

# Men's basketball off to undefeated start

Defenders look up as freshman wing/post Brent Kahle splits the defense, elevates and goes in for an uncontested lay up during last weeks 124-79 victory over the Warner Pacific junior varsity squad. This was one of many spectacular plays that night. The Cougars are off to a 5-0 start and are currently tied with Chemeketa for the top in the NWAACC Southern Region.



PETE FORD Clackamas Print

**Frank Jordan**  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Clackamas men's basketball has jumped out to a 5-0 start, largely thanks to a tournament championship at the Red Devil Classic in Longview, Wash., last weekend.

The Cougars opened the Classic with an 87-80 win over Clark College, getting 41 points from sophomore Brandon Gill and 28 from Garrett Johnson. Clackamas jumped out to a quick 9-2 lead, taking a 44-35 lead into halftime.

"We got off to a good start and held on," said Head Coach Clif Wegner. "Gill shot really well and we fought Clark off until the end. [It was] a good win."

In the tournament semifinals, the Cougars blew out Bellevue CC by a score of 111-81. Sophomore Alex Swerzbin led a balanced Cougar attack with a season-high 36 points, while Johnson dropped in 20. Sophomore Steve Lemma added 17 points and pulled down a game-high 11 rebounds and Gill chipped in 15 points, going 13-13 from the foul line.

In the tournament championship game, Swerzbin led five Cougars in double figures as Clackamas held off a stubborn Peninsula CC team and won 109-102 in two overtimes.

"We played a great tournament all-around and Sunday's game was indicative of that," said Wegner. "We were short-handed with [Cole] Kieling and [Ammon] Bemis being out with injuries, but the guys sucked it up and came through against a good field of teams."

Lemma and Gill each chipped in 22 points in the Peninsula game; while Johnson had 19 points and 14 rebounds and freshman Brandon Kishpaugh added 12 points. The Cougars shot 49 percent from the floor and 69 percent from the line in the win.

Johnson was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, averaging 22 points and 10 rebounds in the three games. Gill, Lemma and Swerzbin were also named to the all-tournament team.

On Nov. 25, the Cougars entertained the Warner Pacific junior varsity squad and blew out their opponent by the score of 124-79.

Johnson led another balanced attack with 29 points on 11-14 shooting. Gill had 22 points, Bemis had 19 points, including two spectacular dunks, Swerzbin and Kishpaugh dropped in 13 and Lemma added 10. Swerzbin added a game-high 10 assists and the Cougars forced Warner Pacific into 35 turnovers.

The Cougars shot 53 percent from the floor and 83 percent from the line in the rout. Clackamas jumped out to an 18-11 lead after a Bemis steal-and-dunk, and then the Cougars blew out Warner Pacific from there. CCC led 62-35 at the half and took their largest lead at 116-65 with 3:30 left in the game.

"We did some really good things and some pretty bad ones," said Wegner. "We got a little sloppy in the second half, but did a much better job rebounding the basketball. We really still need to work on rebounding."

The Cougars take on the Cascade College junior varsity tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Randall Hall gym and the Linfield College junior varsity Saturday, also at 7 p.m. in Randall Hall.

The Cougars also play in two tournaments during the holiday break; be sure to consult the Cougars' schedule at [www.clackamas.edu/athletics/mensbasketball](http://www.clackamas.edu/athletics/mensbasketball) for dates and times of tournament action. The Cougars open NWAACC action on Jan. 7, where they will travel to Roseburg to take on Umpqua CC.

## Clackamas wrestling nails the competition at Lassen tourney

**Ben Maras**  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Clackamas wrestlers' hard work paid off this past weekend as they emerged from a tournament in Lassen, Calif. with a 3-2 record. The Cougars defeated Yakima Valley CC, Western Wyoming CC and Pima CC, but were beat by Southwestern Oregon CC and the tournament host, Lassen Junior College, although they are taking their two defeats in stride.

"Lassen, Southwestern Oregon and Western Wyoming are three of the top teams in the nation," said Head Coach Mike Haluska.

The tournament was a two-day event, the first day (Friday) consisting of the five dual meets. The second day

was a bracketed open tournament for individuals. The Cougars performed well as Chris Kidby came in second place in the 184-pound division, and Stan Rodrigues placed second in the heavyweight division. Bridger Satcher lost only twice; both times to all-Americans, one from Menlo College and one that had already graduated.

The coaches and team enjoy the tournaments as an opportunity to practice the skills they've previously learned.

"All of these tournaments are the best practice we've had," Haluska said.

In practice, Haluska builds discipline and teamwork among the wrestlers, something he sees as being as important as physical conditioning and technique.

"I've been around wrestling for a long time, and these are the hardest working group of kids (I've worked with). I think poor coaching is holding them back," Haluska joked. "My biggest focus is that talent can be overcome by hard work ... if they see that, I've got seven or eight guys who have the potential to be All-Americans."

The Clackamas wrestlers will have another chance to smash Southwestern Oregon this Friday, when they will face off against them in Coos Bay. The team will travel to Canada and Des Moines, Wash. during the holiday break, before coming home to face Southwestern Oregon on the home mats Jan. 2 at 5 p.m., and competing in the Portland State University Open on Jan. 3.



EARI ENGLAND Clackamas Print

A Clackamas wrestler grapples with his competition during a match held earlier this year.

## Women's basketball opens season at Mt. Hood tourney

**Nic Delzell**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Clackamas women's basketball team opened the 2003-2004 season with a third-place finish at the Mt. Hood Thanksgiving Tournament.

"We played well at times," said Head Coach Jim Martineau.

The Cougars took the floor for the first time this season in their tournament opener on Nov. 28 against Tacoma; they were victorious 63-53. Forward Somer Erickson led the Cougar attack with 17 points, seven assists and three blocked shots. Guard Lindsay Calmettes also contributed 17 points, while forward Ashley Cadotte added a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

On Nov. 29 the Cougars moved to the semi-finals, facing Umpqua, and were defeated 73-66. According to Martineau, Clackamas and Umpqua were the strongest teams that participated in the tournament. The Cougars were down 10 at the half, but were able to battle back and finish strong, just falling short. Wing Ashley Storms lead the Cougars with 18 points. Calmettes finished with

15 points and Cadotte had another double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Guard Cindy Alldrin added 11 points.

The Cougars moved on to play Clark for third place on Nov. 30. Clark was only down 32-28 going into the second half, but according to Martineau, the Cougars played a very solid second half and ended up defeating Clark 76-47. Calmettes finished with 17 points. Cadotte continued her dominance under the boards with her third double-double of the tournament; she had 15 points and 10 rebounds. Forward Somer Erickson contributed 12 points and nine rebounds. Alldrin moved the ball around well, dishing out eight assists and adding eight points. In the tournament championship game, Umpqua beat Mt. Hood 94-81.

Tuesday, the Cougars played at home against the Linfield junior varsity. Results were not available at press time.

On Dec. 12-14 as the Cougars will host the NWAACC Crossover Tournament in the Randall Hall gym. Clackamas will open up league play on Jan. 7 in Roseburg against Umpqua.

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