

Error leads to only CCC win of week Cougar baseball drops three of four; end of season near

FRANK JORDAN
Sports Editor

The Cougars' baseball team suffered through another week, losing three out of four to division rivals.

Thursday, Clackamas played a makeup game against Chemeketa CC and despite a quick start, the Cougars fell to the Chiefs 8-6.

Matt Cooksey continued his hot hitting, belting a two-run homer in the bottom of the first to give CCC a quick 2-0 lead.

Chemeketa countered the Cougar effort with two runs of their own in the top of the second, then added three more runs in the fourth to take a lead that they wouldn't relinquish.

"We played pretty well early on against Chemeketa but we couldn't keep up the momentum," said Head Coach Robin Robinson. "If we hit late against them instead of early then we could have beat a very good team."

Friday, the Cougars took on Southwestern Oregon CC in a nine-inning contest on the CCC diamond. Clackamas came out swinging from the start but couldn't put enough hits at key times together and lost the game 12-4.

Luke Holscher was the starting pitcher for Clackamas, and al-

though he pitched a decent ballgame, the SWOCC offense was too much on this night. Clackamas strung 10 hits together on the night, but CCC couldn't bunch the hits together enough to keep them in the ballgame.

Saturday, the Cougars again took on SWOCC in a home doubleheader. Clackamas survived seven field-

ing errors in the first game to win 5-4 in 10 innings, but SWOCC came back in the second game defeating Clackamas 4-1.

Clackamas came out in the first inning taking

SWOCC's catcher made a less-than-perfect throw to third, the third baseman couldn't field the throw, and Paulsen trotted home with the winning run.

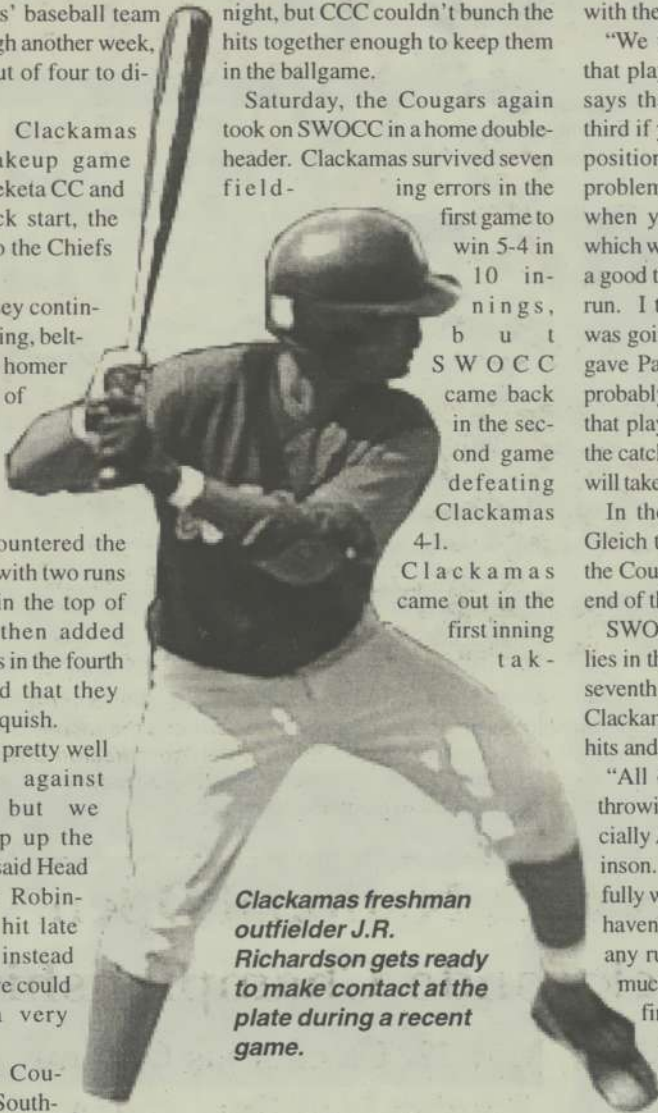
"We took a serious gamble on that play; common baseball logic says that you don't try to steal third if you have a man in scoring position," said Robinson. "The problem is that logic only applies when your team is hitting well, which we aren't. We thought it was a good time to try to manufacture a run. I thought that the next pitch was going to be a curveball, so we gave Paulsen the green light. He probably should have been out on that play but we got a break when the catcher made a poor throw. We will take the win."

In the second game, Brandon Gleich threw a solid ballgame, but the Cougars came up on the losing end of the scoreboard, 4-1.

