to pack the Rose Garden like it was in 1998.

Either no one in the city knows or nobody cares. This hockey team used to be Portland's best show in town, a close second to the Trailblazers. Perhaps the soap opera going on inside the

Blazer locker room is taking the attention away from the Hawk's success this season.

Or maybe the fans are not ready to jump back on the bandwagon until this team wins some playoff games.

If you are one of those fans, I promise that this hockey team is more exciting than ever. They have come from behind to win this year more than once and they have proved that they have the skill, speed and the heart to be winners.

Another reason to go to a hockey game is that you can actually afford it! Tickets range in price, but the seat

you spend \$80 for to see the Blazers will cost you maybe \$20 at a Hawks game.

Even more amazing than the ticket prices is the high level of play being displayed by these up and coming NHL stars. When these guys hit the ice, it's easy to forget that most of them are still in high school. Yep, the WHL only allows kids that are between 16 and about 20 years old.

That's right Portland, hockey is back. Go take the whole family for some action packed fun. Don't know where to take your date this weekend? I'll give you a hint - girls like hockey!

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