

Softball team suffers two strikes

Cougars lose two games to NCC in their season opener

Frank Jordan
Clackamas Print

The Clackamas softball team ended the 2005 season last Thursday with a doubleheader loss to Northwest Christian College in Eugene by scores of 9-5.

"They [NCC] were really good in the first game and we hadn't seen that kind of play showed. I think that we were kind of nervous, being in the first game action of the year," said Head Softball Coach Paul Marlow. "It also did not help that the first game umpire had a six-foot strike zone. Holly [Marlow]

had a heckuva time finding it and she walked the first three hitters she faced. One error later, and we were down 2-0. We couldn't catch up."

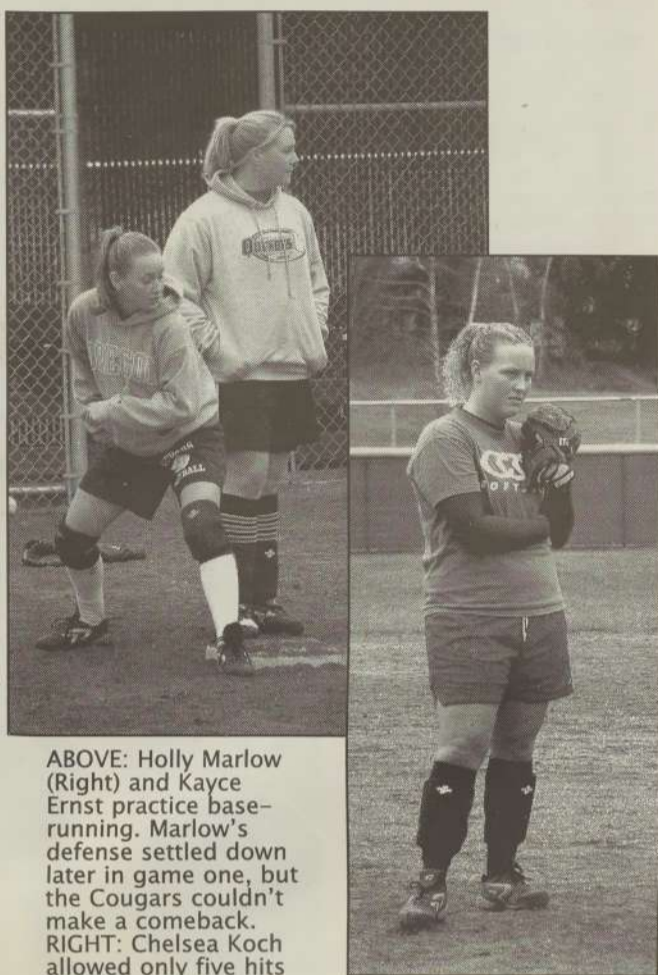
Clackamas did fight back for a couple of runs on six base hits in the game and their defense settled down after the first two innings, not committing an error in the rest of game one of the doubleheader. Marlow took the loss on the mound for the Cougars.

Game two, unfortunately, was more of the same as the Cougars committed four errors in a 9-5 loss. Chelsea Koch was on the mound for Clackamas in game two, but threw five walks in her six innings of work and they would come back to haunt her as the Cougar defense showed some more early season jitters.

Koch only allowed five hits in the game.

Freshman Lanea Hyland led the Cougars on the day with four hits, including two doubles, while sophomore Cijay Koanui had three hits. Casey Middagh also had three hits, including two doubles, Christina Roberti had two hits and Caitlin Ooley went 2-3 with two singles in the second game.

The Cougars will take on Concordia University in a doubleheader today at 2 p.m. at Delta Park in north Portland. The Cougars will take part in the NWAACC Preseason Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20 in Pasco, Wash. The first home game is Tues., March 29 against Grays Harbor College starting at 2 p.m. on the Cougar softball diamond.



ABOVE: Holly Marlow (Right) and Kayce Ernst practice base-running. Marlow's defense settled down later in game one, but the Cougars couldn't make a comeback. RIGHT: Chelsea Koch allowed only five hits in game two, but the Cougars couldn't catch up.

Photos by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Cougars settle in for promising season

Isaiah Creel
Editor-in-Chief

With a pair of split double-headers over the weekend in The Dalles to open the baseball season, the Clackamas Cougars are optimistic about their potential.

"We're a solid team right now," sophomore pitcher Bryan Goff said. "We're this close to being good."

Goff pitched a solid six innings during the Cougars' first game against Skagit Valley on Saturday. He relieved Goff in the seventh and finished out the game to get the

win in extra innings. Mike Veselik hit a grounder in the 10th to put D.J. Johnson in scoring position after Johnson walked on four balls. A single from first baseman Robert Badilla scored Johnson, giving the Cougars a 4-3 victory.

"We just scratched and clawed," said Goff. "[We] just fought tooth and nail."

The second Skagit Valley game resulted in a 3-1 loss for the Cougars, with Jason Hart picking up the loss.

"We're an average pitching team with the ability to be really good," remarked Head Coach Robin Robinson.

On Sunday, an impotent Cougars team lost its first game against Centralia by a final score of 6-1, but came back strong in the second game, shutting out Centralia 8-0. Tyler Liebelt had two hits, as did Mike McNally, who also contributed an RBI. Josh Breslaw had a hit and two RBIs of his own, while Badilla had an RBI and a single as well.

"We have some good sophomores this year, but we're a young team," said Robinson. "This is the best group of guys in terms of character we've had in a long time."

The Cougars' next game is at Lower Columbia this Friday at 8 p.m.



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Goff (shown here at a recent practice) started on the mound for game one on Saturday against Skagit Valley. Goff pitched six straight innings and contributed to one of two wins.

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