

Volleyball finishes second at NWAACCs

Nic Delzell
SPORTS EDITOR

The Clackamas volleyball team ended a successful 2003 campaign with a second place finish at the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Championship tournament, held at Green River CC Nov. 21-23.

"Overall, this was a fantastic tournament," said Head Coach Kathie Woods.

The Cougars opened tournament play on Nov. 21 against Walla Walla CC. The Cougars were victorious by scores of 30-26, 30-28, 23-30 and 30-21. Ashley Cadotte led the Cougar offense with 15 kills and seven blocks. Lindsay Schiely followed with 14 kills. Tara Andrews had 48 assists and two ace serves.

"This was a very good match," said Woods. "Walla Walla was out to get us, but the girls handled themselves well; it was a very good game. Some fans said that Walla Walla played the match of their lives against us."

Nov. 22, the Cougar women moved on to play against Tacoma CC and Whatcom CC. They defeated Tacoma by scores of 30-22, 30-15 and 30-22.

"Tacoma didn't have the weapons to compete against us," said Woods.

According to Woods, the Cougars had an easier time with Tacoma than they did in their previous match against Walla Walla. The team was able to gain momentum with this win. Cadotte had 15 kills; Justine Rhodes had 12 kills and 15 digs.

"Justine really stepped up in every aspect of the game," said Woods.

The Cougars also took care of Whatcom CC, winning by scores of 30-25, 30-18, 26-30 and 30-24.

"Whatcom matched up really well against us. It was a well-fought game; we needed that win because we knew the next day would be tough," said Woods.

The Cougars played three games on Nov. 23. They played Spokane CC twice and they also played Lane CC.

In the first matchup with Spokane, the women were defeated by scores of 27-30, 30-27, 30-27, 28-30 and 13-15.

"Twice in that [match] we were two points away from a victory," said Woods. "It was an incredible match ... it simply could have gone either way."

This match put the Cougars into the losers' bracket where they went up against Lane CC. In a best two-out-of-three match the Cougars won the first game 30-21. At one point in the second match Lane had game point at 22-29, but they were able to come back and win 33-31. Woods said that this sort of comeback is unheard of in the game of volleyball.

"Lane had already knocked off a couple of NWAACC powerhouses; we had to play them when they were on a high. I was really proud about

that comeback," said Woods.

This win put the Cougars up against Spokane once again, this time for the NWAACC championship. The Cougars were defeated 30-22, 20-30, 30-21, and 21-30.

"We had a hard time getting our feet under the ball," said Woods. "We fought well in the championship game, they just had the momentum."

Spokane placed first overall followed by Clackamas, Lane and Whatcom.

Four Cougars were selected to the all-tournament team. Schiely and Andrews made the first team, while Bentz and Cadotte made the second team. Schiely has also been nominated as an All-American.

Woods is happy with her team's finish even though they fell short of an NWAACC championship.

"We went out to be number one all year. This league is so strong, we weren't that dominant of a team but we played well when it counted most," said Woods. "There were a lot of great teams at the tournament; we made our goal of playing in the championship game. The girls played hard and with class. It was Spokane's weekend, but it was our year. Out of all the NWAACC teams we feel that we had the best year overall. I'll take our year over Spokane's year," said Woods.

"Lane had already knocked off a couple of NWAACC powerhouses; we had to play them while they were on a high."

Kathie Woods
Head Volleyball Coach



EARL ENGLAND CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Clackamas volleyball team as they prepared to travel to Green River CC to participate in the NWAACC tournament.

From Bottom, left to right: Assistant Coach Leilani Kamahoahoa, Tara Andrews, Lindsey Girod-Burgess, Michelle Boeckman, Becky Horn, Ashley Walbridge, Halyey Bentz, Jaime Herrera, Justine Rhodes, Ashley Cadotte, Head Coach Kathie Woods and Lindsay Schiely.

