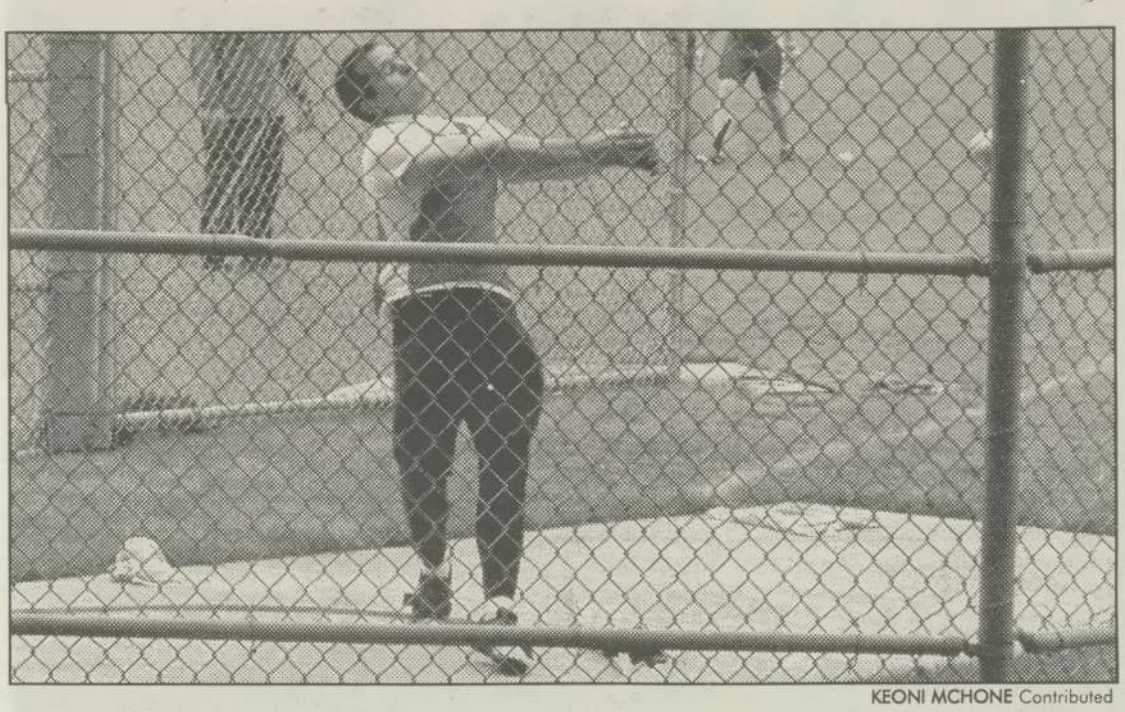
Track finishes fourth in Southern Region



KEONI MCHONE Contributed

Paul Etter captured the win in the hammer throw with this meet record-breaking 189-foot launch at the Southern Region Championships. Etter also won the discus and took third in the shot put to help the men's team take fourth place overall.

Elena Boryska
Sports Editor

Fourth place finishes for both the men's and women's track teams at the Southern Region Championships marked the countdown to the end of the season.

Mt. Hood CC hosted the event and swept both of the team totals. The men's team scored 244 points and the women scored 217. Meanwhile, the Clackamas men's team finished with 123 points and the women had 145.5; the women's score was a little less than what Head Coach Jack Kegg was expecting, but it still wasn't a bad score.

"We competed well. We just didn't expect other people to do some of the things they did," Kegg said. "We had a lot of good performances and a lot of good improvements in our qualifiers."

The women had some strong performances. In the pole vault, Erin Schafer went 12 feet for the win, which is the fourth best height ever in school history as well as her season best. Elisabeth Malsey and Natalie Walruff tied for fourth in the event as both finished with 11-foot vaults; these were season bests for both women. Kim Provost tied for eighth with her NWAACC qualifying vault of nine feet.

