

Women clawing to hold onto second place

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Sports Editor

After losing two important games in two weeks, it looks as though Clackamas' women's basketball team has finally snapped out of its funk and is back on the right track.

On Wed. Jan. 30, the Cougars headed to Portland Community College to play a team that was still searching for its

first league victory. Needless to say, they didn't find it that night. CCC convincingly put away the Panthers, with a final score of 88-57. The starters got a break this game, leaving a chance for the not-so-used players to shine. Every player got to play at least 10 minutes, and according to Head Coach Jim Martineau, it was a good change.

"They don't get any of the rewards as far as going out and playing," said Martineau. "They are good players...playing behind some better players."

The Cougars were shooting really well the first half, with a 28-point lead at the break. They were also shooting 50 percent from the floor and from behind the three-point line. The offensive difficulties that plagued them from the week before seem to have disappeared, since many of the shots that went in were the same ones they missed against Linn-Benton a few weeks back. With so many players getting their minutes, there was an even distribution of the points among them. Lena Grant was the scoring leader with a double/double of 22

points and 11 rebounds. Cappie Smith was second in scoring with 18, and Kayla Steen threw in 13 more.

Once they were done with PCC, the Cougars went to Eugene to take on their next opponent, Lane Community College. Going into this game, both Lane and Clackamas were tied for second place in the Southern Region, and only one team would be able to keep that spot. Although they proved to be more of a challenge than PCC, Lane also fell victim to the Cougar attack, 77-63.

"This was a good road win for us against a good team," said Martineau. "This was a big win for us to make sure we at least secure second place and still have a chance at trying to sneak that league title out."

Jim Martineau
Head Women's
Basketball Coach

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that league title out." Steen wasn't shooting the ball as well as normally, but still ended up with 22 points. She also had eight rebounds, seven steals and seven assists. Grant scored 20 points, and Smith finished with 12 points and nine rebounds.

After these two victories, the Cougars are in second place of the Southern Region and ranked fifth in the NWAACCs. Next up for Clackamas is a tight match-up against Umpqua, the first-place team in the NWAACCs, on Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Randall Gym. The last time these two teams met, Umpqua edged out the Cougars for a victory by seven points. This time, Martineau hopes the outcome will be a little different.

"I think it should be a really good game. I know we can score against them—I'm not worried about that. We need to play a



NICK BARRON / Clackamas Print

(Above) Lena Grant fights off two Portland players in an attempt to score a basket in a game last week at PCC. (Right) Melissa Gibson tries to keep a Portland player from passing the ball. The Cougars won beat PCC by a score of 88-57. They will be at home on Saturday, trying to take out first place Umpqua.

little better defense. And we've done that the last four or five games, even the game that we got beaten," said Martineau. "Our defense has stepped up quite a bit the last three or four weeks. This should be a good test for us."



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Cougar wrestlers prepare to battle the best of the best

On Saturday, Feb. 2 at Rexburg, Idaho, 10 wrestlers from Clackamas competed at regionals to qualify for the national competition in Rochester, Minn., on Feb. 15 and 16.

The tournament was held at Ricks Junior College and as a team, CCC took fourth place out of the six teams present. They finished behind third-place Highline, runner-up Ricks College and tournament champion North Idaho. Six Cougar wrestlers qualified to go to Na-

tionals. Dennis Lewis and Cliff Hughes placed second in their weight classes. Placing third in his weight was Justin Elliott, and rounding out the other three spots were Andrew Murphy, Sean Bolen and Chaz Cointment, who all got wild card votes.

These six wrestlers will represent Clackamas Community College at Nationals.

Information compiled by Willie Hendrix