



Pete Ford Clackamas Print

Sophomore wing Nick Kirkpatrick swishes a freethrow in the Cougars' 116-76 home victory over Concordia.

Men's hoops off to 3-1 start

Michael Choe
Business Manager

The Cougar men's basketball team, off to a great start to the season with a 3-1 record, took third place in the Red Devil Classic Tournament held in Longview, Wash. over Thanksgiving weekend.

The Cougars went into the tournament with wins over junior varsity teams from Concordia University and Linfield College, but were still untested and cautious. Their first-round opponent from Peninsula College proved to be overmatched and found the hectic, team-oriented Clackamas defense to be too much, falling to the Cougars by a score of 85-77. Sophomore Evan Kielling led the team with a double-double of 26 points and 10 rebounds, with freshman Steve Lemma contribut-

ing 15 points and 11 rebounds.

The second round of the tournament brought on the South Puget Sound Clippers, eventual runners-up in the tournament; they also handed the Cougars their first loss of the season. Clackamas put up a valiant effort, but fell short by a final score of 89-81. The Clippers, led by point guard Kenyon Rodgers with 16 points and a balanced offensive attack with four players in double figures, while the Cougars were led by Kielling, who scored 18 and pulled down 9 rebounds.

Disappointed by their loss and desiring much more than the third place that would eventually be bestowed upon them, the Cougars came out in their next game on fire. Blue Mountain CC's Timberwolves would be the ones to feel the wrath after the Cougars' first loss, and were blown out to the tune of 115-82. The whole team was involved

in the thrashing as six players scored in double figures with Kielling once again leading the way with 23 points and freshman Brandon Gill scoring 20.

Clackamas early on have showed that their defensive efforts would be this team's calling card for this season. Led by that stifling, pressure-oriented, full-court defense, the team came back from a 41-39 deficit at the half to blow open the game against Concordia, by a rout of 116-76. The Cougars held the Concordia team to just 34 percent shooting. At times, the Cougars wouldn't let Concordia get the ball past half-court. Kielling paced CCC with 21 points, leading six players in double figures. Jason Tautfest led the Concordia team with 21 points.

In the other junior varsity game versus Linfield, the Cougars jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, eventually claiming victory 91-

68. Sophomore Russ Schnieder of Oregon City led the Cougars with 25 points and sophomore post Andy Beehler put up 12 points and 8 rebounds.

The Cougars preseason will continue next weekend with games against Southern Utah and Warner Pacific College. Both of these games will be played at Mt. Hood CC in Gresham. The Cougars then look forward to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges' Crossover Tournament the weekend of Dec. 20-22 in Port Angeles, Wash. The Clackamas Community College Holiday Tournament, featuring Lower Columbia College, Tacoma CC, Linn-Benton CC, Blue Mountain CC and Wenatchee CC will be held here at CCC from Dec 28-30. Everyone is encouraged to come show his or her support for the men's basketball team.

Wrestlers take charge with strong showings at Reno Open despite injuries

Elena Boryska
Sports Editor

It's only a little way into the season, but already Clackamas' wrestlers are experiencing a shortage of athletes due to injuries. Despite this setback, they seem to be doing just fine.

"So far, we're doing pretty well," Head Coach Lloyd Martindale said. "We're waiting until Christmas to get a couple of guys back into our lineup, but as far as tournaments go, our guys are wrestling really well."

At the Reno Open, Clackamas had some good finishes, claiming a first, second, third and fourth place in some of the different weight classes. In the 197-weight class, freshman Bridger Sacher took first for the Cougars. Heavyweight Chris Henry won the second place spot for his weight class, and in the 184-lb.



LUKE MAHAN Clackamas Print

Jake Albino (top) sticks it to teammate Sean Bolen in practice to better prepare themselves for the season.

weight class, Austen Lawrence and Lucas Buyas had finishes of third and fourth, respectively.

"That was a real good finish. I would like to have gotten a couple more guys in, but we lost to some pretty tough guys," Martindale said.

The numbers of men who are available to participate have been affected by some serious injuries. Some of the injuries that the Clackamas wrestlers are facing include a broken leg, a concussion and a laceration above the eye.

Though these injuries have made the season more difficult, they have provided an opportunity for some of the less experienced grapplers to show their stuff.

"It's good to see that our freshmen and redshirts are stepping up and winning some matches and getting ready for next year," Martindale said. "They're doing a good job. They're stepping up and they're getting a lot of good experience."

Next for the wrestling team is a dual meet at Southwestern Oregon CC on Dec. 6. SWOCC has a tough team who will be ready for the attack that the Cougars will give them.

"They've got a really tough team," Martindale said. "It's going to be a good battle. I'm not sure if we've got the lineup to beat them this time, but I'm sure by the next time we wrestle them, when we get our full lineup together, it'll be a different story."

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