

Cougars get two wins with tough pitching

Michael McCormack
Editor

The Cougars' baseball season has had its share of ups and downs, but last week proved to be different, with Clackamas splitting a pair of doubleheaders against league foes Chemeketa and Linn-Benton.

On Thursday the Cougars headed to Salem to take on the Roadrunners, and in the game Travis Galbraith pitched his best game of the season.

Galbraith seems to just dominate Chemeketa every time he goes out, and he did once again on Thursday, "Hap" Purden said. Galbraith pitched flawlessly,

allowing just four hits and no earned runs in eight innings of solid work. However, the Cougar bats were lost, getting only one hit in the contest, which came off the bat of Lucas Pfaller in the first.

The unearned run, which evolved from a Tyler Liebelt error in the sixth, allowed the Chemeketa batter to advance to third and eventually score on a single. The Cougars lost the game 1-0.

Liebelt is the everyday left fielder for Clackamas, but due to injuries he has had to make the shift into the infield and play third base.

"I feel for Tyler; he hasn't played third at all this season, and when he did play in the infield he was a second baseman," Coach Jim Hoppel said. "That's a very tough transition."

In game two the Cougars got another solid pitching performance, this time coming from the arm of Jason Hart. Hart didn't allow Chemeketa a run in five innings of work and was relieved by Joe Cole in the sixth. Clackamas was able to put two runs on the board late in the game, while Cole didn't allow a run in two innings of relief.

In the top of the sixth the Cougars got their first run onto the board with a double by Matt Riemer, followed up by an RBI single from Mike McNally. The Cougars were able to add another run in the seventh when Frank Palletta knocked in Zack Rienhardt, giving the Cougars the well-deserved victory.

On Saturday, Clackamas made another trip south and visited the Linn-Benton Roadrunners. In the

first game, Brian Goff got the start and pitched well for the Cougars, but doing well wasn't enough to get the win.

The Cougars got on the board first, getting three hits in the first inning and scored two runs. However, the Roadrunners came back with three runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning and Clackamas was never able to regain the lead.

"[Linn-Benton] didn't hit the ball hard, they just found the holes, and that's what killed me," Goff said. "I think I'm cursed. I've been pitching well; I just can't find a break."

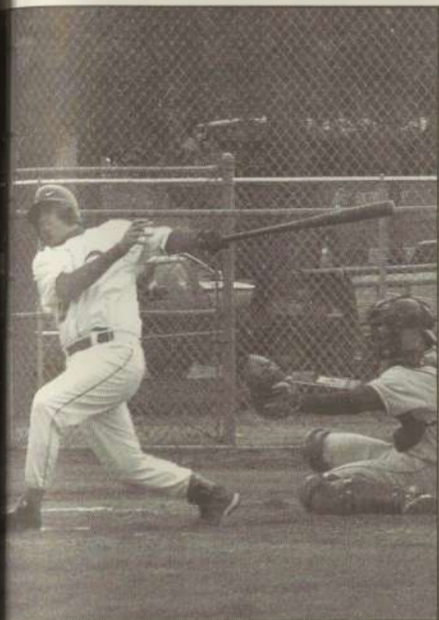
McNally led the Cougars' offense with three hits and an RBI, while Brandon Zornado pitched in two hits of his own in the Cougars' 7-3 defeat.

In game two, the stellar pitching got back on track for Clackamas, when Purden took a no-hitter into the sixth, and earned the victory in a 3-0 shutout.

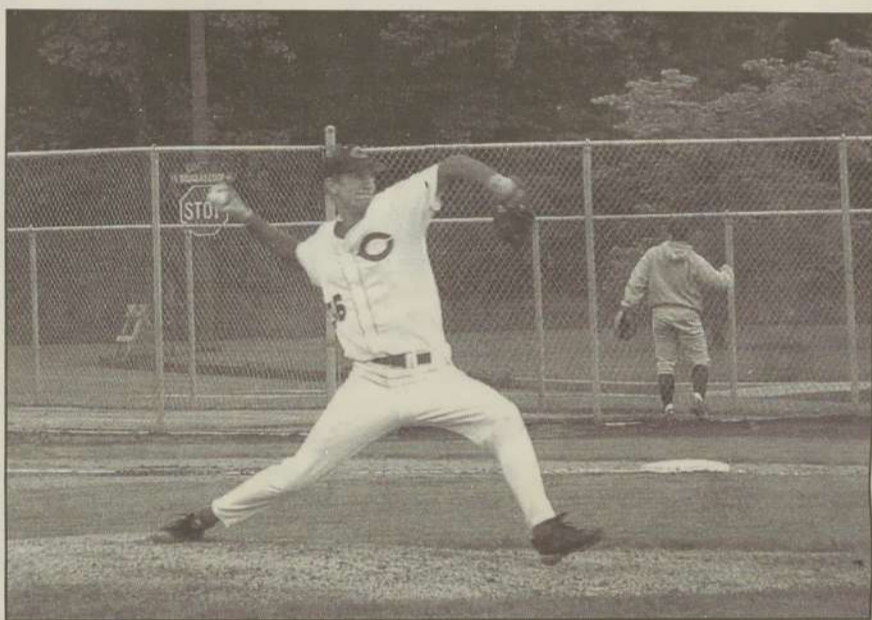
The Cougars scored one run in the first, third and fifth innings and accumulated seven hits throughout the contest. Palletta, Pfaller and Riemer led the way with two hits apiece, not to mention Palletta knocking in two of the three Cougar runs.

