

Inconsistent play plagues Cougars

Michael McCormack
Sports Editor

The 2005 baseball campaign for Clackamas has had its share of ups and downs this season sporting an 11-9 record through the first 20 games, but Coach Robbie Robinson says what has to be done to make the season successful.

"We're hitting .220 as a team. Guys are hitting for the power and not using their hitting intelligence," Robinson said. "We need timely hitting and guys to come through when we have men on."

Throughout the month of March Clackamas played in numerous NWAACC tournaments, including a championship appearance in the Columbia Basin tourney in which they lost 10-0 to host Hood Community College. Before the loss Clackamas tallied up four wins in the tournament's previous games.

On March 31 division play began with Clackamas heading south to Eugene to take on Lane Community College. In the first game the Cougars were able to force extra innings, but lost in the 10th. Lucas Pfaller contributed two of the four Cougar hits, and Josh Breslaw drove in the only two Clackamas runs. The inconsistent hitting cost the Cougars the win. The night game of the double-header was rained short because of darkness. The score at the time of suspension was 3-3; the Cougars will finish up the game

this Saturday when Lane visits Clackamas.

"Defensively we are playing really well. We're continuing to get better, but our play is inconsistent," Robinson said. "We're getting better at playing small ball, but we need to be consistent every day."

On April 2 the Cougars took on the top team in the division, Mt. Hood CC. Clackamas showed the league that they are a team to be reckoned with by beating Hood in both games of the double dip. In the first game Jason Hart got the win in a relief appearance, while Mike Veselick tallied two hits, while DJ Johnson had three RBIs in the 12-5 victory. In the second game Howard "Hap" Purden pitched a complete game allowing six hits in an 8-4 win. Veselick again came through with two more base knocks and Frank Palletta added three RBIs giving Clackamas a well deserved victory.

"Hap has been one of our top guys, he has really exceeded our expectations," Robinson said.

The following week Clackamas had a pair of double-headers against league foes Chemeketa and Linn-Benton. In the first game versus Chemeketa sophomore pitcher Travis Galbraith threw a complete game shut-out, striking out six, including four backward Ks. Tyler Liebelt went one for three and knocked in one run helping preserve a 2-0 victory. In game two

Clackamas wasn't able to find the holes in the Chemeketa defense, getting only four hits while in route to a 4-2 loss.

In the games against Linn-Benton, Clackamas again showed inconsistency in their play, splitting the games with a 6-5 loss and a 10-0 win.

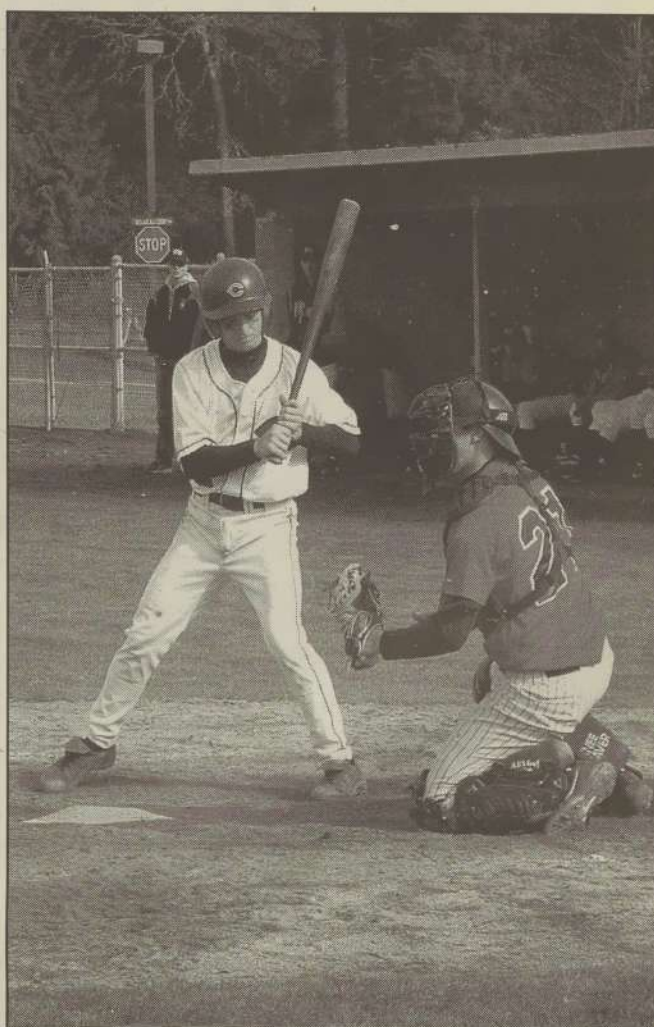
"We have to play consistent everyday," Robinson expressed. "We come out and sweep Hood, and begin to think that maybe we finally put it all together, but then come back and split games against teams that we need to beat."

