

Cougar women rack up two more wins

ELENA BORYSKA

Sports Editor

With only three games to go before heading to the NWAACC tournament, the Cougar women's basketball team added two more wins to their total, finishing the week with a 9-2 league record.

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, Clackamas traveled to Chemeketa to play the fourth-place team in the Southern Region. The Cougars were in control of this game and had a seven-point lead heading into the half. That lead eventually turned into an 85-67 victory for Clackamas. Kayla Steen scored 29 points, while going a perfect 5 for 5 from beyond the arc. Steen also grabbed seven rebounds and seven assists. Melissa Gibson contributed 19 points, Lena Grant scored 13 and Morgan Hayes had 11, while Jessica Hansen had career highs in both rebounds—with 15—and blocked shots (four).

Even though the Cougars won, Head Coach Jim Martineau thinks that his team didn't play as well as they could have.

"We were just coming off of a big win against Umpqua and didn't play quite as well as we

did against Umpqua, but it was a pretty good effort coming off a big win," said Martineau. "That was the second tough week in a row. We had Lane and then Umpqua and that last week we had down at Chemeketa and Southwest Oregon, so I thought if we could get through those four, we could hopefully get a chance to get through the second half without a loss."

The Cougars then came back home for a battle against Southwestern Oregon. Even though they seemed to be lagging, the Cougars were able to pull off their fifth win in a row, 87-74.

"It looked like we were a little tired after a long week of practice and games. But we really did a nice job of just kind of being a little tougher than the other team," said Martineau.

Steen led the offense with 24 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Grant scored 16 points and grabbed seven boards, and Cappie Smith racked up 16 points. Gibson contributed 15 points to the Cougar total, and Hansen added 11 points, five rebounds and five assists.

On Wednesday, Clackamas will host Portland and play their last home game of the 2001-2002 season. After that game, the Cougars will be head-

ing down to Linn-Benton on Saturday and will be trying to avenge the loss from earlier in the season. According to Martineau, the Cougars are playing well enough to win the rest of the regular season games this year.

"If we play like we have been playing, we should win all three. All we can do is play our game. We were unfortunate enough to lose that game (against Linn-Benton) and now it's out of our control," said Martineau. "We'll take care of what we can do and whatever happens, happens. We just need to get ourselves into the best position possible to go up to that tournament."

Right now, the Cougars are on an upward swing and are gaining confidence for the NWAACCs.

"We're playing pretty well. I still think we can play a little better," said Martineau. "But what I really think is key, is that they're starting to believe in themselves quite a bit. And I think they're starting to realize that they're a pretty good team and when they play well, they can beat anybody."



Jessica Hansen and Lena Grant try to grab a rebound at last week's home victory against Chemeketa.

The oops in the Olympics

By Nick Barron



Greetings, this is Bob Costtoomuch in Salt Lake City, where the alleged "Skategate" episode has finally been resolved. Rumors were circulating about a French/Russian conspiracy in the Feb. 11 pair figure skating competition, in which Canadian skaters Jamie Sale and David Pelletier were surprisingly defeated by their Russian counterparts, Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze. Last Sunday, the Canadians were given a gold medal for their performance.

The dispute was over whether the French judge, Marie-Reine Le Gougne, scored the Russians' performance higher than their it earned, in exchange for the Russian judge to pull for the French team in the ice dancing competition on Feb. 15.

United States coach Frank Carroll contended this possibility by saying: "Does that mean now the Rus-

sian judge possibly is going to give the French dance team first (in the ice dancing competition)?"

NBC Olympic figure skating announcer Scott Hamlocks joins us now.

Scott, it seemed apparent to all who witnessed the pairs event that the Canadians' performance was far superior to that of the Russians. Do you agree that the Canadian pair should have been awarded the gold medal outright?

"Well, I'm not sure how far the opinion of a balding ex-figure skater, like myself, will go. But I would have to say that the Canadians' throw triple loop put the icing on the skate, (laugh), for the gold medal, Bob. And the Russians' obviously failed to execute on their double axle, so I would have to say that the Canadians definitely deserved to hear their national anthem

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Scott Hamlocks
Fictitious announcer

played as they were awarded the gold that night."

Other people associated with figure skating have said that this incident embarrassed the sport. Would you say your emotions parallel those individuals, Scott?

"Bob, I'll tell you, except for that little Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan debacle, this is probably the darkest blot on figure skating's record. Would I say I am embarrassed for the sport? No. I mean, grown men prance across the ice wearing glittery outfits. To me, that is as embarrassing as it gets."

Thank you, Scott, now let me grab this passerby to gauge his reaction to this apparent corruption.

Excuse me, sir, but may I get your feelings on the incident that occurred on Feb. 11?

"Who are you, the Mormon police? I told myself not to drink that Bud Light, darn it."

No, actually, I was speaking in reference to the rumors of a Russian/French conspiracy against Canadian figure skaters, Jamie Sale and David Pelletier.

"Oh, yeah, right. Uh, yeah, I feel

that the French showed their arrogant true selves and screwed over the Canadians. You know, we did save their butts in both World Wars, but they still seem ungrateful. And Canada is like the 51st state of the U. S., 'cause they are like our little brothers. We look out for them, and all. Sure, their comedy routines leave us feeling nauseous and they talk weird, but we don't hold that against Jeff Foxworthy."

Thank you sir, have fun checking out the luge competition.

"The luge? Nah, I ain't had that in years."

O.K., well, I think that wraps it up here, folks. So the Canadian figure skating pair of Pelletier and Sale has been awarded a gold medal, and the Russians are allowed to keep theirs. Back to you, Katie.

COUGAR ATHLETIC EVENTS



Portland @
Clackamas Feb. 20
Men: 5:30 p.m.
Women: 7:30 p.m.

Clackamas @ Linn-
Benton Feb. 23
Men: 4:00 p.m.
Women: 6:00 p.m.



Check out these games, it's your last chance to see the sophomores play!