

Cougars topple competition

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- Tracy Nelson, Head Soccer Coach



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Tiana Meduri does the hustle by going down hard for a ball during the season's play. Meduri scored two goals during championship game, aiding in the six goal shutout of Tacoma. The Lady Cougars finished an impressive season with an even more impressive championship game, setting a record for the most goals scored in an NWAACC championship game.

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...will go down as a day of the women soccer program at Clackamas, for on this day the school's first NWAACC championship in the history of the team. It is the fact that the team is in their third year of existence, winning their first two NWAACC playoffs by way of the Lady Cougars took the championship game to a different level. Not only got their third NWAACC title in the 2004 postseason,

they put on a scoring exhibition and left no doubt in the minds of their fellow competitors who the best team in the NWAACC was this season.

The Cougars wasted no time in the season's last game by scoring first, thanks to a killer penalty shot by freshman Tianna Meduri. The Clackamas forward lined up from about 25 yards away from the net, and let one

fly right over the outstretched hands of the Tacoma goalie.

Moments after Meduri's goal, Tacoma had two golden opportunities to tie the score at one apiece.

On both occasions the ball handler for Tacoma had a break-away and a one-on-one chance with Cougar Goalie Jessica Engeman. Engeman was able to approach the attacks from the opposition and change the trajectory of their shots to preserve the Cougars' 1-0 lead.

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Tracy Nelson
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Just minutes after the

two missed Tacoma chances, Clackamas began to pull away. The Cougars' second goal came from freshman Emily Ingalls. The goal was assisted by Amanda Triller, who placed a perfectly positioned ball into the goal box from the corner.

To finish off the first half, Southwest Division MVP Vicky Rodriguez added two goals no more than 45 seconds apart from each other to give the champs a commanding 4-0 halftime cushion.

Cougar Head Coach Tracy Nelson couldn't have been more proud of the team for the effort they put into the game.

As the second half began, the relentless effort of Clackamas continued as Meduri added her second goal of the game.

Then, with less than five minutes remaining and with the Cougars having all but won the championship, something special happened. In her final game as a Cougar, sophomore Katie O'Brien ended her community college career in a fitting fashion, scoring the Cougars' final goal of the year and capping off a perfect season with a 6-0 victory.

The Cougars put up some impressive numbers this season and not all of them came from the offensive end of the ball. With a defensive effort from Megan Diebel, Trisha Little and Stephanie Rodriguez, not to mention the stellar goalkeeping of Engeman, Clackamas only allowed five goals all season and shutout an astonishing 17 of 22 opponents faced.

Along with that exceptional defense came an explosive offense which scored 80 goals for the season.

"I didn't expect to blow away the competition like we did, but the team stepped up and did what they had to do to win," Nelson said. "At the end, everything came together; that was one of the best games we had played all season."

With the season over now the Cougars can look forward to defending their title next year.

"We need to recruit for a new team every year; it would be great to have all 11 freshmen come back, but you never know," Nelson said.

The Cougars will lose sophomores Katie O'Brien and Megan Diebel, but know that by winning this championship it can only help their future.

The Clackamas coaches are aware that there are players from all around who want to play for a winner, and that is what Clackamas has proved to the NWAACC this season.

Nelson was honored the Southwest Conference Coach of the Year award and freshman Forward Vicky Rodriguez was elected as the MVP.

In addition to Rodriguez, five players were elected to represent Clackamas in this year's All-star game between the Southwest and Northeast divisions of the NWAACC.

Medurri, Triller, Little, Engeman, and for the second time in as many years, Diebel will play in the game of the NWAACC All-stars.

Coach Nelson couldn't be happier for her players and said, "I have never coached an undefeated team before ... I have coached state champions, but not a team like this. Coming into this program, it was our five year goal to be where we are right now."



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Ashley Webster, number 8, shows off her dribbling skills in a season match-up.