In the 10-0 win, Purden showed off his arm again with another complete game, allowing LBCC to get only get two hits. Linn-Benton didn't help their cause in the field either, committing eight errors.

Clackamas was to play two games versus SWOCC on Tuesday, but they were cancelled due to weather. The next scheduled games are this Saturday when Lane comes to town. The Clackamas players are still optimistic for the season, and while their optimism mounts, their team camaraderie is only getting stronger.

"We're playing better than we were last season due to our great team chemistry. Egos got in the way last year, but this year everyone shows up on time and everyone wants to be here," Purden said. "One thing we need to do is sweep the teams we can sweep and we will be in good shape."

Saturday's first game will begin at 1 p.m.



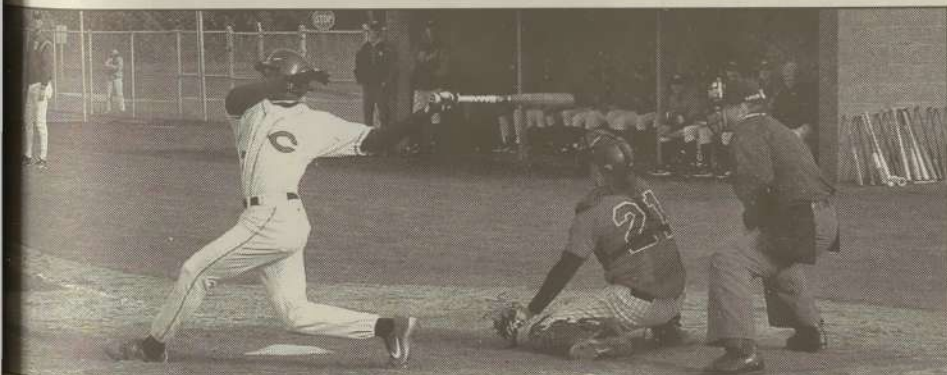
Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Lucas Pfaller takes a pitch in a recent home game versus Mt. Hood Community College. Pfaller reached base six times in the double-header helping the Cougs walk away with two wins.



Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Robert Badilla (19) looks on as Mike McNally (32) dives into home safely. Below: Cougar Designated Hitter DJ Johnson takes a hack at a pitch delivered from Mt. Hood.



Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Men take first at relays

Jimi McDonnell
The Clackamas Print

On Saturday, the Clackamas Cougar track team traveled to Willamette University to compete in the Mt. Hood relays, and once again did very well.

The women's team had two second-place finishes in both the distance medley relay, with a time of 13:05.74, and the 4x800 meter relay, recording a time of 10:39.84. The women also placed fourth in the 4x200 meter relay with a finishing time of 1:54.49.

The Cougars' Erin Shafer placed first in the women's pole vault with a height of 11'6". Emma Ward won the long jump with a leap of 16'8.75". Following Ward in second place was Shafer, with a jump of 16'.75". Miranda Carter also displayed her talent by taking third in the pole vault with a height of 10'3".

The Lady Cougars finished in the middle of the pack, taking fourth in the relays with an overall score of 60. The men's track team, however, finished first in the overall team rankings with a score of 142.

The Cougar men placed first in both the distance medley relay, with a time of 10:56.53, and the 4x800 relay, with a time of 8:18.96. In addition to those relays, they finished first in the 4x100 relay for throwers, with a time of 51.26 seconds. The men finished second in both the 4x100 relay, with a time of 43.80, and the 4x400 relay, with a time of 3:24.52. They took third in the 4x200 relay with a time of 1:35.62.

Troy Sexton, Lucas Ohmes, and Jon Nelson placed first, second and third, respectively, in Saturday's 110-meter hurdles, with times of 15.31, 16.32, and 17.01, simply leaving the competition in the dust. Other first-place finishers in Saturday's meet were pole-vaulter Sean Jones, who recorded a height of 15'8", and Dave Arndt in the hammer throw, with a heave of 150'1".

The track season started on March 1 and will end on May 26. The Cougar team has reached the halfway mark of the season this week, and has a lot to be proud of.

"On the women's side we are about the same as last year and are probably somewhere in the middle of the overall standings, but we do have a few girls to watch out for," Head Coach Jack Keggs said. "As far as the men go, we are significantly better and should finish in the top three, due to the fact that last year we had 22 freshmen and brought back 22 of them."

The Clackamas track team is by no means shabby, and can only get better as the season progresses. As far as bringing home some hardware at the end of the season, Keggs said, "We have brought home a trophy the past five years, and would like to continue that trend."

Do you have questions or comments about sports at Clackamas or around the world? Maybe you have an argument that can't be settled or a certain opinion on a controversial topic relating to the sports world? Send a letter to our Sports Editor: sportsed@clackamas.edu