

Softballers' fire fueled after coach ejected

Frank Jordan

The Clackamas Print

Clackamas softball wrapped up 5-1 week with a doubleheader split with Chemeketa CC at home on Saturday, highlighted by the ejection of Head Coach Paul Fiskum in game two after a disputed call in the outfield.

The incident occurred in the second inning. With a runner on second base, Kim Kraxberger lifted a long fly ball into centerfield. The centerfielder appeared to make the catch, but dropped the ball after it was in her glove. Still, the runner went back to second and Kraxberger proceeded to head back to the bench. Fiskum told her to go back to first, then heard that the umpire had called her out. That is when the argument ensued.

"It is the first time since 1987 that I got tossed from a game, and the whole ordeal could have been avoided if the umpire had used a little common sense," said Fiskum. "I really didn't do anything different in my handling of what happened, but the bottom line is that I lost my cool, and so did the umpire in this case...The Chemeketa coach later told me that she was just as shocked about it as I was."

Carleen Lessard threw another solid game on the mound, allowing one run on six hits, walking two and striking out six. Kraxberger hit a two-

run homer in the fifth inning, while Randi Middagh and Nicole Obrist each drove in two runs during the 8-1 victory.

Clackamas lost game one of the doubleheader by a score of 1-0. The Cougars only got two hits in the game and struck out eight times.

"It is the first time since 1987 that I got tossed from a game..."

Paul Fiskum
Head Softball Coach

"We had had pretty much our way with them this season, and as a result, they came out angry and determined. We just weren't as ready for it as we should have been," said Fiskum. "As usual, we got great pitching, but our defense was poor and it cost us."

Last Tuesday, Clackamas swept a doubleheader from Southwestern Oregon CC by scores of 8-0 and 13-1. Miranda Gillaspie tossed a four-hitter in the first game for the shutout. The Cougars hit three consecutive doubles in the fifth to score four runs and Kraxberger hit a two-run homer in the

seventh.

Lessard threw a two-hitter in game two and Melissa Gibson went 3-for-4 with three runs scored and two RBI to lead the Cougar attack. Carla Lillis went 3-for-3 with a double and two runs scored. Kraxberger contributed a triple as she went 2-for-2.

Last Friday, Clackamas traveled to Olympia, Wash. to take on South Puget Sound CC and swept another twinbill by scores of 7-2 and 13-0. Gillaspie got the win in game one, allowing four hits and striking out five. Jessica Nagi led the Cougar

attack with two hits, including an RBI double in the third. Clackamas pounded out 13 hits in the game but left 11 runners on base.

In game two, Clackamas led from the get-go in the 13-0 win. Lessard pitched a three-hitter and Nagi again provided the big blow at the plate, this time with a bases-clearing double in the fourth inning, driving in three runs. Morgan Huffstutter continued her hot hitting of late, going 2-for-3 at the plate. Middagh went 2-for-3, Brooke Comstock went 2-for-4 with two RBI and Kraxberger went 3-for-3

with two RBI.

"It was probably our best game top to bottom that we have had all season," Fiskum said. "Carleen continued her phenomenal pitching and we played great defense. It was a very encouraging effort by our girls."

Clackamas (24-9 season, 18-4 league) took on Grays Harbor CC (2-16, 2-14) yesterday at home. Results were not available at press time. Clackamas plays at Mt. Hood (16-9, 16-4) on Friday and at first-place Lower Columbia (26-2, 18-2) on Saturday.



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Freshman utility player Jessica Nagi warms up for the doubleheader against Chemeketa on April 26. The Cougars split the series and improved to 24-9 overall.

Baseball continues downward spiral; losing streak reaches seven

Nic Delzell

The Clackamas Print

Swept twice last week by Mt. Hood CC and Lane CC, Clackamas baseball is struggling.

"Not much productivity," said Head Coach Robin Robinson about the current seven-game losing streak.

At Mt. Hood last Tuesday the Cougars lost game one by a score of 9-2. Pitcher Brad Neffendorf hurled the loss.

In game two, the Cougars were shutout 3-0 as they only managed two hits.

The Cougars were also shutout in game one of last Saturday's doubleheader at Lane 2-0. Neffendorf pitched the loss; in six innings he gave up six hits, two runs and one walk, while striking out two Lane batters.

Catcher Barry Humphrey came through at the plate once again with another hit. Humphrey's batting average is .433, which is currently in the top five in conference batting, according to Robinson.

In game two against Lane, the Cougar bats were on but base running was the problem.

"[There were] a couple of misreads on the base paths," said Robinson.

