

Laying the smackdown

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Sports Editor

On Feb. 15 and 16, the Cougar wrestling team took the 15th place position at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Championships and fell just 10 points short of their team goal of beating Highline CC. Six wrestlers from Clackamas made the trip to Rochester, Minn., and participated in the end-of-the-year tournament.

Justin Elliott had a great meet, taking home the seventh place spot in the 184-pound weight class and coming out as an All American. Elliott was the only Cougar to make it to All-American status, but all of his teammates came really close to making it.

"It was a disappointing first round for the team," said Head Wrestling Coach Lloyd Martindale. "Team wise, we were a little disappointed, but knew the competition would be tough. The wrestlers were ready physically, but not so mentally. They had never faced this type of intense competition before."

To place in the tournament, a wrestler has to win four matches in a row. The Cougar team lost all of their first round matches except one, eliminating all hopes of more than one CCC wrestler placing.

Andrew Murphy was bounced out of the tournament with a final record of 0-2, but was pretty satisfied with his finish.

"I just went there focused," said Murphy. "I was happy with my performance."

Chaz Cointment had a pretty good meet, ending up only one match away from becoming an All American. One thing that Cointment is happy about the fact that he no longer has to worry about making weight.

Sean Bolen, who is in the 140-pound weight class, and Cliff Hughes, who is in the 172-pound weight class, both lost their first two matches and were eliminated the first day.

Dennis Lewis wrestled in the 150-pound weight class and ended up only one



Andrew Murphy and Ryan Farwell practice a hold, which had been a constant downfall at many of their matches.

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