

# Saints don't have a prayer against CCC

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The men's basketball team put the wrapping on the 2001-2002 regular season, with a 95-80 shellacking of the Mount Hood Saints on Feb. 27.

The Cougar men face the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's Championship Tournament, on Mar. 8-11 in Kennewick, Wash., where Clackamas looks to capture the

first-place crown.

Michael Kuebler, Clackamas' leading scorer, put up a stellar performance against the Saints. The guard finished the night with 31 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Three players, Lawson Struve, Marvin Noble and Matt Tabisz each scored 16 points.

Cougar coach Cliff Wegner was satisfied with his team's performance against Mount Hood. "We were aggressive on offense. We took the ball hard to the hole, and

we shot pretty well," Wegner said.

The end of the regular season brings accolades to those players and coaches who illustrated their talent throughout the year.

Kuebler captured the Most Valuable Player award for the Southern Division, while he and Noble both were named as first-team all-stars for the league. Struve was voted to the second-team, with Tabisz and Mat Tondreau garnering honorable mentions. For the freshman, Evan Kieling is a member of the all-freshman team in the Southern Division, and Russ Schneider received an honorable mention.

Those who received the most votes, Struve, Noble and Kuebler, will play in the All-Star's Sophomore game on Mar. 17 in Seattle. Tabisz is a first alternate and will be the first one chosen to replace a player who is unable to make the trip. The Southern Division All-Stars will be coached by Cliff Wegner, Clackamas' head basketball coach.

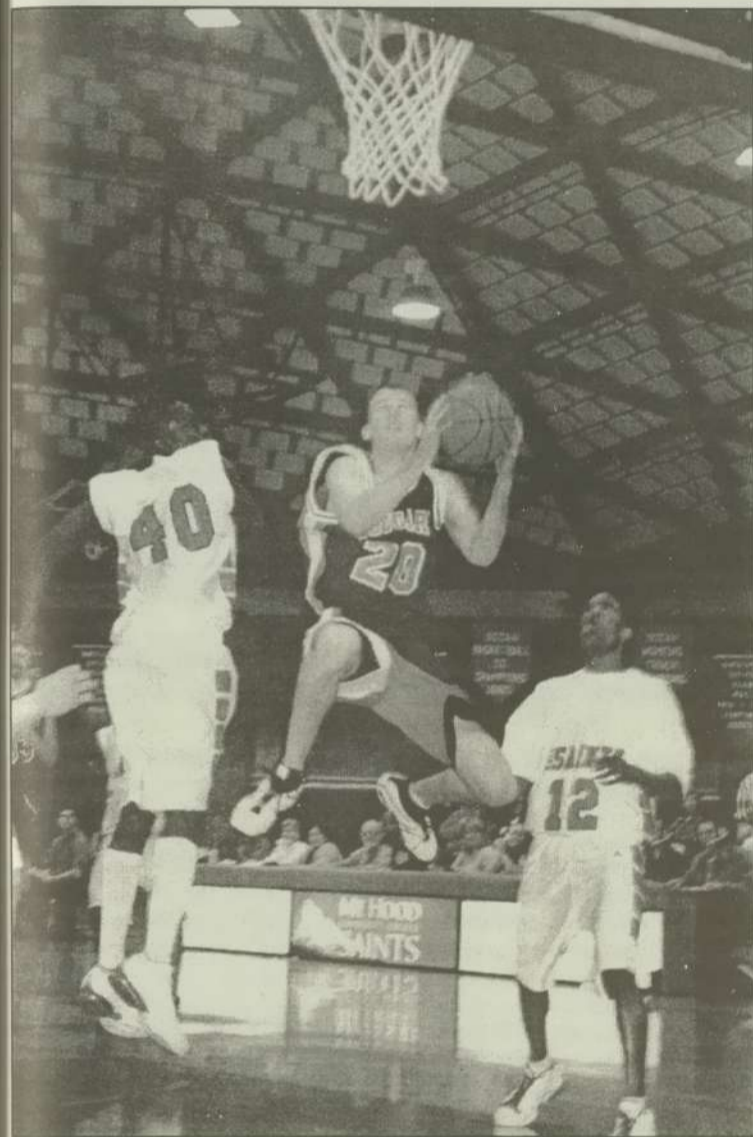
Along with the honors comes the final NWAACC Coaches' Poll, which has the Cougars sitting in fourth place, the lowest they have been in the poll all season. Clackamas debuted in the poll at number one in early January, but slipped recently due to dropping three out of four games during a stretch in February.

