

Men's ball proves they can contend

Clackamas chalks up two more

Frank Jordan
The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Cougar men defeated Umpqua CC and Southwestern Oregon CC in NWAACC play last week as the Cougars held on to a solid third place in the Southern Division.

Last Wednesday, the Cougars ran all over Umpqua CC, whipping the Timbermen by a score of 84-61. Maycol Rivera added 15 points on 6-8 from the field, while Matt Sanders chipped in 14 points.

Clackamas shot 57 percent from the floor for the game, including 67 percent in the second half, while holding Umpqua to 36 percent in the second half, enabling the Cougars to outscore the Timbermen 51-30 in the second half enroute to the 23-point final margin.

Umpqua was led by sophomore Martin McLaughlin, who had 16 points, while freshman Ryan Lucas added 12 points. Umpqua fell to 1-5 in Southern Division play and to 9-11 overall with the loss.

"We really are banged up right now; we have a couple of kids who are hurt and we have another one with the flu, so we are a little short-handed," said Head Coach Cliff Wegner. "We just have to work our way through these setbacks and we will be okay."

Saturday, the Cougars traveled to

Coos Bay to take on the Lakers of Southwestern Oregon CC improving to 5-2 in the Southern Division with a hard-fought 72-68 victory over SWOCC.

Clackamas was led by the 15 points and nine rebounds by Freeman, while Micah Mooney added 14 points from his guard position. Jensen added 12 points and nine rebounds, and Sanders chipped in 11 counters from the point.

Southwestern Oregon was led by sophomore Brandon Thompson, who tossed in a game-high 29 points. SWOCC fell to 3-5 in the Southern Division with the loss and an overall record of 8-14.

"We really played a great game Saturday night down at SWOCC," said Wegner. "The kids really dug down and played smart and tough down the stretch. It was a great win for us and a great experience for all who saw it. It really was a great college basketball game."

Chemeketa still leads the division with a 7-0 record, while Mt. Hood is one game back at 6-1. The Cougars play a make-up game in Albany tonight against Linn-Benton CC, with game time scheduled for 7:30 p.m. This game was postponed due to the ice storm on Jan. 15. Clackamas returns home to face the same Linn-Benton squad this Saturday, Feb. 6, with a scheduled tip-off at 6 p.m. in the Randall Hall gym.



Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

The men's ball team plays a heavy second half to take their opponents down.

I got just what I didn't expect

Michael McCormack
The Clackamas Print

Why is it that community college basketball doesn't get the respect it deserves is beyond me. I never see a write-up in the *Oregonian* about the top teams in the NWAACC, but biweekly I get information on the high school updates.

Isn't high school ball a prerequisite for college athletics? Aren't the players that participate in the NWAACC deserving of some sort of publicity? The fact of the matter is that they have earned the right to continue their basketball future.

Last Wednesday the Trailblazers were playing the Dallas Mavericks and I had a ticket waiting for me if I wanted to attend. Instead I decided to venture into 'a Clackamas men's basketball game.

This was the first community college game I have ever witnessed, and before attending I had a personal stereotype of why I had never gone before.

Prior to my attendance I expected the Clackamas game against Umpqua to be nothing but an extension of high school basketball. I anticipated that the game would be sloppy and that the participating players weren't able to play at a higher collegiate level.

During the first half of the game my rationalization of the contest held true. The game had a lackluster start at best. Not many points were scored by either team, while both offenses seemed to be unorganized. I kept asking myself the question, "Do these teams have offensive sets?" Clackamas had the ball on the perimeter most of the half and seemed to refuse to go inside to the posts. I was kicking myself for not attending the Blazer game—at least there I could have had some enthusiasm for the competition.

I decided to stay and see how the game turned out, because even if the first half had been uneventful, the game was

close. As the second half began I started to get into it. The pace of the game had picked up and my stereotype of community college basketball started to be refuted.

The Cougars looked like the team I wanted to see in the second half. Led by guards Matt Sanders and Maycol Rivera, Clackamas had jumped to a 20-point lead in the first 10 minutes of the second frame. Sanders demonstrated pure touch on his shot and great court awareness, leading all players with 12 assists.

Rivera showed his athleticism with two acrobatic shots on the baseline and an undeniable relentlessness to make something happen in the front court.

In the second half Clackamas also proved that they do have some offensive structure by passing the ball to the post, especially to Cougar center Brian Freeman. Freeman showed court presence on both ends, finishing the game with a double-double, pouring in 13 points and 10 boards to go along with his team high of three blocks.

Being a shooter, there is nothing that gives me greater pleasure on the court than to see a pure jump-shot from downtown. Wes Jensen showed outside range and led all scorers with 24 points while adding nine rebounds to help the Cougars to an 84-61 victory.

Now having had the experience of seeing a game here, I am happy to say that I will be attending many games to come.

If you like basketball and want to see a team out-hustle and simply outplay their competition, come watch tonight when the Cougs take on Linn-Benton.

Community college basketball might not be the most publicized sport in Oregon, but it sure does offer players who have the potential the opportunity to play at that higher level.

ANALYSIS

Women ballers put fans on their feet



Women's basketball had a tough loss last week to Umpqua 77-70. With 3:38 left in the game, Clackamas turned up the pressure to come back from a 20 point deficit and bring the game within five points. Raining threes and pushing the baseline still wasn't enough, as Umpqua sealed their victory with two late free throws. Although the fan turnout left many empty bleachers, parents and friends who came to watch the game stood on their feet in support of the women's effort.

Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Wrestlers take time to give back to local youth

Jeff Sorensen
The Clackamas Print

The youth wrestling state championship tournament was held last Saturday after being rescheduled due to the ice storm, and when none of the referees could make it, the Clackamas wrestlers were happy to volunteer.

"A highlight of my season was watching them give back to the little kids," said a beaming Clackamas Head Coach Mike Haluska.

The team was faced with their final dual meet Sunday in Coos Bay, and had to catch a bus from the tournament at Clackamas High School directly to Coos Bay that evening. Most of all, Haluska was proud of the way the wrestlers conducted themselves.

"They handled the pressure of parents yelling at them well," said Haluska. "They represented Clackamas [Wrestling], Clackamas Community College, and the sport of wrestling. I was


as proud of them [as] any national champ I've ever had."

The next week-and-a-half will see the wrestlers training and healing in anticipation for their NJCAA regional tournament a week from Saturday. Tim Cook is still nursing a shoulder injury from earlier in the season, but hopes to be ready to go for the tournament.

Also trying to pull off of the injured list is 141 lbs. Shane Slover, who looks good going into the weeks before regionals after a big win against his SWOCC opponent last weekend in lieu of sustained injuries to his shoulder and ankle, and freshmen talent Nick Stacks, who also injured his shoulder and knee.

After suffering from injuries all season, the team hopes to be as prepared as possible for this season's grand finale, and going into the home stretch, Haluska feels like their volunteer effort was a huge success.

"It's a gentleman's sport," said Haluska, "and they were gentlemen."



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