

Cougars' NWAACC seed still up in air

Frank Jordan

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Clackamas men's basketball team continued their drive toward the NWAACC tournament with two victories last week over Portland CC and Linn-Benton CC.

Wednesday, the Cougars took on PCC on the road and came away with a 100-91 victory. Alex Swerzbin led the way for Clackamas with a season-high 38 points. Brandon Gill had 24 points from his point guard position and Steve Lemma contributed 10 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

Saturday night, the Cougars played their final home game of the season as they took on the Roadrunners from Linn-Benton. It was a nip-and-tuck affair throughout but the Cougars used a late run to get by LBCC 112-103.

Ammon Bemis played a strong game inside and out in leading the Cougars with 25 points and a team-high seven rebounds. Gill shared team-high scoring honors with Bemis with 25, while Swerzbin chipped in 21 points and Lemma added 14.

The Cougars go on the road this week for their final two games of the regular season, taking on Mt. Hood in Gresham tonight and on Saturday they travel to Eugene to play Lane CC.

The game tonight should be a barn-burner as Mt. Hood and Chemeketa CC are tied for first place in the Southern Division of the NWAACC, with Clackamas only one game behind. Playoff seeding will be up for grabs in the game. A Cougar win may give CCC a second seed in the NWAACC tournament. A loss will give the third seed to Clackamas.

The NWAACC tournament is Feb. 27 to Mar. 1 at the Tri-Cities Coliseum in Kennewick, Wash.



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Cole Kieling (40) looks on as Brandon Gill (10) takes it to the hoop during a Feb. 11 game against Portland CC. Gill scored 24 points in a 100-91 Clackamas victory. The Cougar men are currently ranked No. 8 in the NWAACC Coaches Poll.

Women ballers work toward No. 1 seed at NWAACCs

Nic Delzell

SPORTS EDITOR

Right now it looks like no one can slow the roll that the Clackamas women's basketball team is on.

The Lady Cougars (19-3, 11-1) have won 11 straight league games, with their last loss coming in their league opener on Jan. 12 against Umpqua CC. The Clackamas streak has now grown to 11 with victories over Linn-Benton CC and Portland CC and the Lady Cougars are presently ranked No. 1 in the NWAACC Coaches Poll.

Although their individual statistics may not be overwhelming, Clackamas has been playing unselfish basketball resulting in great team chemistry and many big wins.

"This is by far the most unselfish group of good players I have had," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "I think that all of the girls sacrificed a little to be

part of this team, on other teams these kids would be putting up huge numbers."

The Linn-Benton Roadrunners (5-7, 13-11) came to the Randall gym on Feb. 14 and were routed 85-55 as the Clackamas sophomores were honored in their last home game as Cougars.

"We played very well," said Martineau. "I thought we made a decent team look very average. We struggled a little in the first half offensively, but we did play solid on the defensive end. In the second half, we picked it up a little offensively and took control of the game."

Cindy Alldrin led the Cougar scoring assault with 21 points. Lindsay Calmettes poured in 19 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and dished out seven assists. Ashley Cadotte scored 18 points and added eight rebounds, six assists and six steals. Somer Erickson added 11 points and eight boards.

The Lady Cougars traveled to PCC on Feb. 11 and crushed the Panthers 105-36. "Our defense created a ton of points for us," said Martineau. "We ran the floor very well and got a lot of easy looks."

Alldrin led the way again, scoring 32 points; she is currently leading the Lady Cougars in scoring with 16.5 points per game.

"Cindy has played well all season," said Martineau. "When she is hitting her three-point shot,

she is very difficult to defend. Her scoring and field goal percentage have increased as the season has progressed."

The Lady Cougars shared the scoring load well with Jayme Dodrill, Lindsey Boeckman and Calmettes each scoring 13 points. Erickson had another huge game with 12 points, nine boards and three blocked shots. Cadotte contributed 11 points and six

assists, while Sabra Dunn scored 10 points.

With two games remaining the Lady Cougars have already earned a bid in the NWAACC tournament, Feb. 27-Mar. 1 in Kennewick, Wash.

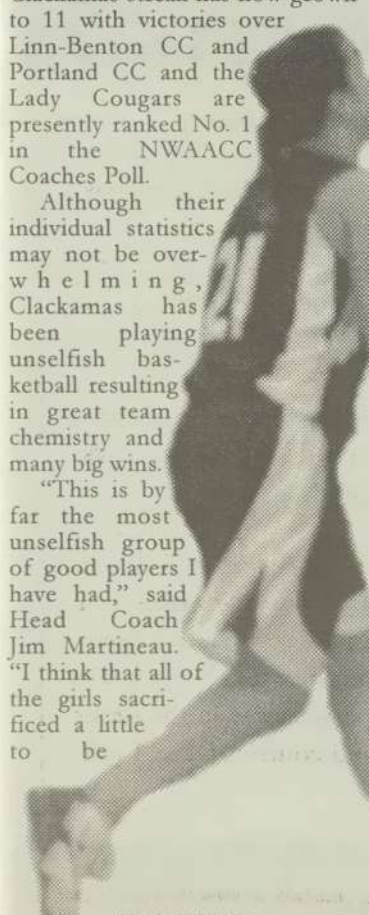
Tonight, the Lady Cougars will travel to Gresham to match-up with Mt. Hood CC (3-9, 7-17).

Saturday, the Cougars will go

down south to Eugene to play Lane CC. Lane is in second place in the Southern Division and ranked fourth in the NWAACC Coaches' Poll.

Martineau knows this will be an important matchup.


"We struggled beating them here so it should be a very good contest. We need to win to make sure we keep that No. 1 seed for the tournament," Martineau said.



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