The Cougars missed the playoffs this season, but fought all the way to the end. If they had swept all four games last week, they would have had a chance to take over third and a shot at a playoff tiebreaker.

The Cougars will complete their season this week when Southwestern Oregon CC comes to town.



Travis Galbraith (right) threw his best game of the season last week versus Chemeketa, but was unable to get the victory in the Cougars' 1-0 loss. The Cougars split a pair of doubleheaders last week and have two games remaining on their schedule. Robert Badilla (left) hits a ball down the leftfield line in a recent home game. Badilla has been a bright spot for the Cougars' offense this season, which has seen better days.



All photos by Michael McCormack Clackamas Print

Strong performances give Cougar athletes shot at NWAACC's

Michael McDonnell
Clackamas Print

On Saturday, Cougar athletes traveled south to Eugene to compete in the Southern Region Championships. It is the last meet of the season before the NWAACC Championships.

"I thought we really competed well, considering we have some key athletes out due to injuries," said Coach Kegg.

How did the Cougars compete well? For the past week in a row, the result sheets show pages full of both national or seasonal bests, and this weekend, 18 Clackamas athletes did just the same.

Probably the most impressive event was the men's 110-meter hurdles, where Troy Ohmes, Lucas Ohmes and Hoppie finished first, second and third, respectively.

Our men sprinters have been very consistent; we got some solid guys who might surprise some people at the NWAACC Championships," said Kegg.

Once again, Clackamas athlete David Arndt had an impressive performance and earned a personal best in the shot.

David was the Southern Region's high point-scorer; the total amount of points he earned him the most valuable, "Hap" Kegg.

Arndt placed first in the shot put with a throw of 51 feet, 2.25 inches, his first

throw of the day and the best of his career. He also placed second in the discus with a toss of 151 feet, 10 inches.

The Cougars also got some strong performances out of long-jumpers Kevin Ellingson, Hoppie and Ohmes. All three recorded seasonal bests. Hoppie placed fourth with a jump of 21 feet, 3.5 inches. Ohmes and Ellingson placed sixth and ninth, respectively, with jumps of 20 feet, 11.75 inches and 20 feet, 4.5 inches.

Another one of the men that had a great outing was Josh Cain. Cain ran the 100-meter dash in 11.16 seconds, which was good for third. His effort was also good enough to qualify for the NWAACC Championships.

"Our men competed really well on Saturday. We were looking to score around a total of 191 points and we exceeded that by scoring 195. We did really well," Kegg said.

The Cougar men took second in the overall team rankings at the Southern Region Championships and showed that they can be a threat at the NWAACC's.

Women that did well this weekend were Miranda Carter, Erin Shafer, Jessica Harper and Tiffany Passi. Carter took second in the pole vault, recording a height of 10 feet, 10 inches, which was also a season's best.

Shafer also recorded a season's best and took sixth in the triple jump with a jump of 32

feet, 10 inches.

Harper ran the 1500-meter and placed second with a time of 4:56.39. Passi placed second as well in the 3000-meter with a finishing time of 11:39.07.

"The women placed about where we expected them to, in fifth. We just don't have the same amount of athletes as

most schools, so it's harder to place at the top," Kegg said.

There will be no upcoming track events for this week or weekend due to the NWAACC championships the following weekend.

"We continue to improve, which adds to our momentum going into the championships,"

said Kegg. "The NWAACC Monthly magazine predicted us to walk away without a trophy, so hopefully we can show them up."

The NWAACC's are held at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, and will take place on Thursday and Friday of next week.

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