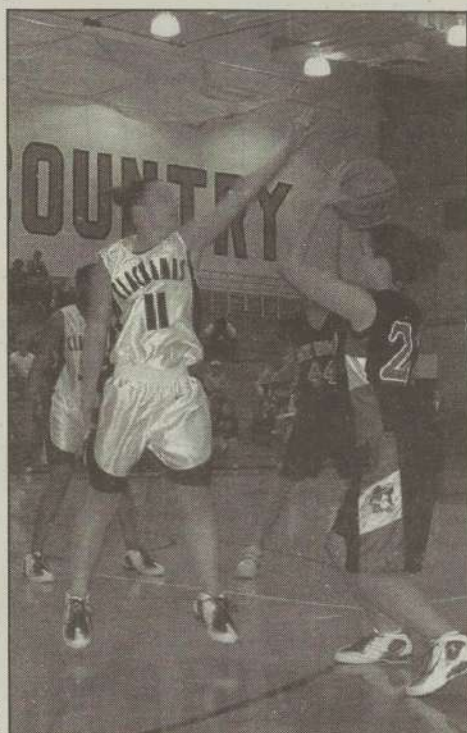


Cougar women aim to defend title



Frank Jordan
The Clackamas Print

Clackamas women's basketball finished the regular season with an impressive 74-43 romp over the Portland CC Panthers last Wednesday and will take the Southern Division's number two seed into the NWAACC Tournament starting tomorrow at the Three Rivers Coliseum in Kennewick, Wash.

"We played exceptionally well, we were really sharp," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "It would have been easy to suffer a letdown after a big win at Umpqua, but the girls got after it from the beginning of the game and played very well."

Rochelle Reeves led the Cougars to the win with 17 points, shooting 8-12 from the floor. LaToya Hill capped an outstanding regular season

with 15 points, nine rebounds, seven assists and three steals, while Kellie Morey, Lindsey Boeckman, L'Trece Prewitt and Emma Ward all contributed eight points in the win. Clackamas shot 50 percent from the floor and held the Panthers to 30 percent shooting.

Portland was led by Ashley Stewart, who scored 11 points and Angela Woolhiser, who had 10 points and five rebounds. Portland finished the season with a 9-18 record overall, 3-11 in the Southern Division.

Clackamas will take their 23-6 overall record to the NWAACC tourney, where they will try to defend their first championship trophy won last season. The tournament is never an easy task, but Martineau believes his team has as good a chance as anyone, and is eager to get underway on Thursday.

"We are playing right now as well as we have played all season. Lane will probably be

the favorite, but we got placed in a good bracket. It all comes down to how we play. We have picked a good time to be playing our best ball. All of the girls are healthy right now, and we feel we have grown a lot as a group. We just

want to go to Kennewick and have some fun and take it one game at a time.

"This tournament is a reward for the teams who have put in the time and effort all season, and this team is no exception. But we have a goal in mind: That is to win it all. This is what we play for.

"This is what we play for. If we play well, we will be contenders for the title."

Jim Martineau
Women's Head Coach,
on going to the
NWAACC Tournament

If we play well, we will be contenders for the title."

Clackamas will open NWAACC tournament play on Thursday, March 3, with an 8 a.m. game against the Highline CC Thunderbirds, the number three seed from the Western Division. Highline finished the season with a record of 20-8. Go to nwaacc.org for more tournament information, including the brackets, game times and teams involved.

Men's ball pounds PCC 96-66

Clackamas wins on the road; next stop the NWAACC post-season

Michael McCormack
Sports Co-Editor

The Cougar Men took the road last Wednesday at Portland Community College, already having clinched a post-season berth, but that didn't restrain them from putting an old-fashioned beat-down on the Panthers of PCC.

"We wanted to win that game badly," said Cougar guard Anthony Mink. "Now we have a two game winning streak going into the playoffs, which gives us momentum at the right time of the season," Cougar guard Anthony Mink said.

The Cougars finally played a game against a team that is more set-up than them. Portland, playing with only five players, was outmatched through the entire game.

"It was nice to play a team that had less depth than us; we were able to use our up-tempo offense to blow open the game in the second half," Associate Head Coach Jim Worden said.

In the first half of play, Clackamas shot over 50 percent, while freshmen Brian Freeman and Jake Kettles set the tone with great execution and scoring on the offensive side.

