

## Cougar SIDELINES

### Softball

Wednesday, April 10

@ Mt. Hood

3 pm

Friday, April 12

@ Grays Harbor

4 pm

Tuesday, April 16

@ SW Oregon

3 pm

Saturday/Sunday,  
April 20/21

@ Crossover

Tournament

Wallace Marine Park, Salem

TBA

### Baseball

Saturday, April 13

@ Chemeketa

1 pm

Tuesday, April 16

@ SW Oregon

1 pm

Saturday, April 20

@ SW Oregon

1 pm

Tuesday, April 23

Mt. Hood

1 pm

### Track

Saturday, April 13

@ Mt. Hood

11 am

Saturday, April 20

Cougar Invite

10 am

# Diamond renovations boost morale and safety for Cougar ballplayers

ELENA BORYSKA

Sports Editor

For a long time, the 20-year-old baseball field at Clackamas has been rather run-down, to the point of being dangerous for the players. Now it is in the middle of some changes that will improve the quality of its playing surface for the remainder of this season as well as for many seasons to come.

The cost of the infield wasn't as high as originally projected, mainly because the Clackamas baseball players and coaches have been doing a large portion of the work themselves. This not only saves money, but it also gives players a certain sense of ownership that can only come with hard work.

"I believe players play better when they have pride in their field," Robinson said.

So far that pride and new turf may have helped them win half their home games. Robinson thinks the new field is the best playing surface in the league.

The renovations that began in October 2001 are partially completed and will be finished at the close of this season. So far, they have leveled the infield, installed an irrigation system, topped the surface with fill dirt and put down new sod. When this season is completed, the outfield will undergo the same improvements as the infield, leaving the baseball



SALENA DE LA CRUZ / Clackamas Print

Clackamas' baseball field renovations include a leveled infield, an irrigation system, and new sod. Next season, new sod and an irrigation system will be installed in the outfield and the facility will feature a partially enclosed ballpark to create a professional atmosphere for the program.

team with a much more playable surface.

The improvements on the infield have cost the college between \$12,000 and \$15,000. The cost of the outfield is expected to run \$20,000 to \$40,000. The money for these projects comes from deferred maintenance, which is a fund set aside for improvements on college buildings and grounds. This money is available because of the bond measure passed last year.

According to Athletic Director Jim Jackson, these changes have been a long time coming, and are only some on a list of many necessary renovations on campus. For the past two seasons, Jackson was in the habit of using department funds to level the field as best as

possible, and then top the surface with sand to even out the inconsistencies.

Despite these attempts, the field remained inadequate, with holes, large clumps of grass and an all-around unsafe surface. At one point, home plate dropped three feet to the left field fence, while the drop from home to the center field fence was in excess of eight feet. At the end of the season, the outfield will be leveled and outfitted with an irrigation system. The baseball field will be added to so the area from dugout to dugout will be partially enclosed. The softball field will also be totally enclosed.

These enclosures are needed partly because of recent vandalism to the Cougar diamonds. All the

improvements will also provide a more park-like atmosphere and elevate the professionalism of the entire Cougar program.

"...players play better when they take pride in their field."

Robin Robinson  
Head Coach

To reach Elena Boryska e-mail  
crazyforlance@hotmail.com or  
drop by B-104.

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