



AMY CASHMAN CLACKAMAS PRINT

Sophomore wing/post Garrett Johnson (21) drives past the Mt. Hood defender during a 77-66 Clackamas victory. The Cougars have now won six consecutive games and have four games remaining in their league schedule.

Men's ball: Six wins in a row

Frank Jordan
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Clackamas men's basketball team ran their winning streak to six games last week with wins over division leader Mt. Hood CC and Umpqua CC.

Last Wednesday, the Cougars got off to a slow start against the Saints from MHCC, falling behind by as much as 17 points in the first half. The Cougars were behind by double digits late in the half, before getting a three-pointer from Wes Jensen to close the deficit to 38-30 at the halftime break.

The second half was a different story as the Cougars got their pressure game into high gear, forcing several turnovers and bad shots by the division-leading Saints. Clackamas finally took the lead when Brandon Gill converted a rare four-point play

to give the Cougars a 54-53 lead. Clackamas was able to stave off Mt. Hood with big plays at both ends of the court, allowing the Cougars to pull within a game in the Southern Division standings with a 77-65 victory.

Gill finished the game with 19 points, including 13-13 at the free throw line. The Cougars were an outstanding 29-32 from the line for the game. Ammon Bemis scored 16 points, grabbed seven rebounds and had three steals. Jensen finished with 12 points and had a key play late in the game as he stole a Mt. Hood pass and fed Bemis for a roaring dunk. Alex Swerzbis contributed 11 points and a team-high eight assists in the victory.

"The game was a great effort by our team," said Clackamas Head Coach Cliff Wegner. "We played a great second half and our free throw shooting made

the difference."

Saturday, the Cougars got 20 points from Gill and 14 points from Bemis in an 86-64 victory over Umpqua CC in the Randall Hall gym.

The Cougars ran out to a quick seven-point lead on the Timbermen and never let up in posting their sixth consecutive victory.

Steve Lemma added 12 points, while Maycol Rivera and Swerzbis chipped in 10 points apiece. Jensen pulled down eight rebounds and served point guard James Couture contributed six assists and did not commit a turnover in his 10 minutes of action.

"We are definitely getting better and hopefully peaking at the correct time for postseason play," said Wegner. "We need to defend better in the post and play better defense without foul-

ing so much. We also need to improve our ball and player movement in our zone offense. The kids are responding to situations and that is important as we enter the stretch run."

The Cougars take on Chemeketa CC tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Randall Hall gym. The Chiefs are currently tied for second place in the Southern Division with Clackamas, so the importance of the game cannot be understated.

"We are trying to defend our league championship and we are one game out of first place. That is plenty of motivation for us to play huge on Wednesday," said Wegner.

Clackamas will go on the road to Coos Bay this Saturday, playing Southwestern Oregon CC, in the first of a five-games-out-of-six stretch on the road to conclude the regular season.

Banged-up wrestlers still perform well last week

Sara Atkeson
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

This past weekend was a busy one for the Clackamas wrestling team.

The Cougar wrestlers participated in scheduled dual meets with Yakima Valley CC and Highline CC and a makeup dual with Southwestern Oregon CC.

"[Ryan Farewell] wrestled the best match I've seen him wrestle in three years," said Head Coach Mike Haluska. "He lost the match but I think he turned a corner and realized that he is a good wrestler. Hopefully he starts wrestling like that every time because it was really impressive."

Tim Cook tweaked his shoulder in his first match and was out of commission for the rest of the weekend.

"It's not a serious injury... it's not a big deal [to sit out a match] and it isn't worth aggravating it this

close to regionals," said Haluska.

According to Haluska, Terrence Huntley wrestled three very tough matches, winning one match and taking his best shot in the other two.

Britt Crooks had one of his best matches of the season, missing the win by a single point.

"It's hard to keep wrestling when you're winning, let alone these guys are losing by close matches and yet they keep going out on the mat," said Haluska.

Coming off the injury list last weekend was Ben Sevigny.

"He wrestled two matches that he dominated," said Haluska.

"He lost one match 7-1 and it was probably the best match I've seen him wrestle and one of the best matches of the weekend," said Haluska.

Shawn Siefke wrestled three very tough opponents, beating two of them.

"The one he lost could have

gone either way and both wrestlers knew it. He walked off the mat knowing he could beat this kid at the regional tournament," said Haluska.

Chris Kidby wrestled two matches and seemed to easily dominate both opponents in his usual style.

Mike Maginn had a clean sweep on the mat last weekend.

"He wrestled great this weekend and won a close one against Yakima Valley," said Haluska.

Bridger Sacher served himself a plateful of redemption by beating two wrestlers that defeated him earlier in the season.

"He was ready to wrestle them this time and beat 'em pretty easily. They were both tough opponents but Bridger is just a real good

wrestler," said Haluska.

Lucas Buyas at 184 pounds, toughed it out in the heavyweight bracket and wrestled a 285-pound opponent from Southwestern Oregon CC.

"I don't know if you can realize how hard that is to wrestle, but you make one mistake and get under that much weight you're pinned. He did a great job and gave himself a chance to win," said Haluska.

He won against a more equally matched opponent at 195 pounds from Highline with a pin.

"We had a good weekend. They reached a turning point realizing that they can win the tough matches," said Haluska.

"I don't know if you can realize how hard that is to wrestle."

Mike Haluska
Head Wrestling Coach

UPCOMING CLACKAMAS SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL:

Tonight
Chemeketa CC
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 7
@ Southwestern Oregon 6:00 p.m.

Feb. 11
@ Portland CC
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 14
Linn-Benton CC
6:00 p.m.

Feb. 18
@ Mt. Hood CC
7:30 p.m.

Feb. 21
@ Lane CC
6:00 p.m.

Feb. 23 Southern Division playoffs TBA
(HOME GAMES IN BOLD)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

Tonight
Chemeketa CC
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 7
@ Southwestern Oregon
4:00 p.m.

Feb. 11
@ Portland CC
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 14
Linn-Benton CC
4:00 p.m.

Feb. 18
@ Mt. Hood CC
5:30 p.m.

Feb. 21
@ Lane CC
4:00 p.m.

Feb. 23 Southern Division playoffs TBA
(HOME GAMES IN BOLD)

WRESTLING:

Feb. 14
Region 18 Tournament
@ Coeur d Alene, Idaho

Feb. 27-28
NJACC National Championship
@ Rochester, Minn.