

Lady Cougars optimistic despite loss

Tina Toie
Staff Writer

With just six regular season games remaining, the once red-hot Lady Cougars who went 11-1 in the pre-season now sit in fourth place with a 5-3 league record. Clackamas split last week's games, posting one commanding victory and one disappointing loss.

Clackamas put on a clinic for the Mt. Hood Saints last Wednesday. Opening the game with a tenacious full-court press, the Lady Cougars coerced the Saints into shooting an abysmal 16 percent. Meanwhile, an inspired 59 percent shooting performance by the Clackamas squad produced a 47-18 blowout at the half. Mt. Hood found the basket a little more easily in the second half, scoring on a much-improved 46 percent of their attempts, but their performance just wasn't enough. In the end, Clackamas crushed the Saints by a score of 80-53.

On a night when every Lady Cougar had the chance to shine, Morgan Hayes, Lindsay Calmettes, Somer Erickson and Cappie Smith were particularly impressive. Hayes led all scorers with 16 points, while also adding five rebounds and one blocked shot to her stats. Calmettes scored 14 points, collected four rebounds, five assists and two steals. Erickson had 13 points, seven rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Smith had 14 points, six rebounds, four assists and one steal. Melissa Gibson also chipped in with a strong all-around game, adding seven points, five rebounds, three assists, and three steals to the mix.

"We pressed them and they're one of the weaker teams in the league, so they didn't get very many good looks at the basket," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "The second half we didn't press, so they did a little better. They couldn't make very many [shots] and they turned it over too many times. We got a lot of lay-ups off steals."

Saturday's battle against Umpqua CC was an entirely different story. Having beaten the Timberwomen just 66-64 during opening night, the Lady Cougars knew they would have their work cut out for them. Entering the game with matching 5-2 league records, each team was determined to claim the third spot in the Southern Region for itself. Though Clackamas led 43-38 at halftime, Umpqua ultimately emerged victorious by a final score of 88-76.

This loss drops Clackamas, who was first-ranked earlier this season, to fourth place behind Lane CC, Chemeketa CC and Umpqua.

"It was a big game for us, and we played well for probably 30 minutes," said Martineau. "Then the first five minutes of the second half we didn't do much offensively, and they went on a 10-2 run, and took a two or three point

lead. That's what it was most of the second half, about a four or five point difference...They were a little more aggressive late in the game, and that's what cost us."

The consistently strong play of Erickson and Smith kept the score close. Erickson, who averages 10 points per game, played her "best game of the year," according to Martineau. She had 26 points, seven rebounds, two steals and one assist. Smith added to the totals with 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

The second NWAACC Coaches' Poll came out Feb. 2. Clackamas fell from the top spot to number six. Chemeketa CC and Big Bend CC each moved up one place to claim the first and second positions, respectively. Other Southern Region teams Lane CC and Umpqua CC were ranked fourth and fifth, respectively. The next poll will come out Feb. 16.

"I'm not so worried about the NWAACC ratings," said Martineau. "I'd obviously like to get a little closer, but we're just two games out of first in the league. The problem is that there are three teams above us...We just have to make sure that we take care of the home games coming up. We have four straight that we should win, and then we'll see how it plays out."

Clackamas will host Southwestern CC on Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. and Portland CC on Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Randall Hall gym.



PETE FORD Clackamas Print

She shoots, she scores! Somer Erickson tosses in a basket during Clackamas' blowout victory over Mt. Hood, 80-53. This week CCC's women will be hosting games against Southwestern and Portland.

Men fall from first to third in Southern Region

Nic Delzell
Staff Writer

Mt. Hood stopped the Cougars in their tracks last Wednesday night, but Clackamas was able to get back on track with a win at Umpqua on Saturday.

Clackamas men's basketball lost 84-73 to the Mt. Hood CC Saints. The Cougars were able to keep the game pretty close behind the offensive spark of guard Brandon Gill. The Saints out-rebounded the Cougars by seven and scored 10 first half points off CCC turnovers. Mt. Hood did their scouting report, double-teaming the Cougars' leading scorer Evan

Kieling every time he touched the ball.

With 4:32 to play in the first half, CCC's Chris Hutcherson slipped on a wet spot in the middle of the Mt. Hood gym. It was discovered that the roof had a leak in it, leading to a delay that lasted more than a half hour and sending some fans home. The teams retreated to the locker room for an early half time with the score at 24-23 in favor of the Saints. While the teams were preparing for the second half, Mt. Hood's athletic staff took ladders and scaffolding to the roof to try to stop the leak.

The teams returned to the floor after the break and played the final 4:32 of the half with Mt. Hood leading

34-26. The teams huddled for a minute, then resumed the final twenty minutes of play.

CCC turned the ball over twice at the start of the second half. Gill led the Cougars with 21 points and was an offensive spark throughout the game. He combined quick runners in the lane and three-point field goals to keep to Cougars close; he also scored CCC's first seven points of the second half. The only lead the Cougars had in the second half was created by a Gill lay-up, which put Clackamas ahead 39-38.

Fouls would prove to be the downfall for the Cougars. With 12:30 to play in the second half, Clackamas had

10 team fouls, which meant that the Saints would be shooting free throws for every following Clackamas infraction.

Mt. Hood was able to take the lead using the foul line, going up by as many as 12 in the second half. CCC was able to get within seven points with 5:12 to play, but would not get any closer.

Mt. Hood's guard/forward Marcus Jennings led the Saints with 21 points, matching Gill's game high. John Olinger followed Gill with 10 of CCC's 84 points.

In Roseburg last Saturday the Cougars were able to pull off an 86-82

victory over Umpqua, getting back to their winning ways. Kieling got back on track, scoring 19 points. Following Kieling was Russ Schnieder with 17 and Jon Hildebrand with 15.

With one win and one loss last week, the Cougars' overall record went to 14 wins and seven losses. Their league record is now 5-3 making them third in the NWAACC's Southern Conference.

Clackamas is still unranked in the coaches' poll. Tacoma is currently ranked first with an 18-1 record. CCC's next home game is Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. against Southwestern Oregon Community College.

Wrestlers prepare for Region 18 tourney

Frank Jordan
Managing Editor

The Clackamas wrestling team traveled to Des Moines, Wash. last Friday to take on Highline CC in the last dual meet of the regular season. The Cougars came away from the match a 37-16 victor over the home team.

Ben Sevigny got the Cougars started in the opening match. At 125 lbs. he posted a 5-1 victory over Francisco Gonzales. Jimmy Crisman dropped a 14-4 decision at 133 lbs., but Sean Bolen came back at 141 and defeated Shay Scribner of Highline by a score of 10-2.

"All three guys wrestled well in those matches. I hope they can keep the effort and intensity up at the

upcoming regional tournament," said Head Wrestling Coach Lloyd Martindale.

Ryan Stonemetz suffered an injury during his match at 149 lbs. and had to forfeit to Peter Puccio of Highline. Clackamas' Steven Tippet followed with a 13-6 victory at 157 lbs.

The Cougars' Derek Bollier, Austin Lawrence and Bridger Sacher all picked up forfeit wins because Highline did not have anyone to compete against them.

Chris Henry closed out the match for the Cougars by defeating Jon Carr of Highline 6-0 at 285 pounds.

Clackamas will get seven days off before competing in the Region 18 tournament, which will be held in the Randall Hall gym on Feb. 14.

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