Kasie Gillespie had a good overall meet and finished just a half point shy of being the high scoring athlete of the meet, according to Kegg. Gillespie finished second in the long jump with a distance of 16-6 ¾; she also took second in the high jump with a height of 5-2. Additionally, Gillespie came in fourth in the 100 hurdles, sixth in the 400 hurdles and ran a leg of the fourth place 4x100 relay.

Chelsea Fuller won the high jump and qualified for the NWAACC championships in the 100 and 200 after taking seventh in both events with two of her fastest times of the year. She ran 13.22 in the 100 and 27.17 in the 200.

Kari Rissmiller won the 1500 in 4:43 with a nine-second lead over the closest competitor. She took second in a very competitive 3000, finishing just a second slower than the first place finisher, coming in at 10:34.77.

Rebekah Yancoskie finished sixth in the 1500, while Jen Peterson came in right behind her at seventh. Yancoskie also competed in the 800, finishing third; Peterson finished in sixth place after running a lifetime best of 2:24 in the 800-meter preliminaries to get into the finals.

Jenna Bird came in fifth in the 100 hurdles, as well as finishing with a three-second PR in the 400 hurdles to take second. Her time of 65.45 is the third fastest in the conference.

Kerby Boschee had a 115-9 throw in the hammer to take sixth. Ashlin Lofting took sixth in the shot put with a throw of 36-1, which is six inches off of her season best.

For the men, Pat Searing ran a lifetime best of 33:25 in the 10,000 to take second. In the discus, Paul Etter won with a 149-foot throw and David Arndt finished fourth after a lifetime best of 138-1.

The men's hammer was a huge point grabber for Clackamas; altogether the men scored 22 points in the event. Etter won with a meet record-setting 189-9. Kelly Howlett finished right behind him with a throw of 160-6. Arndt had a lifetime best of 124-8 to take sixth and Jason Peterson made his first college final, finishing in eighth place with a distance of 106-1.

In the shot put, Arndt won with a lifetime best of 49-10 ½. Etter placed third in the event with a throw of 48-4.

Josh Carlson came in six inches short of first place in the javelin with a throw of 206-1, while Ray Kauffman took fourth with his season best performance of 189-1. Ryan Brandel claimed the fifth place spot.

In the 400 hurdles, Nate Henry won with a time of 56.11; he is ranked second in NWAACC going into the final meet. Clackamas also had three men finish in the top eight in the 800. Josh Redinburg was fifth, Rusty Pruden finished seventh with a time of 201.27, and Andrew Meng came in eighth after going a lifetime best in the preliminaries of 159.2.

All in all, this meet was a good chance for the teams to prepare for the NWAACC meet that Clackamas is hosting on May 22-23. The Cougars had 24 NWAACC improvements on the qualifying list – either as new qualifications or improvements on previous qualifying marks.

"That's a good sign for us," said Kegg. "We're going the right direction at the right time of year. Basically the most important thing we can do is get rested up. If we get rested, we should have a pretty good NWAACC meet."

Playoffs still unclear for Cougar baseball

Nic Delzell
The Clackamas Print

Clackamas baseball postseason hopes got dimmer yesterday when Chemeketa defeated them in game one of their doubleheader 4-2. Results for the second game were not availiable at print time.

However, if Mt. Hood CC won the two games they played yesterday against Linn-Benton CC and Clackamas wins its game two, then there is still a possiblity for a three-way tie for third in the Southern Region. If this is the senerio, a three-way playoff will take place tomorrow featuring Clackamas, Linn-Benton and Chemeketa.

> **"Mason was the stud of the day."**
>
> ***Robin Robinson***
> *Head Baseball Coach*

The Cougars pulled out two wins in four games against Linn-Benton last week. The Cougars' record is now 16-22 overall and 11-18 in league play.

The Cougars played their first doubleheader of the week against Linn-Benton last Tuesday.

The Cougar offense came up short and lost the opener by a score of 9-1. In game two the Cougars were able come up with 3-1 victory. Tim Dumas hurled a complete game to get the win. The Cougar team managed six hits and committed only one defensive error.

