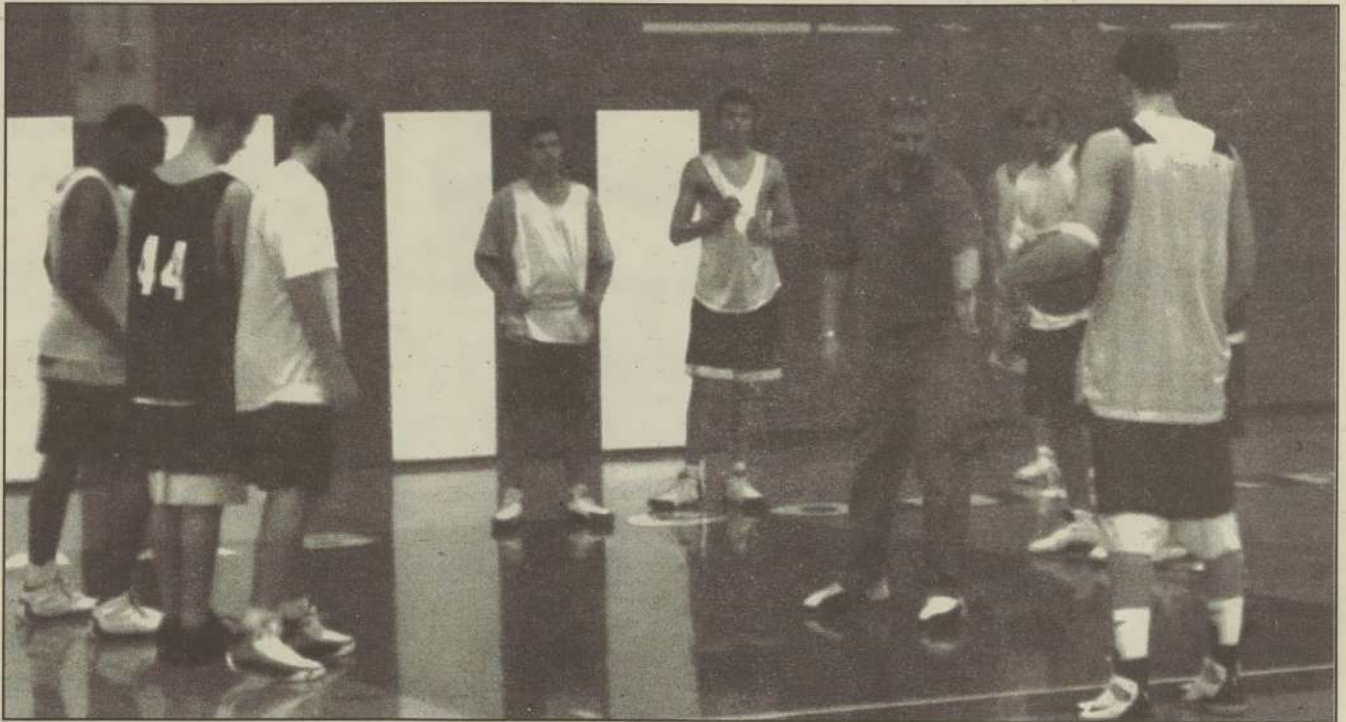


Men's basketball team on the ball

Jim McDonnell
Clackamas Print



Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Men's Basketball team prepares for their upcoming game at Blue Mountain C.C. Though they didn't win the Lower Columbia Tournament, they played a good season and show potential for better to come.

Basketball is upon us and again Clackamas predicts a very strong season. After placing third in the NWAACC a year ago, the Cougars look to redeem themselves this year. This season's season is the same as any other bring home a trophy, possibly a first place trophy.

The Clackamas men started the season with a game against Concordia JV on Nov. 18 here at Clackamas in the Randall Hall gymnasium. And it was ugly... Concordia. The Cougars dominated Concordia, beating them down 100-68.

Clackamas's Ervin Simms led the way for the Cougars, scoring 21 points and snatching 12 rebounds, but he wasn't the only one with a double-double. Micah Mooney also had a double-double with 12 points and nine rebounds. And the Cougars' Steven Johnson made his presence felt finishing with 17 points and five steals.

After the murder of Concordia Clackamas focused on their opponent, Clark C.C., in the Lower Columbia Tournament. The Cougs were faced with a team that was still able to hold them off, winning the game 92-89. But this time it was Mooney leading the way with 16 points and 10 rebounds, and another double-double.