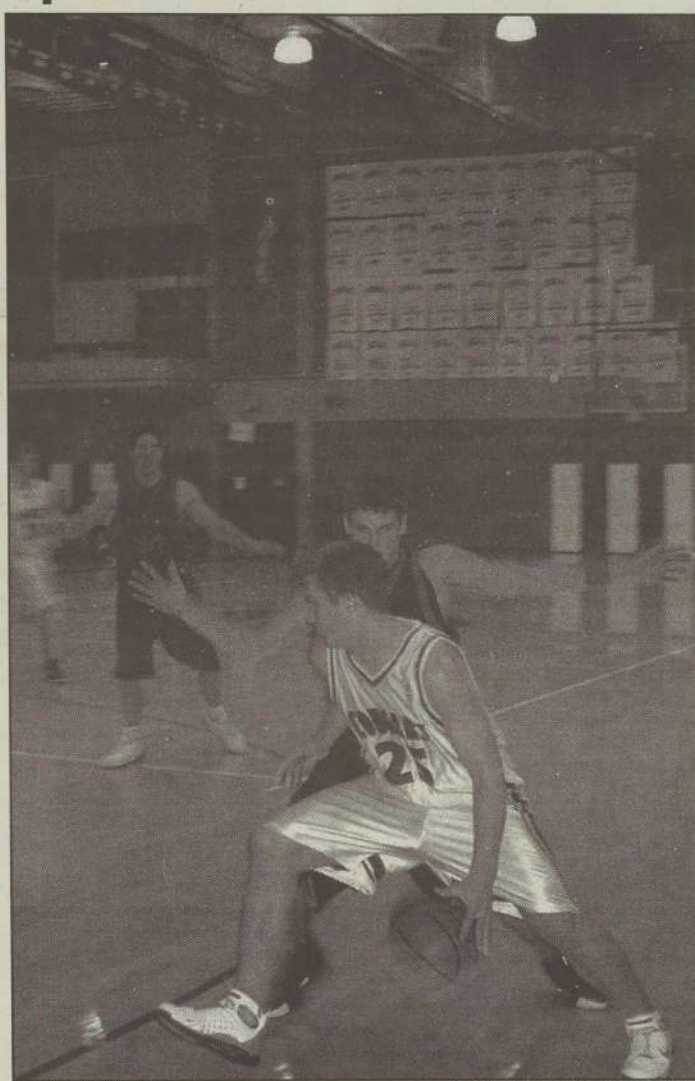
PCC was able to stay close through the first 20 minutes of play with hot shooting from beyond the arc, nailing six three-pointers, nonetheless they still trailed Clackamas 43-33 at the half.

In the second half, the Cougars opened the game up, shooting a blazing 60 percent from the field as the defense clamped down on the Panthers' three-point opportunities.

Kettles arguably played the best game of his young college career, scoring 10 for 10 from the field, scoring 23 points and adding five assists.

Overall, Clackamas had 33 helpers compared to Portland's meekly 13. Most of the Cougar assists were tallied up because of the great all-around play of Freeman.

Freeman finished the game with 24 points on 12 of 13 shooting. Along with his scoring performance he also managed to pull down 19



Stephen Hayes Clackamas Print

Cougars' guard Jake Kettles (25) shot a perfect 10 for 10 from the floor in last week's lopsided victory over PCC.

rebounds and dish out four assists of his own.

"Brian played great," Worden said. "He showed that he can be a dominating player if he keeps his confidence and stays out of foul trouble."

The Cougars dominated every facet of the game. They forced the Panthers into 22 turnovers that led to 27 Clackamas points. CCC out-rebounded their counterpart as well, pulling down 12 more boards, including 13 offensives, leading to 20 second-chance points for Clackamas. The Cougars' dominance helped them beat Portland for a second time this season by a score of 96-66.

This Thursday the NWAACC tourney starts up. The Cougars will

play at 10 a.m. versus Tacoma, the No. 2 seeded team out of the West Division.

"It's going to be a great game," Worden said. "[Tacoma is] really athletic, and that scares us a little bit, but if we execute the way we know we can, we will come out on top," Worden said.

The NWAACC post-season is a two-game elimination style tournament. The winner of the CCC-Tacoma game will play the victor of the Spokane-Everett contest on Friday. The loser of the Cougars game will play the loser of that game.

The tournament will be held at the Three Rivers Coliseum in Kennewick, Wash., and will run through Sunday, March 6.

Wrestlers come home; Cointment takes eighth

Jeff Sorensen
Sports Co-Editor

The Clackamas wrestlers returned home Sunday from the NJCAA national tournament in Minnesota, where Chaz Cointment placed eighth in the 171-lb. weight bracket.

"I don't think he could have wrestled any better," said wrestling team Head Coach Mike Haluska, who is proud of Cointment for fighting his way into the quarter-finals and qualifying as an All-American Wrestler.

Shane Slover also had a good tournament, winning two matches before he was eliminated, and Don Bastings achieved several near-falls in the highly competitive

Heavyweight division

"They all wrestled real well," said Haluska, who was proud of all five of the Cougars who qualified. "We were hoping to get one or two through [to nationals]."

Of the five, Nick Stacks, Shane Slover and Don Bastings are all planning to return next year to add to the nearly 15 returning members of the team. Haluska feels that with as much talent and experience returning next year, there are good things to come.

"I've never had this many quality kids returning [in my career]. We could be in the top 10 [next year]," said Haluska, whose hopes remain high for the future of the team. "We have to be optimistic," he said. "I know I am."

NWAACC/ Horizon Air Coaches' Poll

Men's		Women's	
School	Votes	School	Votes
1. Chemeketa	72 (4)	1. Lane	80 (8)
2. Mt. Hood	72 (4)	2. Umpqua	49
3. Lower Columbia	38	3. Centralia	45
4. Spokane	37	4. Clackamas	43
5. Bellevue	36	5. Walla Walla	35
6. Peninsula	12	6. Columbia Basin	30
7. Yakima Valley	11	7. Lower Columbia	19
8. Clackamas	10	8. Yakima Valley	6
8. Everett	10	This poll March 1 (Final)	
8. Pierce	10	Post-season starts March 3	

50¢
off any coffee
drink
CCC Students &
Employees
(with proof of CCC ID)



465 Portland Ave.
Gladstone, Oregon
97027
503-650-4876

HADDY ROCK
Est. 1999
COFFEE CO.