Game two was lost 5-2. Jason Chan went 3-for-4 with one run. Humphrey went 1-for-3 with an RBI.

"We played okay, but we made a

couple of base running mistakes," said Robinson. "We needed a couple of timely hits."

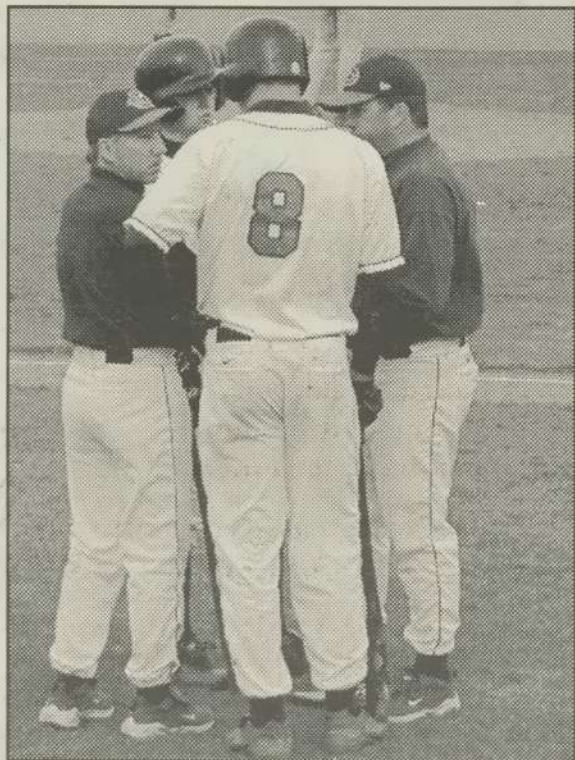
Robinson wants his team to play with pride.

"The best talent wins, but I want freshman to think about next year, and sophomores to think about moving on - that should be their motivation to win. By this time of the year it should

be coming together - pitching and hitting."

Last Thursday's games at Mt. Hood were rained out and rescheduled for tomorrow.

The Cougars (11-16 overall, 6-12 league) have dropped to fifth place in the Southern Region. Only the league's top two teams will advance to the conference championships.



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Chris Runyon (8) confers with Head Coach Robbie Robinson (left) and Assistant Coach Mick Ellet (right) while waiting on deck. Clackamas dropped from third to fifth in the Southern Region this week.

Track team divides and faces pressure at weekend meets

Elena Boryska

Sports Editor

Clackamas track had a busy weekend of splitting the team up and heading in two different directions. Eleven athletes made their way to the Oregon Invite, while the rest of the group took off for Western Oregon.

The athletes at the Oregon Invite hosted by the University of Oregon were those who were able to meet the qualifying standards set for the event. According to Cross Country Coach Keoni McHone, the Oregon meet is a good chance for athletes to get used to large crowds and tough competition.

"Basically you get a chance to deal with pressure [and] competition," said McHone. "There's a large crowd there at that meet and they get to compete... in front of a lot of people."

T. Harris had a nice performance, running a time of 22.87 in the 200 and securing sixth place. His time and placing were especially significant because he was racing in the twilight session, which consisted of all the athletes who did well during the day session. Josh Carlson was also among those that competed at twilight; he set

a new season PR in the javelin as he launched to 206-08.

Sean Jones tied his season PR during the pole vault competition portion of the day session. His vault of 15-01 was a mere two inches shy of his lifetime best and was good for a second place finish.

For the women, Kari Rissmiller ran for 32nd place in the 1500, finishing with a time of 5:03; Rebekah Yancoskie had a time of 2:23 in the 800 for 18th place. Both women ran during the day events.

At the Western Oregon meet, Kerby Boschee had a season PR in the discus throw as she improved to 123-02. She also threw the hammer 116-0. Reanna Rice saw a seven-foot PR in the hammer as she threw 107-0.

In the men's 5K, Mike Schwoebel had a 12 second lifetime PR over his last time, which he set just two weeks ago. His time of 15:25 is especially significant because of the fact that he has been doing a lot of training on his own in order to take a class that he needs to earn his degree. Pat Searing also had a good time in the 5K with a 15:35 finish.

Next up for the Cougars is the Linfield Open on May 3.

Cougar Sports Calendar

Now with more real Cougar!

Baseball

Saturday, May 3
Lane
@ 1 p.m.
HOME

Softball

Friday, May 2
at Mt. Hood
@ 1 p.m.

Track

Saturday, May 3
Linfield Open
at McMinnville