Men's basketball team takes out Concordia JV

Frank Jordan

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Clackamas Cougars opened the 2003-04 basketball season with a resounding 100-69 victory over the Concordia College Junior Varsity squad last Saturday night in the Randall Hall gym.

"We played all right, but we were a bit sloppy at times," said Head Coach Cliff Wegner. "All this game proves is that we have a lot to work on to get ready for the league schedule."

The Cougars only return two lettermen from a squad that won the 2002-03 Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges' (NWAACC) Southern Region championship and finished in seventh place at the NWAACC tournament. Those lettermen are Brandon Gill, a 6-1 sophomore from Gresham, who was voted to the second team all-Southern Region, and Steve Lemma, a 6-2 sophomore from Oregon City, who was voted to the Southern Region all-freshman team.

The Cougar men hope to add to a couple of impressive streaks: 25 consecutive winning seasons and four straight 20-win seasons. Ten new players, including seven freshman will try to adapt to Coach Wegner's up-tempo style of play;

their success at grasping that system quickly will more than likely be the key to another playoff-bound season.

The Cougars will face stiff competition from an always-tough region. Chemeketa CC, Southwestern Oregon CC, Mt. Hood CC and Linn-Benton CC figure to be in the playoff hunt this season. Lane CC, Portland CC and Umpqua CC are always dangerous in this well-balanced region.

Other teams, including Lower Columbia College in the West Region, Yakima CC and Big Bend CC from the East Region and Seattle CC and Bellevue CC from the North Region, look to have the best chances to win the NWAACC championship.

The Cougar men played the Warner Pacific College junior varsity team last night in the Randall Hall gym; results were not available at press time. The men are back in action in Longview, Wash., this weekend at the Lower Columbia Red Devil Classic tournament, featuring community college teams from all over the Northwest.

The Cougars have home games next week against the Cascade College junior varsity on Thursday, Dec. 4 and against the Linfield College junior varsity on Saturday, Dec. 6. Both games begin at 7 p.m. in the Randall Hall gym.

Wrestling looks to Thanksgiving tourney

Ben Maras

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Cougar wrestlers faced off against the North Idaho College Cardinals, the current No. 1 team in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) rankings.

Although they wrestled well, the Cougars were unable to top the defending national champions. In light of their defeat, the team has been using it as a learning experience to brush up on technique and, as always, their conditioning.

They also wrestled at the Best of the West/Southern Oregon University Open. The Cougars wrestled strong at the meet and continued to perform well even after wrestling as many as five matches in one day.

"All the guys wrestled really well, especially two of our heavyweights, Thomas Lumsford and Stanley Rodriguez," said Assistant Coach Lloyd Martindale. "When you go to a tournament, you're guaranteed two matches. If you

lose, you move out towards consolation. They moved out and towards the front; they were only one match away from placing."

The wrestlers were not short on competition; the rivalry consisted of many other colleges, as well as open wrestlers that are nationally ranked. These included a world champion in the 125 pound division, and a member of the U.S. national team in the 175 pound division.

While most people are at home in bed Thanksgiving morning, the Cougars will be showing their dedication by leaving for Susanville, Calif., to wrestle in a tournament at Lassen Junior College and are optimistic about their upcoming experience.

"I expect Jimmy Crisman, Bridger Sacher, Ben Sevigny and Mike Jacobs to do especially well" Martindale said. "Mainly we'll just be getting a lot of experience."

The team has been off to a rough start, suffering from injuries and the normal problems coming with a very "green" team. The team expects to overcome these obstacles within the next month and become a very strong team, after ranking ninth in the nation last year.

Most of the team's time has been spent on the road, honing their skills from school to school. For fans who don't want to drive all the way to California or Canada to see them, the Cougars next home meet will be on Friday, Jan. 2 against Southwestern Oregon Community College.

"All the guys wrestled really well, especially two of our heavyweights."

Lloyd Martindale
Assistant Wrestling Coach



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Concordia players look on as Sophomore Brandon Gill rises up and releases from beyond the arc during a 100-69 victory on Nov. 23. Gill is one of two returning sophomores.

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