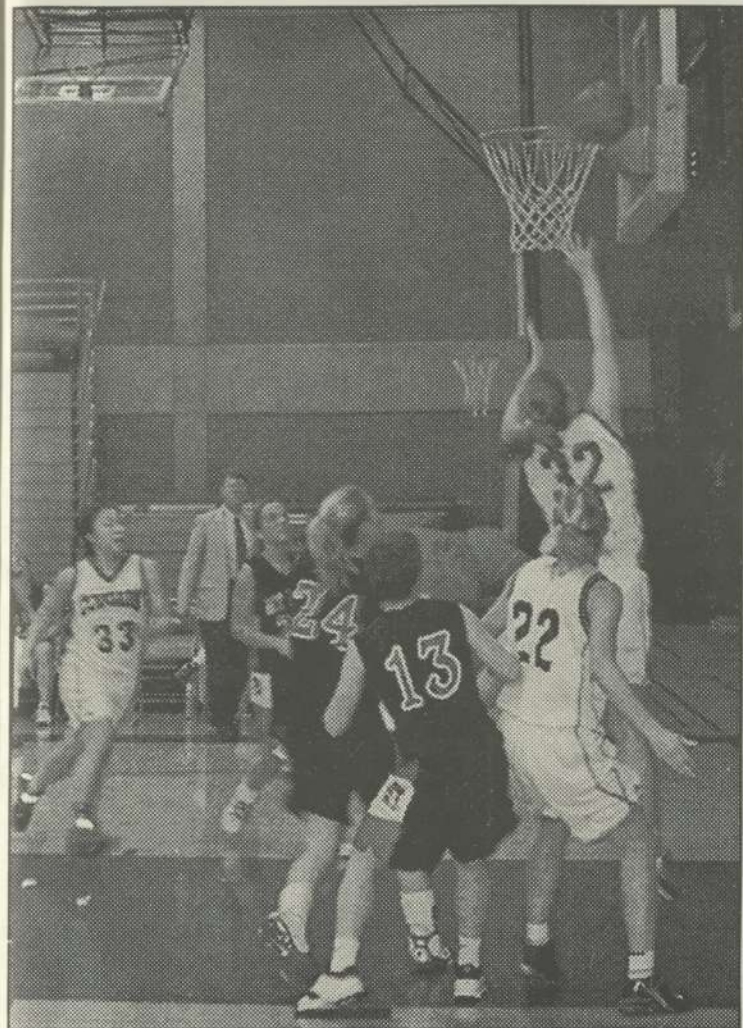


Fifth straight win advances Lady Cougars to second in league



PETE FORD Clackamas Print

Morgan Hayes goes up for two in the 101-54 blowout against Mt. Hood. With 21 points Hayes was one of five Lady Cougars to score in double digits.

Men defeat Lane to take over first place

Nic Delzell
Staff Writer

Basketball's regular season has come to a close and the red-hot Cougars look ready for the NWAACC championship, which will be held March 7-10.

The Cougars took their team-oriented style of play to Salem yesterday to meet the Chemeketa Storm. Results were not available at time of print. A win would be the Cougars seventh in a row and would give Clackamas sole possession of the league title.

On Wednesday night, Feb. 19, the Cougars hosted the Mt. Hood Community College Saints. They defeated the Saints 96-84 in front of a charged crowd. With this win the Cougars took a share of first place in the Southern Region with the Saints.

A determined CCC squad outplayed a frustrated Mt. Hood team. Cougar fans were also determined. Hecklers were able to get in the heads of Mt. Hood players, causing the Saints to lose focus. The Mt. Hood team was also in a war of words with the officiating crew, coming back down the court numerous times and complaining about calls.

Cougar guard Russ Schneider and Saints guard Marquese Jingles were locked in a heated battle the entire game. Schneider was able to contain Jingles when it counted most and led his team with 22 points and nine rebounds.

Cougar captain Evan Kieling

fought through countless double teams to finish with a double-double of 19 points and 12 boards; Kieling also capped off the victory with an open court dunk with 10 seconds remaining.

Point guard Jon Hildebrant also contributed 19 points and six assists, and was able to dribble his way around the Mt. Hood defense, creating countless opportunities for his teammates.

The Lane Titans came to CCC last Saturday and were defeated 80-71. The Cougar sophomores and their parents were honored pre-game, because it was the last home game for the outgoing sophomores.

