

Softball suffers through setbacks

Frank Jordan

Clackamas Print

Clackamas softball team about reached the midway of the 2006 season and despite injuries and a pesky flu sitting in pretty good shape at the beginning of the Southern Division season.

"It has been one of the hardest of my career, because of injuries and the illnesses," said Coach Paul Fiskum. "Just think we may have turned something else happens. It's far worse than I could

have ever imagined."

The Cougars are currently 12-8 on the season, including a 6-2 mark in Southern Division play. Clackamas is coming off perhaps their worst outing in several years, getting shut out twice by perennial favorite Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington last week by scores of 9-0 and 8-0.

"We only had nine reasonably healthy players and it really showed. Lower Columbia may have played their best softball of the year, and we just didn't have it," said Fiskum. "(Janelle) Cristofaro is probably our best pitcher, but we made a mistake sending her out to pitch. She was

very sick and she made a valiant attempt to pitch, but we took her out after three batters."

The season reached a low point last weekend as Clackamas had to pull out of the NWAACC Crossover Tournament in Wenatchee, Washington. The Clackamas coaching staff made that hard decision because they would have had only four healthy players to compete.

"We really were upset that we had to make that call, and the NWAACC wasn't overly thrilled with that decision, but we really had no choice," said Fiskum. "We literally have had more players in

urgent care in the last week than we have had on the practice field. It was the only decision that we could make."

Many bright spots have emerged despite the injuries and illness. Sophomore All-American Casey Middagh leads the team with a .465 batting average with 33 hits, three home runs and 24 RBI. Freshman Jennah Cowper is batting .444, while sophomore Erin Snyder has rebounded from an early-season injury to bat .414 in her leadoff role.

The perennially-strong Cougar pitching staff has been devastated by injury and illness. Freshman

Cristofaro is 7-2 with a 2.72 earned run average, but has possibly developed bronchitis in the last week and may have to sit out until healthy. Freshman Lindsay Olin has strep throat and freshman Jamie Torgerson has bronchitis at present, so time off is of the utmost importance.

The Cougars will get some valuable time off this week as they don't play again until this Friday, when they host Chemeketa CC in a doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m. at the Cougar Softball complex. Clackamas hosts Clark College on Saturday starting at 2 p.m., also at the Cougar Softball complex.

Baseball team hot out the gates, struggling in league play



Matt Olson Clackamas Print

First baseman Jake Evans from Clackamas High School goes to Mt. Hood. Evans also serves as the team's designated hitter.

N.P. Delzell

The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas baseball team (3-7 league and 15-11 overall) is off to an up and down start in the NWAACC Southern Division.

Last Thursday, the Cougars split their double header with Linn Benton CC.

In game one Clackamas pulled out the victory 9-4, with Chris Hillard picking up the win. Marcos Quintero and Robert Badilla both went yard in the cougar victory. The Cougars busted out with nine runs off 13 hits and

committed zero errors.

In game two the Cougars suffered a 7-5 loss. Jake Evans was the losing pitcher as the Cougars only had six hits to go along with five errors.

The Cougar diamond men traveled to Coos Bay last Tuesday, and split their double header with SW Oregon CC. In game one the Cougars lost 8-5 with Chad Bennett taking the loss.

In game two, the Cougars picked up the slack and delivered an 11-4 rout with Jesse Jensen picking up the win. Brandon Zorando knocked a home

run for the Cougars, giving them some needed offense.

The Cougars have fared well this season with their overall record over .500. The Cougars opened the season with four wins, sweeping Pierce 11-3, 5-4 and 6-4, 6-5.

"An exciting finish to the (opening) weekend was an extra inning win that involved a pinch hit single by (catcher) Jared Beeler," Head Coach Robby Robinson said.

Yesterday, the cougars played Mt. Hood CC. Results were not available at print time.

Men's and women's track highlights from Chico State Twilight Invite:

Men's 4x400 meter relay-
1st place: 3:26.25 (Kreig, Hand, Mike Jenkins, Sean Trveor Snook)

Men's Long Jump-
1st place: 21-09.00 (Sean ...)
2nd place: 21-08.00 (Mike ...)

Men's Hammer Throw-
4th place: 147-08 (Quinten Baxter)
5th place: 147-05 (Rhys Perkins)

Men's Javelin Throw-
1st place: 194-06 (Mike Simmons)
5th place: 167-01 (Matt LaPlante)

Women's Javelin Throw-
2nd place: 133-07.50 (Jeeni Schantin)

Women's high jump-
3rd place: 5-00.00 (Meaghan Durand)

Women's pole vault-
1st place: 10-00.00 (Trica Bollier)

Bowling team travels to Illinois

Justin Goe

Clackamas Print

The secret is finally out, Clackamas Community College has a nationally ranked bowling team, they are good. Very good. It is good in fact that they made it to the regional championships, they are known as the Sectional Championships in Fairview Heights, earlier last month.

Bowling is seen as a club sport on campus, the 10 student athletes who are a part of the team are seen as an official athletic team of the college. In spite of this, Clackamas team is the only college bowling program in Oregon recognized by the United States Bowling Congress.

They were also ranked No. 32 in the nation and competed against big schools across the country, including universities like Wichita State, and Clackamas Head Coach Scott

How was a former bowler for the national championships.

The team formed earlier this year when How wanted to share the experience of competing nationally with his brother, freshman Randy How. How is now coaching the team of 10 students who, for the most part, came from high schools around the area. The team practiced three nights a week at Milwaukie Bowl, where owner and Co-coach Dave Husted lets them practice for free.

When asked how he thinks the students meshed this year, How stated that "Most of the student athletes bowled on various high school teams around the area, so they have a good feel for what it is to be a team." He added, "Since this is a first year program, the year has been spent seeing how our styles co-exist, and the team has meshed well."

In an interview before the Sectionals, How shared his confidence in his team, saying, "This year was an excellent opportunity

for us to continue getting better." He also stated that he felt "this year I want us to take it as we have everything to gain, and nothing to lose. We are going to go there with no expectations and hope for the best."

Even though they didn't finish in the top four, and in doing so advance to the nationals, How is still happy about how the team competed this year.

"Our team learned a ton this year, and we will try to build off our success this year and work toward next year. We are anxious to work in the summer and come back next year and continue to work as well as we did last year."

How added that he thinks "that we will continue moving forward and progressing, and continue to be a contender for years to come."

With this kind of confidence, there is nowhere for this program to go but up.



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