

Cougars eat up PCC 99-58

ELENA BORYSKA
Staff Writer

The Clackamas women's basketball team extended its winning streak to seven games last week, pouncing on Portland at home and clawing Linn-Benton with some payback for the last time they met.

The Cougars hosted PCC on Feb. 20, in what was the last home game for the sophomore players. Not a lot of people came to watch, most likely because of the assured Clackamas victory, but the Cougars still played hard and coasted to a 98-50 victory.

"It was a hard game to play, knowing we were going to win. But we played really hard," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "Overall, it was a good game."

Kayla Steen led the Cougars with 20 points, 15 rebounds and six assists. Lena Grant chipped in with 20 points and eleven rebounds, while Morgan Hayes had 15 points and six rebounds. The Cougars played really good defense according to Martineau, and had a 30 point lead in the first half.

After that easy victory, the Cougars traveled to Albany to take on Linn-Benton. The last time these two teams played, the Cougars were surprised and fell to Linn-Benton, 80-76, in a frustrating overtime loss. Not this time, though, as Clackamas walloped Linn-Benton, 99-58. The Cougars came out and jumped on them from the start, preventing them from scoring long enough to jump ahead to a 22-0 lead at the beginning of the game. Although Clackamas lost their last match against

Linn-Benton on Jan. 26, the Cougars also weren't playing very well then so Martineau was unsure what to expect this time around. But the Cougars went out and played an impressive game.

"We played really well against them. The girls were still a little angry from the first time, I think," he said. "We went down there and from the very start, just dominated, just played really well. I didn't expect to go down and beat them by 40, I just thought we'd go down and play well."

COUGAR ATHLETICS

Women's
@ Mt. Hood
Feb. 27
7:30 p.m.

Men's
@ Mt. Hood
Feb. 27
5:30 p.m.

Steen contributed 24 points, seven assists, and six steals to this runaway victory. Jennie Kooch added 15 points and seven rebounds, Melissa Gibson had 13 points and Cappie Smith and Regina Joo both scored 12 points and grabbed six rebounds.

The Cougars now have only one game left in league play, against Mt. Hood today, Feb. 27, before heading to the NWAACC Championships in Washington March 8-11.

Going into this game, the Cougars have a league record of 11-2, while Mt. Hood is 2-11. Even though the season has almost reached its conclusion, this game still is an important one to win.

"It's a big game for us. We still have an outside chance at the league title. We need to do our part here and see how the other things work out," said Martineau. "Each game we do something a little better, and I think that's the key right there, to keep trying to get a little better. We're at the state where we know we're playing pretty well and need to continue to keep doing the things we're doing."

The Cougars also made it to the championship tournament last year, but finished at the eighth position in the Northwest. This year however, Martineau is confident in his team's chances at doing well.

"If we continue to play the way we're playing right now, we're as good as anybody," said Martineau. "Last year... we had a good season, but I think we knew we weren't quite as good as the top teams. There were four or five teams a lot better than us, whereas this year, we're right up there with everybody." Maybe they'll even win the championship.

Martineau added, "And I think confidence-wise, we're completely different. We expect to go up there and play well. I think we'd be disappointed with anything less."

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SALENA DE LA CRUZ / Clackamas Print
Jennie Kooch goes for a basket while surrounded by PCC players. The Cougars beat Portland and stretched their winning streak to seven games.



Forgotten heroes By Nick Barron

With February being Black History Month, I decided to research some little-known but outstanding African Americans who played various roles in the sports world, before the white men who controlled professional sports at that time realized they were being bigoted morons.

First, I would like to pay homage to Josh Gibson, a catcher who played in the Negro Baseball League from 1930 to 1946. In a span of 17 years, Gibson amassed 962 home runs, 207 more than Hank Aaron and 248 more than Babe Ruth. His lifetime batting average sits at .391, higher than any Major League Baseball player, ever. This right-handed slugger never made it to the big leagues, though, passing away at age 35, just months before Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier.

Next on my list is Willie Thrower, who died recently of a heart attack, and was the first black quarterback to play in the National Football League. Thrower excelled as a Big Ten quarterback in college, helping Michigan State to a national championship in 1952, but went undrafted and signed with the Chicago Bears for \$8,500. He played in just two games prior to being released by the Bears, and wound up playing professional football in Canada for three years. "Willie the Pro," his nickname until his death, retired at age 27. Another black quarterback would not take the field in a NFL game until 13 years after Thrower's appearance.

Perhaps one of the least-known

facts concerning the sport of horse racing is that the first Kentucky Derby was won by a horse trained and jockeyed by African Americans. In fact, 15 of the first 28 Kentucky Derbys were won by black jockeys, with the last one to win a Derby being Jimmy Winkfield in 1902. Once the turn of the century came about, horse racing's

"...we white people can be a very stupid race."

popularity increased, causing African American's to be forced into "stable boy" roles in the sport.

Most recently, we have Vonetta Flowers, who discovered gold in Salt Lake City at the 2002 Winter Olympics. Flowers becomes the first black to medal in a Winter Olympic event.

These people are just a few of the hundreds of black individuals who have contributed to sports that thousands love and follow. My mind wanders as I look over Gibson's stat sheet. What if this slugger had been allowed to compete with white men in the Major Leagues? Would Yankee Stadium still be called "The House that Ruth Built?" How much could just one man have changed the course of baseball

history? What if black jockeys were allowed to perform as they had since the end of the Civil War? Would Secretariat have been jockeyed by an African American? If Willie Thrower had been given a chance to prove himself to the NFL, would America have had to wait 13 more years for James Harris to prove that the color of his skin didn't keep him from performing at a level that most white men could only dream of reaching?

The truth is, I will never know the answer to these questions. The only truth that I find in the discrimination African Americans suffered at the hand of my fellow Caucasians is that we white people can be a very stupid race. But I cannot change the past, I can only dream of what might have been.

I dream of a game, on a hot summer afternoon, in which a man named Josh Gibson steps up to face a pitcher named Dizzy Dean, smacking Dean's fastball over the left field wall. Gibson trots around the bases, the crowd sending down its approval from high up in the stands, a smile beaming from the catcher's face. With a twinkle in his eye, Gibson touches home plate, raises his cap to his admirers, and takes a seat in Major League Baseball history.

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NWAACC		
MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS		
SOUTHERN DIVISION	LEAGUE	SEASON
SW Oregon	11-2	21-6
Clackamas	10-3	23-5
Lane	9-4	16-11
Mt. Hood	7-6	13-13
Chemeketa	7-6	18-9
Linn-Benton	5-8	10-16
Portland	2-11	5-21
Umpqua	1-12	5-21

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS		
SOUTHERN DIVISION	LEAGUE	SEASON
Umpqua	12-1	26-2
Clackamas	11-2	23-4
Lane	10-3	21-6
Chemeketa	7-6	18-9
SW Oregon	5-8	12-15
Linn-Benton	5-8	8-18
Mt. Hood	2-11	5-21
Portland	0-13	2-24