

Cougar men bust out

NICK BARRON
Staff Writer

If every week could go as the first one did for Clackamas' men's basketball team, the 2001-2002 season could be very exciting.

To begin the year, the Cougars hosted Linfield College's junior varsity on Nov. 20. Clackamas frustrated Linfield from the very beginning of the game with their full-court press and fast-paced offense. At the end of the first half, Clackamas led by a score of 59-41.

When the second half began, the Cougars went on an 11-3 run, increasing their lead over Linfield to 70-44. The onslaught continued throughout the second half, with Clackamas leading by as much as 46 points before Linfield was able to put some points on the board. When the final buzzer sounded, the Cougars owned a 123-97 victory in front of their home crowd.

After Clackamas devoured Linfield, they traveled to Longview, Washington, for the Red Devil Classic Tournament, which took place on Nov. 23-25. The opening round game featured Clackamas against Bellevue Community College, with Clackamas again slaughtering their opponent, 90-63. Michael Kuebler led the Cougars in scoring with 43 points, while Mat

Tondreau was first in rebounds for the team with 10. Clackamas' offense was fueled by the 10 for 17 shooting from beyond the three-point line, of which Kuebler made six.

Next up for the Cougars were the Penguins of Clark College, a team that proved no less a foe than Bellevue. Clackamas captured the semi-final match, 104-78, led by Marvin Noble Jr.'s 25 points and Tondreau's 24 points. Tondreau was six of eight from the field and four of five from beyond the arc. On the

Cougar scoring leader

Michael Kuebler
27.8 ppg

defensive end, Kuebler led the Cougars in steals with four, while Tondreau

had two blocks to his credit. Matt Tabisz chipped in to help Clackamas overtake Clark by making five of six free throws in the game.

After their victory in the semi-final game of the Red Devil Classic, only Lower Columbia College stood between Clackamas and first place. The Cougars had their work cut out for them, as the Red Devils were determined to be the victors in their own tournament. But Clackamas would not allow Lower Columbia to



The Cougars' Adrian Fletcher pressures an opponent in last week's match against Linfield. Clackamas soundly won the game by a score of 123-97.

NICK BARRON / Clackamas Print

defeat them, and the Cougars claimed first place with an 80-73 win.

Clackamas was led again in scoring by Kuebler, as the sophomore guard racked up 31 points. Lawson Struve followed Kuebler in points with 14, going two of three from the three-point line. Evan Kieling was the team leader in rebounds with 10, as Struve brought down eight for the Cougars. Noble Jr. fed the Clackamas scoring with 10 assists.

Kuebler was named tournament Most Valuable Player for the Classic, as he left Longview with an 29.3 points per game average. All-Tournament honors went to Tondreau, who averaged 15 points and 6.3 rebounds a game for the weekend.

Despite his team's early success, Clackamas coach Cliff Wegner is staying level-headed when asked about the Cougars' chances of success this year. "It takes a while to see the other teams develop,"

Coach Wegner said.

Wegner did have this to say about his team: "This is a team that runs hard, passes well and can put a lot of points on the board."

The next domino that Clackamas must knock over is Warner Pacific's junior varsity team. The game takes place at Clackamas this Friday. If the Cougars play as well against Warner Pacific as they did this past week, Clackamas fans will have plenty to cheer about.

Clackamas women settle for second

ELENA BORYSKA
Sports Editor

On Nov. 23-25, the women's basketball team was in Vancouver, Wash. playing in the Thanksgiving Tournament hosted by Clark College.

The CCC women played well over the weekend, but they didn't play great, which is what it would have taken for them to win first place. They came in second in this tournament and lost the championship game by only one point.

The Cougars started their season on Friday, Nov. 23, against Yakima Valley. Head Basketball Coach Jim Martineau was pretty pleased with the way his team played in their first game of the year. The final score of this game was 80-67, with Clackamas coming out on top. The Cougars were pretty much in control for most of the game and were up by about 20 at half-time. Kayla Steen led scoring for the Cougars with 22 points; Melissa Gibson was second with 19, while Jennie Kooch finished with 9 points and 11 rebounds.

After this opening win,

Clackamas came back to play Centralia College on Saturday. CCC pulled off an easy victory, 66-45, despite committing 30 turnovers.

"We didn't play very good for most of the game," said Martineau. "Centralia is not a great team. We probably should have played a little better against them."

Steen once again led in

I think eventually we have a chance to be a very, very good team.

Jim Martineau
Head Women's Basketball Coach

scoring, this time her total was 30 points. Lena Grant also had an all around great game, ending up with eight points, 13 rebounds, four blocked shots and five steals.

This second-straight victory of the tournament put the

Cougars into the championship game on Sunday against the tournament host, Clark. The Cougars played really well to start, with an eight-point lead at the half. They had a few problems taking care of the ball and shooting in the second half, but were up by four or five for most of it. But as the game wound down, Clark was able to turn things around and win by one point.

"This was a tough loss for us, but Clark is a very good team," said Martineau. "We know we can play with anybody when we play well, we just didn't play well for the entire game."

Jessica Hansen finished the game with nine points and six rebounds, while Melissa Gibson scored 10 points. Steen had a double/double with 22 points and 10 assists. Her performance over the weekend was good enough for her to be selected to the all-tournament team.

After his team's opening performance, Martineau is confident in their abilities. He even thinks that they are better than last year's team, which had an overall record of 22-10.

"We definitely have more talent than last year's team. And last year's team was very good," said Martineau. "I think we have more talent, but we also have a bunch of new people. So we're still trying to get used to each other and trying to figure out who needs to shoot the ball and who needs to pass the ball and kind of what their role is on the team."

Martineau also sees the potential that this team has.

"I think eventually we have a chance to be a very, very good team. We should compete for a league title and do very well at the NWAACC tournament," said Martineau. "It's just a matter of getting us to play a little bit better. Our biggest problem right now is we don't take very good care of the basketball."

"The nice thing about this year's team is that we'll have enough talent where no matter who you're playing, you'll feel like you have a chance to win," said Martineau. "As a coach, that's a real good feeling to step on the floor and know that you have a chance to win every game that you play."

Cougars Basketball

Cougar men
vs.
Warner Pacific
JV

Fri. Nov. 30
5:30 p.m.

Randall Gym
Cougar women

vs.

Pierce College
Sat. Dec. 1
4:00 p.m.

Randall Gym
Cougar men

vs.

Linfield JV
Mon. Dec. 3
7:00 p.m.

McMinnville, OR