

Baseball team continues season of misses, not hits

ELENA BORYSKA

Sports Editor

As the 2002 baseball season nears its end, the Cougar men continue to be plagued by problems, being outscored this last week by 15 points and only winning one of four games.

The first game of the double-header that Clackamas hosted on May 5 was a shutout by Lane, 6-0. Tom Henderson was two-for-four in the losing effort, while Scott Hunter smacked out a triple and Nik Mason pulled off a double. The Cougars committed five errors in this game, and Jeremiah Beckert was shouldered with the loss while allowing two earned runs.

In game two the Cougars at least put some runs on the board but couldn't get the job done, this time falling 9-2. Henderson was consistent, also going two-for-four in this game, with a double and an RBI. Mason was a perfect two-for-two with another double and Matt Paulsen also hit a double. Brandon Gleich was the losing pitcher.

On Saturday, May 4, the Cougars traveled to Lane's turf to once again play a double-header against the Titans. In the first game, the Cougs kept the score relatively close, but lost by a final of 7-4. Griffin was a major offensive force, going two-for-three, scoring two runs and being credited

with two RBIs. Henderson was two-for-four at the plate, and Paulsen was two-for-five with an RBI and two doubles.

The Cougars were able to rally back from the first loss of the day to steal the next game from right under Lane's nose. Going into the sixth inning, the Cougars were down 2-0 and it looked as though they were on their way to yet another loss at the hands of Lane.

But Clackamas didn't roll over just yet. Hunter came to the plate for the Cougars and was hit by a pitch, earning him a trip to first base. He then stole second and moved to third after a sacrifice bunt.

A double by Henderson scored Hunter and put the Cougars on the board. Gavin Stephen went in to run for Henderson, and J.R. Richardson was walked, putting runners on first and second with one out. Beau Holstad came to the plate and slammed out a double, which brought in both Gavin and Richardson to score and put the Cougars up 3-2, which was the final. Jordan Denney was the winner, and Josh Gaylord got the save.

After these games, the Cougars were 6-18 in league games. They played a doubleheader at Linn-Benton on Tuesday, May 7, but results were unavailable at press time.

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Lights, Cameron, action

Nick Barron



From the Bleachers

Staff Writer

Who is Mike Cameron?

He holds a starting roster spot on my fantasy baseball team yet when I watch a Mariners game on television, I find myself wondering what he looks like.

"Let's see," I tell myself, "I know he is a black guy and I think he has an earring."

That's like going into a CPA's office and looking for the guy with the straight face. Every time a Seattle player steps up to the plate, I beg the cameraman to get a shot of the batter's jersey so I can see if it might be Cameron.

You know of course, since infamous trades are well publicized, the Mariners traded Ken

Griffey Jr. to the Cincinnati Reds for Mike Terrance Cameron in 2000. That deal has the potential of being one of those trades that history looks back on with question. It was the second out of three transactions that disposed of a trio of All-Stars for Seattle, Randy Johnson and Alex Rodriguez being the other two.

In every trade, analysts and columnists release their verdicts on who got the better bargain. At the time, hardly a voice could be found, outside of the village idiot, who would have said Cameron was a better center-fielder than Griffey.

But with Cameron the Mariners got a Gold Glove outfielder who played in last year's All-Star game, has smacked 53 home runs and batted in 205 runs since joining the squad. The Reds, on the other hand, received a health insurer's worst nightmare in Griffey, with 261 less at-bats than his Seattle counterpart due to injuries.

With a four-homer game, the first player to do so since 1993, Cameron has finally begun to get recognition for his talents and abilities, not just for being involved in a trade with a superstar.

At times I feel sorry for Junior, as I remember those care-free days in Seattle, when, with Mariner hat turned backwards, baseball's poster child would trot

onto the field, a toothy smile displaying his joy at playing a boy's game.

But then I slip into the present, remembering why he was traded to the Reds, by his forcing the team that drafted him to deal him away at a bargain price. And I laugh, because the Ken Griffey Jr. I knew then is not the self-pitying whiny player he is now.

Even before he hit four dingers on May 2, I had been planning on stepping up to the plate for Cameron, dedicating a paean to him in true columnist fashion. I thought I had truly found something to wax eloquently about that the rest of the sports world had missed out on—only to watch in horror as The Sporting News and ESPN, along with other talking-heads in baseball, have caught on to my ingenious idea.

But while I suffer from writing a weekly column, which does not allow me to be timely and cutting-edge very often, I will swallow my pride and be late out of the gate for the sake of Mr. Cameron. That other guy in the Griffey trade well deserves the attention, and, well, as this deal has proved, one day the lesser-known gets time in the spotlight.

To reach Nick Barron e-mail barronoru@hotmail.com or drop by B-104.

WHO: Everybody
WHAT: Southern Region Track Championships
WHEN: Friday and Saturday, May 10-11
WHERE: HERE!!!



Upcoming Cougar Athletic Events:

~Softball~

Friday, May 10 @ Centralia
2 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, May 18-19 @ Delta Park in Portland

~Baseball~

Saturday, May 11 @ HOME
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Tuesday, May 14 @ HOME
1 p.m.

~Track~

Friday-Saturday, May 10-11 @ HOME

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