

The Clackamas Print

Softball takes out LCC

Frank Jordan
The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Cougars softball team ended a Northwest Athletic Association record 50-game winning streak by Lower Columbia College on April 12, defeating the number one ranked team by a score of 4-2 in the first game of a doubleheader on the Clackamas diamond. The second game was rained out and will be made up today.

"We came out of the blocks very tough," said Head Coach Paul Fiskum. "We got Lower Columbia back on their heels right from the get-go."

Freshman Melissa Gibson led off the game with a single, and then sophomore Morgan Huffstutter sacrificed Gibson to second. Freshman Randi Middagh doubled to right, scoring Gibson. Then sophomore Carla Lillis singled to center, moving Middagh to third. Brooke Comstock, a sophomore from South Salem, laid down a perfect sacrifice squeeze bunt, scoring Middagh, to give the Cougars a 2-0 lead after one inning.

In the third Middagh walked, was sacrificed to second, got to third on a passed ball by the LCC catcher and scored on a Comstock squeeze bunt for a 3-0 lead.

In the fifth, Middagh walked again, Lillis sacrificed her to second, Comstock singled to left, then freshman Angie Roberti lined a shot off of the second baseman's glove for a base hit, scoring Middagh for a 4-0 Cougar lead.

Carleen Lessard, a freshman from Longview, Wash. pitched four scoreless innings, allowing two hits and four walks. Freshman Brienne Thum from Springfield relieved Lessard and pitched 2 2/3 scoreless innings before running into trouble in the seventh, allowing three straight base hits, loading the bases. Sophomore Miranda Gillaspie relieved Thum and got the LCC batter to hit a pop-up to end the

game.

"Lessard pitched a great game, and we were very solid defensively behind her," Fiskum said. "We decided to take her out because we wanted Lower Columbia to have to think about another pitcher who has a totally different style (Thum). It has worked to our advantage so far this season, and with the type of team Lower Columbia has, we need all of the help we can get."

Comstock went 3-3 at the plate, while Gibson was 2-4 with a run scored.

"Gibson has played really well for us, both at the plate and in the field," Fiskum said. "Not bad for a basketball player."

Clackamas followed the upset win over Lower Columbia with a 2-0 loss to Mt. Hood CC on April 13.

"We always thought that we might suffer a letdown after a big win, and we talked to the girls about having their focus on the next game," said Fiskum. "The girls seemed to be focused enough, and we played pretty well (in the Mt. Hood game). The breaks seemed to not go our way."

Mt. Hood put together two singles,

a sacrifice bunt and a long double to center to get their two runs in the first, and held on for the win. Clackamas only managed five hits in the game, but couldn't get any timely hits to capitalize on their base runners.

"Mt. Hood gave us a piece of our own medicine. We have used our speed and our fundamentals to beat teams all year, yet the tables got turned on us in this game," Fiskum said. "We threatened all game, but we got no breaks. We couldn't deliver the hits when we needed them. That's softball."

Clackamas ended the week with a 14-6 overall record and a 12-2 record in the Southern Division of the NWAACC, good for second place in the division and a number three ranking in the latest NWAACC Coaches' Poll, released on April 6.

The second game of the Mt. Hood doubleheader was rained out. The game was made up on April 14. Results will be reported in the next edition of The Print. Today, Clackamas will play Lower Columbia in a makeup game from last Saturday. Game time is 4 p.m. on the Cougar diamond.



NIC DELZELL Clackamas Print

Randi Middagh sneaks in to steal home in CCC's April 12 victory over Lower Columbia.

Woes continue for Clackamas baseball

Nic Delzell

The Clackamas Print

Clackamas baseball is having its ups and downs mid-way through the spring.

Cougar baseball participated in the Treasure Valley CC Tournament March 21-23. With two wins, the first over Treasure Valley 10-7, the second over Green River 10-3, the Cougars found themselves in the championship game. They were victorious once again over Green River 11-3. Pitcher Tim Dumas went six solid innings for the win.

According to Head Coach Robin Robinson, hitting was a big plus. In three games, the Cougars scored an impressive 31 tournament runs off 39 team hits.

Barry Humphrey's effort at the plate in the championship game was key. He went 3-4, resulting in two runs, two RBIs, and one stolen base. Noah Breslaw also created offense going 2-3 with one run scored, and one RBI.

"A total team effort," said Robinson.

Going into league play Robinson is busy getting his team on track.

"Six of nine are playing great, we are working hard on the others," said Robinson. "We will do well in league play."

League play began March 29 with a 5-2 win over Southwestern Oregon CC.

This time Dumas pitched eight innings, getting another win. Jesse Gaylord sparked the Cougar bats, going 2-4 with three RBIs and two stolen bases. The second game of the doubleheader went to SWOCC 4-3. Oregon rain has been a problem early. Games with Chemeketa, Linn Benton, and Mt Hood, have been canceled or postponed due to rain.

The Lane Titans visited campus

April 8 taking home two victories, 8-2 and 7-2.

Last Saturday's doubleheader was originally scheduled at CCC. The games were moved to Chemeketa due to rain showers. Saturday against Chemeketa, the Cougars were shut out in game one, 5-0.

"We didn't hit well," said Robinson.

Game two was a different story, with Clackamas winning 5-4. Brad Neffendorf went five innings giving up four runs for the win. Tyler Rose went 2-3 with two RBIs.

"When all of it comes together, we will be very good."

Robin Robinson
Head Baseball
Coach

According to Robinson his team played "a great ball game. We pitched, hit and played good defense."

Last Sunday Clackamas played a makeup doubleheader, also held at Chemeketa. Game one the Cougars lost 7-6. Game two the Cougars pounded their way back to victory 13-3. The Cougars batted their way to an effective 13 team hits.

Clackamas baseball is currently 8-9 in overall play, 4-4 in league play. Robinson remains optimistic this early in the season.

"We have not played a total game yet. We are improving. We are not healthy," he said. "When all of it comes together, we will be very good."

Cougar Sports Calendar

Softball

Saturday, April 19/20
Crossover Tournament at Wenatchee, WA

Tuesday, April 22
Southwestern Oregon (DH)
3 p.m. HOME

Baseball

Saturday, April 19
Southwestern Oregon (DH)
1 p.m. HOME

Tuesday, April 22 at Mt. Hood CC (DH)
1 p.m.

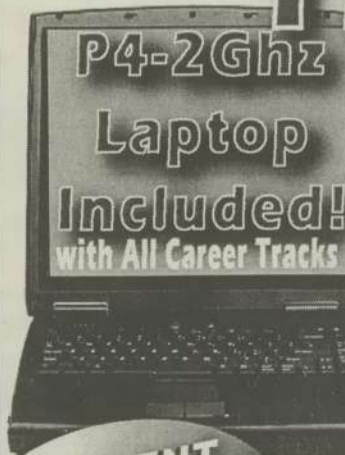
Track

Saturday, April 19
Cougar Invite HOME

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