

# Softball continues winning ways



Cory Price Clackamas Print

Clackamas ace Holly Marlow struck out 13 batters in one game last week; Marlow also tossed three three-hitters in Cougar victories.

## Frank Jordan

The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas softball team went 4-1 last week, sweeping South Puget Sound CC, splitting two games with defending NWAACC champion Lower Columbia College and shutting out Mt. Hood CC in a single game on Friday.

April 19, the Cougars traveled to Olympia, Wash. to take on South Puget Sound and ended up taking two from the Clippers by scores of 8-1 and 14-2.

Holly Marlow continued her outstanding season on the mound, tossing a three-hitter in game one, striking out 13 Clippers and walking only two. She gave up an unearned run in the first, and then mowed down SPSCC the rest of the way.

Kelly Stratton went 3-4 at the plate with an RBI to lead the Cougar offense while Anna Alcalá went 2-4 and Nikki Winkley went 1-3 with two RBI.

Game two was more of the same as the two after the Clippers were tied at Cougars and the fifth before the Cougars scored six runs in each of the last two innings for the 14-2 win.

Casey Middagh supplied the power, going 4-4 with two home runs, a solo shot in the sixth and a two-run blast in the seventh. Cijay Koanui was the difference in the game, however, with a grand slam in the sixth to blow the game open.

"We were having some problems in the field in the first part of the game, and after an error allowed SPSCC to tie the game at two, we

called a time-out and talked about it," said Head Coach Paul Fiskum. "The girls got their collective heads together, shook off the lapses on defense and came out inspired at the plate in the sixth. After that, the ball game was over."

Last Wednesday, the Cougars took over Lower Columbia to defeat the Lady Red Devils in game one by a score of 3-1. Marlow threw another three-hitter, walking three and striking out seven.

The game was a real pitcher's duel through five innings, before the Cougars came alive in the sixth. Caitlin Ooley walked and Middagh sacrificed Ooley to second. Ooley went to third on a fielder's choice then Erin Snyder sent a shot to third that the LCC third baseman misplayed, allowing Ooley to score the tying run.

Clackamas took the lead in the seventh as Christina Roberti doubled down the left-field line, Koanui moved Roberti to third on a fielder's choice and Ooley singled Roberti home for the 2-1 lead. Middagh gave the Cougars insurance with a single to score Ooley and the 3-1 lead. Marlow mowed down the Red Devil hitters in the bottom of the seventh and the 3-1 Cougar victory.

Snyder led the offense with a 2-3 showing and an RBI while Ooley and Middagh each had a base hit and an RBI with Ooley scoring twice.

Game two saw the Cougars not quite as sharp but still very competitive, keeping the game close until a Red Devil uprising in the sixth.

Lower Columbia scored four runs in two hits and two CCC errors for a 6-1 lead and coasted to a 7-3 win.

Roberti went 2-3 in game one with an RBI, while Ooley went 1-3 at the plate. Chelsea Koch went 1-3 with six hits with three strikeouts and two walks. Unfortunately, Koch could not survive the four errors behind her and took the loss.

Last Friday, the Cougars were Gresham to take on the Lady S from Mt. Hood CC and used a run explosion in the top of the first to take a 7-0 victory.

After a Koanui groundout to off the game, the Cougars got a single from Ooley, a double by Middagh, a two-RBI double from Lanca Hyland, a single by Snyder and a three-run home run over the right-center fence by Winkley for the 5-0 lead. An RBI single in the fourth by Hyland and an RBI double by Koanui in the fifth rounded out the scoring.

Marlow tossed her third three-inning game of the week, striking out seven and walking three to pick up her second victory. Hyland went 3-4 at the plate with two hits and Middagh each had two hits. Kayce Ernst also contributed with two sacrifice bunts at moments in the game to aid Cougar offense.

Game two with Mt. Hood was rained out and will be made tomorrow in Gresham. Clackamas travels to Aberdeen, Wash., Friday to play Grays Harbor College, before coming home to take on Southwest Oregon State on Saturday. Game one starts at 2 p.m. on the Cougar softball mound.

## Race card being dealt in sports

### Michael McCormack

Sports Editor

Is race becoming an issue on how America views the sports world? Is being an African-American plaguing players in the professional ranks? Or is it just blind ignorance and an easy scapegoat?

In some people's eyes, the color of an athlete's skin is an issue, and not the way they play the game or handle themselves outside the field of play. Playing the "race card" has become an excuse in the media and for athletes as well.

Earlier this month, Jermaine O'Neal of the Indiana Pacers expressed his thoughts on an age limit proposal by NBA Commissioner David Stern. The NBA is considering making the minimum age a player can come into the league 20 years old; right now, 18 is the limit.

"As a black guy, you [this age limit] is coming up," O'Neal said. "If I can go to the U.S. Army and fight the war at 18, why can't you play basketball for 48 minutes and go home?"

After the interview, O'Neal said he wasn't playing the race card, and that he was just talking about the facts and how basketball gives kids an opportunity to excel in life.

Then, Jermaine, why even bring up that being black is the reason Stern made the proposal? Could it be that maybe Stern wants players to be more mature once they get to the NBA? Or maybe the commissioner thinks a college education is a great stepping stone for a player's future after basketball.

I agree with O'Neal, that he had no intentions of making race an issue, but just by say-

ing it made him look like the bad guy. In the past decade players have been coming out of high school and going straight to the NBA in record numbers, but not all of them make an impact until their third or fourth season in the league; O'Neal didn't become an All-star until his fifth season in the league. I think the NBA is trying to help players mature more as human beings by going to college. The only color that really matters in this issue is green, and by green I mean money.

Another person who has thrown race into the mix of how athletes are perceived is syndicated talk show host Rush Limbaugh.

Two years ago, Limbaugh said that the media was hyping up Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb because they (the media) wanted to see a black quarterback succeed. What an ignorant statement; how can someone so credible, make a statement so dumb? I think the reason why McNabb is so highly touted by the media is because he is one helluva QB, not because he is black, Mr. Limbaugh.

The race card was played again this past football season when the Colts Head Coach Tony Dungy made a state-

ment about the Terrell Owens skit on Monday Night Football. You know, the one where Nicollette Sheridan takes off her towel and tries to seduce Owens into missing his game.

Dungy found this skit to be "racially offensive," and that it had played into the black stereotype that African-Americans lack fidelity with relationships.

What was Dungy high on when he made this statement? Again, could it be that ABC wanted one of the NFL's premier players for this spot, and being that T.O. is such a flamboyant character he would fit the role perfectly. I doubt when this skit was being drawn up, the producer said, "We should get a black man lusting over a white woman." Come on now Tony, let's be realistic here. Race is not the issue.

Whether or not O'Neal, Dungy and Limbaugh meant to play a race card is up to them, but by making comments like these, they make themselves look like the racist. Race isn't an issue anymore in professional sports. The players are where they are because they are good players and people just want to see them succeed in life and on the field of play. I hope that in the future these men, and others as well, will think before they speak, because all their comments do is make them associated with playing a "race card."



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