

Track team surges toward beginning of season

NICK BARRON

Business Manager

Clackamas' track and field team has been busy preparing for what they hope will be another successful year for the program. The 2002 season begins on March 2.

Last spring, the Cougar women finished second in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges, a feat that could prove difficult to duplicate.

But Clackamas Head Track Coach Jack Kegg feels the women are one of the best teams in the NWAACC and said, "The women are really talented, we just don't have the numbers, so that's going to be our struggle. They're going to have to do a lot more work, score in a lot more events."

Coach Kegg was referring to the fact that the men's team has twice as many athletes as women's team. Despite the lack of competitors, Kegg believes that the women have a good shot to repeat as Southern Division Champions.

Some of the stars for the women include Stacy Hopkins and Jenni Hardie, returning All-Americans in the 10,000-meter race.

The female pole-vaulters are currently ranked first through fifth in junior college pole-vaulting in the nation: Sarah Rowse is ranked first, followed by Dasha Wakefield, while third-place is a tie between Maria Skipper and Elisabeth Malsey, with Christy Strout rounding out the top five.

Lan Evers is expected to be the



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Above: Matt Solosabal, Rusty Pruden, Kyle Holland and Ryan Hennessy (left to right) prepare for the opening Cougar track meet, coming up on Saturday, March 2, at Salem. Below: Dasha Wakefield and Sara Rowse (left to right) are two of CCC's best pole-vaulters, and are ranked second and first respectively out of all national junior college pole vaulters in the nation.

team's best high jumper. NWAACC cross country champ Kari Rissmiller could possibly win some titles this season for her squad.

Coach Kegg holds high expectations for the men's track team, who finished third last year in the NWAACC.

"I think we're as good as anyone else in the conference."

Jack Kegg
Head Track Coach

"We probably have a good chance to get a trophy, being in the top three (in the NWAACC)," Kegg said.

While most athletes for the Cougar

men are taken as some of the best in the NWAACC, there are a few standouts. Isaac Frederick is one of those star performers, as he is Clackamas' school record holder in the 100-meter race. Jonas Welsch led the NWAACC in the 100- and 200-meter races all of last year. Ray Kauffman, who red-shirted last season due to shoul-

der surgery, was third in the junior nationals in javelin-throwing his senior year in high school, and is regarded as one of the best throwers in the country. Rusty Pruden will be very competitive in the middle distances, as he missed being named an All-American last season by only one place.

For both teams, Spokane looks to be a formidable opponent; Kegg considers them the team to beat. Other than the Sasquatch, Kegg deems his team capable of conquering any squad they encounter.

"I think we're as good as anyone else in the conference," he said.

Clackamas alumnus and former Cougar pole-vaulter Becky Holliday was named Oregon Collegiate Athlete of the Year for 2001. Holliday was ranked 26th in the world last season in pole-vaulting. In January, another accolade for Clackamas was handed to Assistant Coach Rick Baggett, named National Junior College Coach of the Year in pole-vaulting.

Coach Kegg credits part of the success of Clackamas' track and

field program to good coaches, whose job it is to prepare their athletes for competition.

There is a phrase posted next to the team's practice schedule, which says: "More important than the will to win, is the will to prepare to win!"

Only as the season plays out will

the rest of Clackamas see the hard work the track and field team puts into being the best. If the past, though, is any indication of the future, the Cougars could be clutching a trophy come May.

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PSU considers cutting golf program

WILLIE HENDRIX

Staff Writer

Portland State University is considering dropping their men's golf program at the end of the season due to budget cuts made by the state.

The men's golf team is facing budget cuts of \$132,000 this year and \$225,000 next season. Because of these cuts, the men's golf team is considered an option. The president of Portland State, Dan Bernstine, is expected to make a decision as early as sometime next week. By cutting the men's golf team, it would reduce the total number of sports programs from 17 teams to 16 teams, which is still the second most in the Big-Sky conference.

The Portland State golf team has had success in the past. PSU golf finished second in the Big-Sky conference last season. Two men's golfers, Doug Nelson and Brodie Jordan, were first and second all conference. Nelson will be affected by the program dropping, and is trans-

ferring to the University of Portland. Assistant Golf Coach Brian Hughes was the Big-Sky conference champion two years ago. The men's golf coach Felicia Johnston has been successful as a player and as a coach in her first season as men's golf coach.

There are other things that could be cut instead of the golf program. Golf is one of the up-and-coming sports today. There is also the fact that it is popular around the world, and a lot of money is brought in by endorsements and by other athletes who play it.

"Men's golf is one of the most successful programs at Portland State. The men's golf team had the highest rated GPA rating among sports programs last seasons. (The) men's golf team is the only program currently that has won a conference championship,"

said Jordan. "It's unfortunate to come to the end. I am sure that Portland State could find other areas to cut other than golf."

The decision to drop men's golf from Portland State will come no later than the end of the month. With a tradition of winning and good academic golfers, it will be hard to swallow the fact that there may no longer be a golf program at the end of the season.

There are only so many colleges that have golf teams. With the sport becoming so popular, it seems like PSU could do something else besides cutting such a successful program.

"I am sure that Portland State could find other areas to cut..."

Brodie Jordan
PSU golfer

Corrections:

In issue 14 Feb. 20, 2002, no credit was given in "Laying the Smackdown" to a writer that contributed to the story. We would like to give credit at this time to Willie Hendrix.

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