

Clackamas takes Umpqua to the cleaners

ELENA BORYSKA
Sports Editor

On Saturday, the CCC women's basketball team took on undefeated Umpqua in a hard-fought match that resulted in the Cougars winning 89-78 and improving to a third-place standing in the NWAACCs.

This was a very big win for the Cougars, and they are now one game behind Umpqua in the Southern Region. Kayla Steen led the offense with 32 points, eight rebounds, five assists and four steals. Jessica Hansen contributed 13 points and six rebounds, Lena Grant tossed in 12 points and seven rebounds, while Jennie Kooch scored nine points and grabbed six boards. The Cougars did a better job of protecting the ball this game than the last time they met Umpqua, only committing a season-low eight turnovers.

This was a big game for the Cougars to win, not only because it came against the best team in the NWAACCs, but also because it moved them within one game of first place in the Southern Region. "They (Umpqua) are the best team around and we played real well against them and beat them pretty handily," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "We need to feel good about what we've done

and understand that we're as good as anybody when we play well. And the girls did a really nice job of playing. They played hard, but they played really intelligent and really did a nice job."

"We played our best game of the year. From the very start we were very focused. We talked about it all week of being prepared, focused and ready to go. We're starting to play better and better at the right time. The girls are starting to play with more and more confidence and more intelligence,

"We played our best game of the year."

Jim Martineau
Head Coach

which is a big key down the stretch."

An important factor for this victory was to practice hard. All week long, the Cougars have been working to get ready for this match-up.

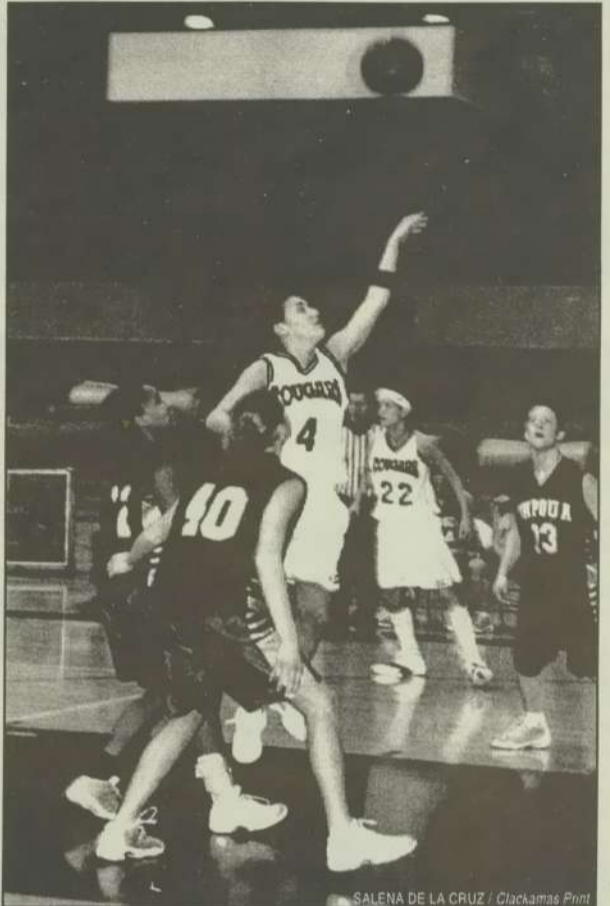
"The key is just to prepare and practice like we've done the last couple of weeks and be really focused on the preparation of going down and playing these two games. If we play hard and work

hard in practice, then we tend to play well in games. The girls understand that now," said Martineau.

The season series between these Umpqua and Clackamas ended in a split, with each team winning on their home floor. But there is still a chance that these two teams could meet again even before the NWAACCs roll around. For that to happen, the Cougars would have to win all five of the rest of their upcoming games, while Umpqua would have to lose only one more in the rest of their remaining games, resulting in a tie-breaker game. This is unlikely to happen, but if it does, the Cougars will take confidence from this last victory.

The next challenge for the Cougars will come on the road at Chemeketa on Wed. Feb. 13. After that game, they will come back home to try and take out Southwestern Oregon CC on Sat. Feb. 16. Both of these teams are pretty good and could turn out to be a big challenge. But after this win against Umpqua, Martineau is pretty confident about his team's chances for the rest of the season.

"I think the girls believe they can beat anybody and expect to win every game down the stretch. It's going to do nothing but give us a boost," said Martineau.



Kayla Steen tosses up a shot in a home victory against the NWAACC leader, Umpqua. The Cougars had an 11-point victory, 89-78.

Glory and upset mark the start of the Winter Olympics

ELENA BORYSKA
Sports Editor

The Winter Olympic games have begun! The opening ceremonies took place on Fri., Feb. 8 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and marked the beginning of one of the most celebrated sporting events in the world. So far, the U.S.A. has done pretty well in the medal category and as of Tuesday afternoon, was leading the medal count with a total of nine. Austria was right behind the U.S. with seven medals and Germany was close third with six.

Kelly Clark won the first U.S. gold of the 2002 Olympics in the women's alpine snowboarding. Clark beat out Doriane Vidal from France by 4.9 points, finishing with 47.9 total. The men's snowboarding trio of Ross Powers, Danny Kass and Jarret Thomas provided an exciting moment for Americans in the men's halfpipe snowboarding. These three guys took the gold, silver and bronze medals in the first U.S. sweep of a Winter Games event since 1956, and only the second Winter Games sweep by the U.S. ever. Gold medalist Powers set the mark at 46.1 points in the competition, while silver medalist Kass had his chances to take the gold from his teammate, but came up short. Thomas slipped

into the bronze medal position after bumping out fellow American Tommy Czeschin.

In the men's 500 meter speed skating competition, Americans Casey Fitzrandolph and Kip Carpenter finished in the first and third spots respectively, adding two more medals to the U.S. total.

Other medal winners from the United States include men's speed skater Derek Parra, women's freestyle skier Shannon Bahrke and men's freestyle skier Travis Mayer, who all secured second place spots and won silver medals.

One story that is developing during these Olympics has to do with the pairs figure skating competition that took place on Monday, Feb. 11. The judges of this event awarded the gold medal to the Russian skating duo of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze

rather than the Canadian team of Jamie Sale and David Pelletier. While the Russian's performance was strong, it wasn't nearly as close to perfection as the Canadian's routine. But the judges didn't see it that way. They gave the Russians seven 5.9s for artistry, which was just enough for them to sneak past the Canadians, who only got four 5.9s.

The Olympic action will continue for the next couple of weeks, concluding on Sun., Feb. 24. Many events will be televised on either NBC, MSNBC or CNBC, so for more details, check the out www.saltlake2002.com.



The Canadians pleased the crowd but not the judges with their silver medal winning pairs figure skating performance.

COUGAR ATHLETICS

Clackamas @ Chemeketa Feb. 13
Men: 5:30 p.m. Women: 7:30 p.m.
Southwestern @ Clackamas Feb. 16
Men: 4:00 p.m. Women: 6:00 p.m.



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