The Titans played well at times, out-rebounding the Cougars by nine and playing tough defense.

However, the CCC offense was unselfish, and their full court press was effective enough to harass the Titans into handing the Cougars the game in the second half.

Free throws turned out to be the game's deciding factor. The Cougars shot 86 percent, capitalizing on 30 of 35 attempts. Meanwhile, the Titans sunk themselves by converting on only 24 of their 39 opportunities.

Keiling outplayed 7'1" Titan center Matt Bueler soundly, scoring 18 points, pulling down nine rebounds and blocking two Bueler shots. Brandon Gill led the Cougar scoring drive. Gill shot seven of 10 from field goal range and eight of 10 from behind the free throw line, including three impressive traditional three-point plays.

Tina Tate
Staff Writer

In an easy rout over the Mt. Hood Saints on Feb. 19 and a nail-biting triumph over the Lane Titans on Saturday, Clackamas increased its winning streak to five.

These wins move the Lady Cougars (10-3) just one game back from first-place Chemeketa (11-2) and into a three-way tie for second with Lane and Umpqua.

Clackamas trounced Mt. Hood (2-11) in a 101-54 thrashing. The game was over before halftime, at which time the Lady Cougars had scored one less point (53) than the Saints would achieve in the entire game.

Clackamas shot 57.5 percent from the floor and forced Mt. Hood into 22 turnovers, including 17 steals.

"We got a ton of lay-ups, (since) they don't get back very well," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "We didn't even press them; we just played straight man. We got lots of stops and lots of easy buckets."

Melissa Gibson, Morgan Hayes, Lindsay Calmettes and Ashley Storms had standout performances. Gibson led all scorers with 23 points; she also had five rebounds and five steals. Hayes had 21 points, 15 rebounds and three blocked shots. Calmettes and Storms scored 17 and 12, respectively; each had five assists.

In contrast, the strong competition brought by Lane made for an exhilarating game up through the final seconds, but the Lady Cougars kept their winning streak alive with a 55-54 victory on Saturday.

Shooting a lukewarm 28.1 percent in the first half, Clackamas faced an early disadvantage. It wasn't until 3:49 remained that a free throw by Hayes tied the score at 21 and started a 6-0 Clackamas run. The Lady Cougars entered halftime up 30-25.

Calmettes swiftly set the tone for the second period by snagging two steals to lead a 6-0 run, putting Clackamas ahead 36-25. She finished

with 10 points, five rebounds and three steals.

But the Titans came into the game tied for first and would not concede defeat easily. Lane chipped away at the lead and evened the score at 53 with 2:55 remaining.

After two unrewarding trips down the floor for Clackamas, Lane's Kristine Hilt was fouled and connected on one free throw to claim the Titan's first lead since the first

period.

Clackamas turned the ball over on its next trip, and things looked worrisome for the Lady Cougars. But then, down 54-53 with just 36 seconds remaining, Cappie Smith came through with a steal.

Clackamas worked the ball around to Hayes, who was fouled with 22 seconds to go. She hit two clutch free throws to capture a 55-54 Clackamas lead.

Lane faced another scoring opportunity, but was stopped by a huge block by Somer Erickson that sent the ball into the hands of Smith. Fouled with six seconds to go, Smith shot a one-and-one but missed, leaving the door open for one final Lane attack.

Striving for a last-second game-winner, Lane's Chelsey Brock out-dribbled Clackamas' defense and drove the middle all the way to the hoop—only to lose her handle on the ball.

"That was too close. All you can say about it is it's a win. It wasn't the prettiest thing in the world, that's for sure," said Martineau.

Erickson scored a game-high 18 points and 11 rebounds. Hayes finished with nine points, eight boards and three blocked shots. Regina Joo had eight points and six assists. Storms contributed five rebounds and four blocked shots.

Clackamas played its last league game at Chemeketa on Feb. 26 for a chance to move into first place. Results were not available at time of print.

"We got a ton of lay-ups ... We got lots of stops and lots of easy buckets."

Jim Martineau
Head Women's
Basketball Coach

Oregon Institute of Technology

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7726 SE Harmony Rd.

Tue., Mar 4th 5:30 - 7:00

CAPITAL Center

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185th & Walker Rd.

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