Clackamas traveled to Albany on Saturday to play another doubleheader against Linn-Benton.

Game one resulted in a 4-1 victory behind Nik Mason's arm. He struck out four and allowed only one run.

"Mason was the stud of the day. His arm didn't feel well but he pulled through and pitched a great eight innings," said Head Coach Robin Robinson.

Jason Chan and Chris Runyon each went 2-for-5 at the plate. Chris Kosmas went 1-for-1 with two walks and one RBI.

"Kosmas had a great day offensively," said Robinson.

The Cougars managed eight hits and had a stellar defensive performance once again as they committed only one fielding error.

The second game went 9-2 in Linn Benton's favor. The only Cougar runs came in the first inning when Runyan singled and Humphrey came up with a two-run blast, his first homer of the year.

"It was pretty big, but we didn't win the game," said Humphrey.

Softball preps for playoffs

Frank Jordan
The Clackamas Print

Clackamas softball won its last four of five games to close the 2003 regular season on an upbeat note, and will enter the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges postseason tournament on Friday against Blue Mountain CC.

Clackamas traveled to Lower Columbia College last Wednesday to complete a suspended game. The Cougars trailed the Red Devils 5-1 in the top of the fifth with two runners on base and one out. Melissa Gibson struck out to begin the day, then Morgan Huffstutter walked to load the bases and Brooke Comstock singled to drive in a run. Carla Lillis took a called third strike to end the rally and LCC scored three more times after that to win 8-2.

"We had great hopes on coming back in the game, but we fell short," said Head Coach Paul Fiskum. "LCC has a great team, and they showed it on that day."

Last Friday, the Cougars played Pierce College (0-32 league, 0-36 overall) at home and swept the Raiders by scores of 15-0 and 14-0. Carleen Lessard and Brieanne Thurn threw a combined two-hitter in the first game. Miranda Gillaspie and Thurn tossed a combined no-hitter in the second game.

"Everyone played in the two games and everyone contributed. It was nice to see the girls continue their focus and not play down to the level of their competition," said Fiskum. "We hit the ball hard and often, our defense was great and as usual, we got great pitching. It was a great day all around."

TINA TATE Clackamas Print

Morgan Huffstutter hurries to cross the plate during the Cougars' final game before heading to the postseason. Clackamas won both games against Centralia on Saturday to end the year with a 32-11 overall record and a 26-6 league record.

Saturday was the first annual Alumni Day celebration and approximately 25 former players were in attendance as Clackamas played Centralia CC (14-18, 14-18) in the final doubleheader of the season. The Cougars defeated the Trailblazers 9-1 and 10-0 to finish a 32-11 season.

Clackamas came out aggressive in the opener, scoring two in the first inning, four in the second and three in the third. Gibson provided the big blow in the second inning, clearing the bases with a triple to deep center for three RBI. Gillaspie and Thurn combined on a four-hitter on the mound, striking out five.

Lessard and Thurn combined on a two-hitter in game two, while the Cougars opened with seven consecutive base hits, scoring seven runs before committing the first out of the game. Randi Middagh went 3-for-3 with a double and three RBI, while Lillis went 2-for-2 with two RBI.

"It was a terrific day all around and the girls closed out the season with a strong performance," Fiskum said.

Clackamas (26-6, 32-11) finished in second place in the Southern Division, two games behind division champ Lower Columbia (28-4, 36-4).

The Cougars open NWAACC tournament play on Friday against the Blue Mountain CC Timberwolves (14-14, 18-18) at noon at Delta Park in north Portland. If the Cougars win, they will take on the North Division champion Highline CC Thunderbirds (31-1, 31-4) at 2 p.m. on Friday.

Cougar Sports Calendar

Baseball	Softball	Track
Thursday-Saturday, May 15-17 Southern Region Playoffs	Friday-Sunday, May 16-18 NWAACC Championships at Delta Park	**Thursday-Friday, May 22-23 NWAACC Championships HOME**