SWOCC came up with single tallies in the second, fourth, sixth and seventh innings to win the game. Clackamas could only muster three hits and a single run in the fifth.

"All of our pitchers have been throwing a lot better lately, especially Aaron (Shanks)," said Robinson. "He is just throwing awfully well. It is just too bad that we haven't given any of our throwers any run support. We are playing much better defense, save for the first game Saturday against Southwestern Oregon. We are almost the worst team in the NWAACC in hitting the ball; we just need to string together some runs."

Clackamas finishes up the regular season next week on the road for a single game against Lane CC in Eugene, in Corvallis for a doubleheader against Linn-Benton on Saturday and the final home action on Thursday, May 17 against Lane CC. The Lane CC doubleheader begins at 1 p.m. on the CCC diamond.



Clackamas freshman outfielder J.R. Richardson gets ready to make contact at the plate during a recent game.

ing a quick 1-0 lead but Southwestern Oregon came back in the second scoring three runs to take the lead. SWOCC led 4-2 in the eighth inning before CCC got a couple of key hits to plate two runs and tie the game at 4. In the bottom of the tenth, with the score still tied, Matt Paulsen got on base with one out. He took second on a fielder's choice, then tried to steal third.

Softball players of the week

Darcy Hertel

Hertel, a sophomore catcher and a graduate of Madison High School in Portland, has gone 11 for 23 at the plate this season, has knocked in seven runs and stolen eight bases.



Casey Lapp

Lapp, a freshman pitcher and a graduate of Forest Grove High School, has allowed only two earned runs in her last four starts on the mound. She has struck out 20 batters and allowed only seven walks.



Baseball schedule

Sat., May 12 vs. Linn-Benton @ Albany 1 p.m.

Thur., May 17 vs. Lane @ Eugene 1 p.m.

Softball schedule

Fri., May 11 vs. Centralia @ home 3 p.m.

Sat., May 12 vs. Pierce College @ home 4 p.m.

Coach says "Toughest week we've ever faced"

Hard week in softball leaves Cougars with split record

DAISY BAIN
Staff Writer

The Lady Cougar's softball team played five double headers in seven days, bringing home a four and four record last week that proved to be one of the toughest weeks softball has seen in years.

"The way we played excited me a lot," said Coach Paul Fiskum. "It was the toughest week schedule we've ever faced."

On Sunday, May 6 the Cougars had two victories against Pierce College.

Vanessa Holm threw an impressive 10 strikeouts and no walks. Multiple hits made by Darcy Hertel, Cheristy

Hargrave and Erin Murphy helped win the game 6-1.

In game two Casey Lapp threw another outstanding game with seven strikeouts and no walks. At the plate Hertel, Hargrave and Julia Driggers were all two for three, and Lindsey O'Byrne was two for five.

"We did what we had to do to win the game," said Fiskum.

Friday, May 4 was a split against Chemeketa Community College. Clackamas is tied for second with Chemeketa in the NWAACC standings.

"This game was very intense and competitive," said Fiskum. Game one was in the hands of an international tiebreaker in the eighth inning. Game one

ended at a 1-0 loss by the Cougars.

Game two ended the day on a happier note with a 2-1 win. Lapp threw seven strikeouts and two walks. Melissa Borde was two for three at the plate bringing in one run.

Thursday, May 3 was a double loss against Lower Columbia Community College, who is currently number one in the NWAACC standings.

Game one was originally scheduled for May 1, but was rained out after three innings. There is no official rule in the collegiate rule handbook for rain delays, so they referred to ASA rules and started game one in the third inning the next day.

Lower Columbia started the third inning with a 1-0 lead and ended the game with a 3-2 win.

"We lost a heartbreaker though we felt we played pretty well," said Fiskum. "They look like they may be the champions."

Game two was a one-point game at a 4-3 loss for the Cougars.

The Cougars were ahead 3-0 most of the game yet lost four runs in the sixth inning.

Hertel was two for three at the plate and had one run and one RBI. Hargrave hit a triple bringing in one run and Borde also had one RBI.

On Wednesday, May 2 Clackamas split with Mt. Hood CC.

Game one was one of the

worst games the team has played all year with a 6-3 loss.

The team had four errors and only two of the six runs made by Mt. Hood were earned.

"We were all disappointed about the way we played," said Fiskum.

Game two looked up when Clackamas shut out Mt. Hood at 4-0. Casey Lapp threw five strikeouts, three walks and allowed only four hits. Erin Murphy hit two for three and Hertel was one for one.

The Lady Cougars are playing Centralia on Friday, May 11 at Clackamas. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m. Another home game against Pierce Community College is scheduled for Saturday at 3 p.m.