Two out of the three squads that are ranked before Clackamas have fallen to the Cougars this year. Big Bend, resting



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**Left: Lawson Struve skies toward the basket against Mt. Hood on Feb. 27. Struve scored 16 points in the Cougars' victory over the Saints. Above: Clackamas' Jon Rylaarsdam looks to pass the ball to a teammate against Mt. Hood.**



## Raise the piano, break the curse, wait

By Nick Barron

A curse haunts the Red Sox of Boston, Mass.

This isn't a spell that just "poor Irish drunks from Southie believe in," as Russell Tee Brazil, a good friend of mine from the Boston borough of Chelsea puts it. It is a plague of Biblical proportions that has lasted for nearly a century and kept the Red Sox from success at every turn. This "Curse of the Bambino," as it is known, begins with a Mr. Herman Ruth.

Everyone has a favorite sports team, whether it be college or professional. We root for them when they win or lose, and we do not appreciate external forces messing with our teams. If a new player is traded to one of our favorite organizations, and he or she does more harm than good to our team, we do not appreciate that. Imagine what the people of Boston have had to deal with for nearly a century.

The birth of the curse occurred in 1919, a year after Boston won its last

championship, and the year Babe Ruth was sold from the Red Sox to the New York Yankees. Legend has it that Ruth so despised being pawned to the hated rivals that he cursed his former team.

"The Bambino's vengeance was unleashed on the Red Sox organization," Brazil says, and it is hard to argue with the evidence given to support his claim.

Boston and the St. Louis Cardinals are tied at three games apiece going into Game 7 of the 1946 World Series. St. Louis is batting, with a runner on second and one out. The hitter bats into a double play, with the runner scoring.

Although the inning ends with the double play, umpires rule that Boston second baseman Johnny Pesky holds onto the ball too long before throwing it, allowing St. Louis to score before his throw made it to first base.

St. Louis wins the game, capturing the World Series.

Ranked as one of the best in history, the World Series of 1975 serves as a menacing reminder of the Bambino's curse. In Game 3, umpires fail to call interference on a Cincinnati runner on a pop-up, which allows the Reds to score and eventually win that game. Then one of the most memorable home runs in baseball occurs in Game 6 of this fall classic.

Carlton Fisk smacks a shot off the foul pole in Fenway Park's left field, winning that game for Boston and sending the Series to a seventh game. The Red Sox lose, but Boston knows that if the Game 3 interference had been called, Fisk, with his Game 6 heroics, would have won their first Championship since 1918.

Boston doesn't make it to a World Series until 1986, facing the New York Mets. The Red Sox hold a 3-2 game lead over the Mets going into Game 6, and in the tenth inning they

reign with a 5-3 lead and two outs. The Shea Stadium scoreboard is already flashing its congratulations to the "World Champion Boston Red Sox."

Then three Met singles push New York one run behind Boston.

The Red Sox replace their pitcher with Bob Stanley, who throws a wild pitch to New York's Kevin Mitchell, allowing the tying run to score from third.

Next up for the Mets is Mookie Wilson, who dribbles the ball towards an awaiting Bill Buckner, down the right field line. The Red Sox first baseman crouches on his haunches, eyeing the white ball as it lazily makes its way towards him, his glove dropping down to scoop it up. Instead, the baseball slithers underneath Buckner's leather mitt, venturing into right field and allowing the go-ahead run to score for New York.

The Mets go on to win Game 7, and the Red Sox haven't been back to the Series since.

Some Bostonians believe the curse can be broken, according to Brazil, by salvaging a piano from a New England pond and refinishing it. Rumors swirl that Ruth tossed the piano into the pond after the 1918 World Series. Most feel, though, that the "Curse of the Bambino" will linger for exactly 100 years, and until then the Red Sox are out of luck.

So I'm making hotel reservations for Boston in October of 2019. I could be a little crazy, maybe jumping the gun a bit, but I have spoken with Russell Tee Brazil, and he has made me a believer. The Red Sox won't win this year or the next, but in 2019, Ruth will finally lose his grip on Boston.

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