Clackamas advanced to the next round. In the second round the Cougars faced a very good Eastern Utah squad that was able to pull out a win beating the Clackamas Cougars 83-78. This time the scoring and rebounding, two of the Cougars biggest

strengths, just weren't where they should have been. Clackamas went on the play Olympic C.C. in the loser's bracket and showed that they didn't like being there, beating Olympic by 10 points. And it was Mooney again having a solid game, 17 points and nine

boards, along with teammate David Cernan, 19 points, that got the job done for Clackamas. Although they were unsuccessful at winning the Lower Columbia Tournament and coming home with first place, the Cougars showed signs of being a force in the NWAACC. Mooney

averaged a double-double, and Cernan, Simms and Vaughn seem to be great contributors as well, leading to the hopes of an extremely successful season to come. The Cougar's next game is an away at Blue Mountain C.C. on Dec. 2, at 7 p.m.

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Women's basketball looks to improve

Frank Jordan
The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas women's basketball team has jumped out to a 3-1 start in the 2005-06 season and hopes to improve on its third-place finish at last season's NWAACC tournament.

"I am really excited for this season. We have a chance to be as good or even better than last season's team," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "On paper, we have a good-looking team, with seven returnees from last year and four promising freshman who look to contribute."

Starting guards from last season will return for their sophomore seasons, LaToya Hill, Rochelle Reeves and Kellie Morey. Those three supplied 65 percent of the offense last season, but they look to help the team in other areas with the addition of some talented freshman scorers.

Charday Hunt, a 6'0" forward from Tigard, Kellyn Cooper, a 6'1" post from Corvallis and Monique Tribble, a 6'2" post from Coquille, have added a component not seen from a Cougar team in a long time: an inside presence.

"We now have an ability to score inside, something that we just didn't have last season," said Martineau. "It gives us a luxury to be able to score inside and outside, which will enable us to shoot a higher percentage and come away with a few more easy buckets inside. It's a nice luxury to have."

Emma Ward, a 5'5" guard from Clackamas and Kayla Ohlman, a 5'11" post from Estacada, provide some sophomore experience and leadership off the bench and along with guard Heather Rightley, a 5'6" freshman guard from St. Helens, form the Cougar presence off the bench. All three girls will be called on to

provide help in the up-tempo offense that Martineau employs.

"We are very happy on how we finished last season, basically taking a whole new group of girls and taking them to a third-place finish at the NWAACC tourney," said Martineau. "That experience, along with some new inside help, will make it very interesting on seeing how this group does. One thing is certain: this will be a fun group to watch. If they mesh well, we will do some damage in our division and possibly, at the NWAACC tournament."

The first chance for Clackamas fans to see the new version of Lady Cougar basketball will be this Saturday, at 4 p.m., when Clackamas takes on Blue Mountain CC in the Randall Hall gym. The first league game will be Jan. 11, when the Lady Cougars take on Portland CC in the Randall Hall gym beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming year in sports

Kenny Stephenson
Contributing Writer

It looks like it's going to be another busy winter for sports here at Clackamas. For this upcoming term, men's and women's basketball are starting, as well as our wrestling program.

Athletic Director Jim Jackson says the men's basketball team has some returning players, including three starters, but a few key veterans have been slowed due to injuries. The men's team will bring their 27-year consecutive win streak and look to have their seventh consecutive 20-win season.

The women's basketball team has a good mix of returning players and freshman that should make for what Jackson calls "a solid group." The women's team, who took third in the conference tournament last year, will also look to duplicate their success.

Both basketball teams compete in the NWAACC with other schools such

as Lane, Chemeketa, Umpqua and Mt. Hood, making it a very competitive league.

"It has gone down to the wire the last few years," Jackson said about recent seasons, with our Cougars moving on to the tournament each of the last five years.

The Clackamas wrestling team is in Region 18 of the National Junior College Athletic Association. There are not very many teams in Region 18, but Jackson has high hopes.

"I think that four or five of the teams in Region 18 will be in the top 10 in the nation," Jackson said.

There were many "red shirts" from last year that are ready to step up this year.

"The wrestling team has the chance to be the best it has been in about 10 years!" said Jackson.

Before Winter Term is over, the spring sports will start as well. Baseball, softball, and track & field start on Feb. 1.

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"I'm just extremely proud of these girls and how they've come together as a team to pull through the challenges that they did, not just this weekend but this whole season," said Nelson. "These are just some tremendous players and people, and I feel honored to be their coach."

As for next year, all that is known is that the Lady Cougars will be returning nine players from this year, including Hannah Nash, Clackamas's leading scorer, and assist leader Miriam Coto.

"We have some big shoes to fill. We need lots of good new recruits to come in and help, but we do get our leading scorer and assist women back along with a good base of players, so it will be fun," said Nelson.