

to win in the NWAACC tourney



Frank Jordan Clackamas Print

freshman guard Jake Kettles (25) sits on top of the key as Matt Sanders (22) spots up waiting for a pass on the right wing.



Michael McCormack Clackamas Print

Yakima Valley's Siena Locke (22) directs traffic as Clackamas' LaToya Hill (3) keeps a close eye on her during the NWAACC third-place game.

The Cougar women go 3-1 in the NWAACC tournament

Women's basketball coverage by Frank Jordan, the Clackamas Print

On Thursday the women faced Highline Community College and came away victorious

The Clackamas women opened the NWAACC tournament on Thursday with a hard-fought 46-43 win over Highline CC in the Three Rivers Coliseum in Kennewick, Wash.

"It really is tough to play these 8 a.m. games but we pulled out a win," said Coach Jim Martineau. "We played better today than in past tournaments when we had such an early start."

The Cougars jumped out to a quick 10-point lead on the Thunderbirds, but Highline closed the first half on a 10-0 run to only trail Clackamas 29-25 at the break. The Cougars opened the second half on an 11-4 run to take an 11-point lead, but Highline hung tough throughout the second half, but just ran out of time as CCC hung on for the six-point victory.

LaToya Hill led the Cougars with 26 points and eight rebounds. Hill also contributed five assists, three steals and three blocked shots. Vanessa Schmitz and L'Trece Prewitt each had 10 points, with Prewitt snagging eight rebounds as well. Lindsey Boeckman had 10 points off the Cougar bench, as Clackamas shot 40 percent from the floor for the game.

"We didn't shoot very well in the first half, but we had our chances to really pull away from this team," said Martineau. "We had an 11-point lead with four minutes to go, but we missed some foul shots down the stretch and it might have cost us against a better team. Highline is a good team and played us tough."

The Hawks from Columbia Basin College in Tri-Cities ended the Cougars hopes of repeating in the NWAACC tournament on Saturday night in the semi-finals

Columbia Basin College put an end to the Clackamas reign as NWAACC champions with a 61-48 victory in the semifinals of the NWAACC tournament Saturday night at the Three Rivers Coliseum in Kennewick, Wash.

The Hawks, who hail from the Tri-Cities, jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead in the opening two minutes as the Cougars were getting good looks at the basket but couldn't make a shot. Kellie Morey got CCC on the board with a three-pointer, and when Lindsey Boeckman came off the bench and hit a foul-line-high lean-in jumper, it pulled the Cougars to within 7-6 with 12 minutes left in the half.

Columbia Basin then went on to a 13-0 run to take a 20-6 lead. Rochelle Reeves put a stop to the bleeding with a three to get the Cougars within 20-9 at the four-minute mark, then LaToya Hill hit a jumper and Kayla Ohlman hit a shot in close to get CCC within 20-13. The Hawks closed the half with a 9-3 run to take a 29-16 lead to the locker room.

"We don't match up well with them and it showed in that first half," said Coach Jim Martineau. "They got almost everything within 10 feet of the basket and we had a hard time with their big people. It was a tough half of basketball."

Columbia Basin ran out to a 33-18 lead early in the second half, before the Cougars made a run. Reeves hit a foul-line jumper and two three-pointers to get the Cougars to a 35-26 deficit and when Emma Ward hit a three at the 10-minute mark, Clackamas was back in the game, only trailing 42-39.

A 6-0 run by the Hawks stretched their lead back to nine at 48-39, and despite Hill's later efforts, scoring CCC's last nine points, Clackamas came out with a loss.

Hill led the Cougars with 21 points. She also had five rebounds and four assists. Reeves chipped in 10 points and four rebounds while Morey added six points. Clackamas shot 29 percent for the game, including a horrid 6-36 in the first half.

Columbia Basin was led by Kaci Bernsen's 23 points and seven rebounds, while Sarah Dalglish chipped in 19 points and five rebounds. The Hawks shot 48 percent from the floor for the game and out-rebounded the Cougars 44-40.

"Dalglish has improved a bunch; we didn't see her when we played this team in the preseason," said Martineau. "This game reminds me of the NWAACC final last year. We got off to such a slow start, but unlike last year, tonight we were too far behind. The girls really battled tonight and I am really proud of them for their effort. They have done it all year, but hopefully they will learn something from tonight's result."

The Cougars advance to the semi-finals with a 48-46 victory over the Spokane Sasquatch

Friday afternoon in the Three Rivers Coliseum in Kennewick, Wash., the Cougar women faced off against the Spokane Sasquatch in an NWAACC quarterfinal, and the Cougars jumped out to an early 10-point lead and held on for a 48-46 victory.

LaToya Hill had it going early in the game, scoring 10 points to help stake CCC to a 20-10 lead. But Clackamas kind of relaxed after that, only scoring one more point in the final eight minutes of the half as Spokane closed to within two points at the halftime break, 21-19.

"We just relaxed after taking the lead and the girls let Spokane back into it," said Coach Jim Martineau. "We let them dictate the tempo and we played into it very well."

Hill helped keep the Sasquatch at bay in the second half, scoring 15 of her game-high 25 in the final stanza to help CCC pull out the victory. Hill was 11-21 from the floor, including 3-5 from behind the three-point arc to lead the Cougars. Kellie Morey had eight points and four rebounds, while Vanessa Schmitz, L'Trece Prewitt and Emma Ward contributed four points each. Prewitt and Hill each grabbed five rebounds to lead the Cougars off the glass. The Cougars shot 43 percent for the game from the floor.

Spokane was led by Jackie Albi, who scored 12 points and snared eight rebounds, while Kristin Hilgert and Abby Shephard each chipped in with 10 points.

"We played alright; we weren't spectacular, but we played well enough to pull it out," said Martineau. "We're in the semis, so we must be doing something right."



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The Clackamas women's team relaxes for a photo shoot after their victory over Yakima Valley. (left to right:) Asst. Coach Trina Rogers, L'Trece Prewitt, Kellie Morey, Kayla Ohlman, Lindsey Boeckman, Kory Waterland, Rochelle Reeves, Beth Rossos, Emma Ward, LaToya Hill, Kasie Elliot, Head Coach Jim Martineau, Vanessa Schmitz and Asst. Coach P.J. Martineau.