



NIC DELZELL CLACKAMAS PRINT

Freshman infielder Cijay Koanui (12) takes a lead from third as Head Softball Coach Paul Fiskum coaches third base during a recent home game. The Cougar softballers went 3-1 last week bringing their overall record to 13-5 and their league record 12-2.

# Softball splits with Lower Columbia

Frank Jordan  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Clackamas softball team maintained a hold on second place in the Southern Division of the NWAACC with a sweep of Centralia College and a doubleheader split with the five-time defending champions from Lower Columbia College last week.

April 13, the Trailblazers from Centralia College came down to Oregon City to take on the Cougars. They went back home after losing to the Cougars by scores of 10-4 and 4-3 in three innings.

“Centralia came out tough and competed; we didn’t seem to be really in the game from the outset,” Head Coach Paul Fiskum. “Our girls didn’t seem to respect them from the start and the outcome was dicey for awhile.”

The first game was tied at four in three innings, when the Cougar bats woke up and pounded six runs in the last three innings

for the 10-4 victory. Freshman infielder Kelly Rattay led the hit parade by going 3-4 at the plate and scoring three runs; Cijay Koanui was 3-4 with a double; Randi Middagh went 2-3 with three RBIs and Kim Kraxberger went 2-4 with a two-RBI double in the fourth to break the game open.

Chelsea Koch was not as sharp as usual, coming out after 2 1/3 innings. Holly Marlow relieved Koch and struck out five in 4 2/3 innings.

Game two was a tight one as the Cougars eked out a 4-3 win with a game-winning single by Rattay in the bottom of the ninth.

“Centralia had a pitcher that moved the ball real well; she did a great job of keeping us off-balance,” said Fiskum. “Centralia had a lot of

seeing-eye singles and that kept them in the game.”

*“The team is coming along; their attitude is getting stronger.”*

Paul Fiskum  
Head Softball Coach

With the score tied in the ninth, Ashley Olsen got on base on a walk, and then Brady Adelhart sacrificed Olsen to second. Alison Hawes bunted Olsen to third, then Rattay delivered the back-breaker, lining a rope down the left-field line for the game winner.

Saturday, the Cougars traveled to Longview, Wash., to take on Lower Columbia. Koch gave up a two-run homer in the third for a 2-0 LCC lead, but the Cougars got RBI singles from Nicole Winkley in the fourth and Olsen in the seventh to tie the game at two.

In the top of the ninth, Winkley led off with a double and Olsen singled. Adelhart hit into a fielder’s choice, keeping runners at first and

third with one out. Rattay came through for the second game in a row, singling in Winkley with the game-winner. Marlow mowed down Lower Columbia 1-2-3 in the bottom of the ninth for the 3-2 Clackamas victory.

Game two with the Lady Red Devils was, in the words of Fiskum, “one of the strangest games I have ever witnessed.” LCC went up 2-0 after an inning, but Clackamas struck back with three runs in the second, the big blow from Koanui, who had a two-RBI single. LCC tied the game in the third and then Koch relieved Marlow.

Koch gave up four runs in 1/3 of an inning, and pitching coach Kim Ostlund put Angie Roberti on the mound to replace Koch. Roberti had not pitched all season, but with the injury-depleted staff at a breaking point, some relief was in order. Roberti promptly gave up an RBI single and a three-RBI triple for the 9-3 LCC lead. Roberti also gave up a two-run homer in the

sixth, finishing out the scoring in an 11-7 Lower Columbia win.

“The home plate umpire had a really tight strike zone, which forced our pitching staff to adjust. Lower Columbia had the same problem—at least the ump was consistent,” said Fiskum.

Nicole Winkley led the Cougars in game two, continuing her torrid hitting as of late with a 3-4 effort. Kraxberger had a two-RBI double in the fifth inning to help stop the bleeding, but it was too late.

“Obviously, they are a good team, playing pretty well right now and they always have an enthusiastic crowd at their games,” Fiskum said. “We were real competitive the whole day. The team is coming along; their attitude is getting stronger and we have had some incredibly clutch hitting performances.”

Clackamas competes in the NWAACC Crossover this Saturday in Salem and will travel to Coos Bay on Tuesday to take on Southwestern Oregon CC.

## Cougars continue season-long trend last week, splitting three doubleheaders

Nic Delzell  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Clackamas baseball team ran an up and down week, splitting three doubleheaders against field JV, Chemeketa CC and Lane CC.

On Sunday, the Cougars lost the one 5-2 against Linfield CC. Third baseman Jason Short and pitcher Barry Humphrey both went 2-3. Jordan Denney and Pete Ches added RBIs for the Cougars.

In game two, Clackamas had an impressive offensive outing winning 12-7. The Cougars scored 12 runs off seven hits and only committing one fielding error.

Shortstop Jason Chan went 2-3 with three runs scored and two RBI. Chan has stolen 24 bases this season and has only been caught stealing once. Josh Law went 3-3 with a run scored.

Head Coach Robin Robinson said that the winning pitcher Jack Apple did a great job in his first game of the season.

Saturday, the Cougars split a doubleheader against Chemeketa

CC. The Cougars lost 3-2 as Ben Corser came on in relief and pitched the Cougar loss.

“Ricky Gonzalez pitched a great five innings,” Robinson said.

Gonzalez struck out four batters, gave up three base-on-balls and only one run as he left the game up 2-1.

Game two, the Cougars shut out Chemeketa 4-0 behind the arm of Johnny Bliss.

“Johnny Bliss threw a great game, the kind of performance we have hoped for and expected,” Robinson said.

Last Tuesday, the Cougars split against Lane CC, losing game one 7-5.

Brad Neffendorf pitched the loss going 6 1/3 innings while striking out eight Lane batters. Jake Austin and Tyler Smith both went 2-5 at the plate.

The Cougars won game two 6-3 as Humphrey blasted a home run. Denney tossed the win, striking out six. Josh Breslaw and Jake Austin both hit RBI singles in the win.

Tuesday’s game against Linn-Benton CC was rained out and will be played Thursday at 1 p.m. on the Cougar diamond.

<b>UPCOMING GAMES</b>	<b>April 22</b>	<b>Baseball vs. Linn-Benton CC @ 1:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>April 24</b>	Baseball @ Southwestern Oregon CC @ 12:00 p.m.
	<b>April 24 &amp; 25</b>	Softball NWAACC Crossover Tourney in Salem (Time TBA)
	<b>April 27</b>	<b>Baseball vs. Mt. Hood CC @ 1:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>April 27</b>	Softball @ Southwestern Oregon CC @ 3:00 p.m.
	<b>April 30</b>	<b>Softball vs. South Puget Sound CC @ 3:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>May 1</b>	<b>Baseball vs. Lane CC @ 1:00 p.m.</b>

\*Home games in BOLD

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