

# Softball team heals, perseveres

Frank Jordan  
The Clackamas Print

Clackamas softball got healthier last week, winning three out of four games from league opponents Chemeketa CC and Clark College, with Katie King hitting two long home runs against Clark and strong pitching from Janelle Cristofaro and Jamie Torgersen.

The Cougars took on Chemeketa in a home doubleheader Friday, and Clackamas got taken out in game one by the Chief's number-one pitcher and some questionable umpiring in a 3-0 loss.

"Considering the umpiring, we consider this loss to Chemeketa a gift. They only scored one run on us, but that was mostly our fault. Our errors will do that," said Head Coach Paul Fiskum.

"There was a very inconsistent strike zone throughout the game being called and it may have affected us mentally, players as well as the coaches," Fiskum continued. "I wasn't very happy at all and you expect to see that from me to time, just not that blatant."

King was the offensive show in game one as she blasted a three-run homer to momentarily give the Cougars a 3-2 lead in the fifth. Chemeketa scored two runs in both the sixth



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Pitcher Lindsay Olin (left) has the whole world in her hand while fellow pitcher Jamie Torgerson looks on.

and seventh innings to get the victory however. Cristofaro only gave up four hits from the mound, but was hurt by her defense behind her. She fell to 7-3 on the season with the loss.

Game two was a different story as the Cougars exploded for six runs in the first and six runs in the second to take a 12-1 lead after two innings. Torgersen picked up her fifth win of the season on the mound, while

Caitlin Ooley led a balanced offense with two hits and two RBI. Heather Rightley was 2-4, Cotie Howard was 2-3 with two RBI, Kelly Stratton was 2-4 with three RBI, and King blasted another home run, a two-run shot and had four RBI.

The Cougars took on Clark at home Saturday, and in game one, Clackamas got a one-out RBI infield single from Ooley to score Tara Angelone from third to give Clackamas the 1-0 eight-inning victory.

"The Clark pitcher was very tough and we had a real hard time figuring out how to hit her," said Fiskum. "Her fastball was really working and by the time the eighth inning rolled around, we went into our slap-hitting game, just trying to get someone on."

"Tara (Angelone) worked a walk with one out, and she proceeded to steal second. A wild pitch got her to third, and I told her to run on anything hit up the middle," said Fiskum. "Ooley hit a sharp grounder and Tara was off like a shot. She slid under the tag and that was

the ball game. It really is exciting to win those kinds of games."

Cristofaro picked up her eighth win of the season on the hill, giving up only three hits and striking out five in the shutout victory.

Game two was over in a hurry. Clackamas scored three in the first, four in the second and three more in the third enroute to the 12-0 victory. Stratton was the big stick in the lineup, belting a three-run homer in the third to seal the win. Casey Middagh was 3-3 with two RBI and three runs scored; Howard was 2-3 with three runs scored as well. Brianna Mondragon was 2-3 and scored twice, while Stratton was 2-2 and had four RBI in the game.

Torgersen was sharp on the mound, giving up only three hits, striking out four on the way to her first shutout of the season.

"We are coming along pretty nicely, considering all of the trials that this team has gone through recently," said Fiskum. "We are still in second place in the division and we will get better as we enter the home stretch of the season."

Clackamas took on Mt. Hood CC in a home doubleheader yesterday; results were not available at press time. The Cougars go on the road to Coos Bay on Friday to take on Southwestern Oregon CC and to Salem for a rematch with Chemeketa on Saturday.

# Baseball team consistently inconsistent, 16-14 overall

N.P. Delzell  
The Clackamas Print

With an up-and-down NWAACC southern league record, pitching seems to be holding the Clackamas baseball team (4-10 league, 16-14 overall) back, but the offense has carried the load most of the season, Head

Coach Robin Robinson said.

"It's really been a dilemma ... our pitching is good it's just not that consistent," Robinson said.

The diamond men took the field at Chemeketa CC (8-6, 16-13) last week and split their double header. Game one went to Clackamas 10-7.

"We started to hit the ball again," Robinson said. "The guys went back to the way we are supposed to swing a bat."

Game two went to Chemeketa by a score of 5-6, with the Cougar offense knocking eight hits for the game and five homeruns as a team for the series. Marco Quintero, sophomore first baseman, went yard in both games giving him four overall for the season and tying him for third in the NWAACC. Cameron Ferguson and Chris Derthick picked up a win and a loss respectively. Derthick currently has a .82 earned run average, sixth overall in the NWAACC.

The Cougars battled I-205 rival Mt. Hood CC (10-4, 22-7) last Tuesday. The Cougars were routed in game one 14-2, giving up 19 hits to Mt. Hood as well as two homeruns. Game two went to the Cougars 7-5 behind the arm of Ferguson. Quintero added a homer in the win.

"We have been more offensive this year than we have in the past, but we have hit well over the years," Robinson said.

"The game of college baseball with a wood bat is all about the little details and consistency," Robinson said.

Robinson said he has some key sophomores and good freshman that should help the program. He attributes the up and down league play to the southern league's dominance.

"The guys are all feeling good about their play," Robinson said. "The problem is our excellent league."

The Cougars are still over .500, but currently still in the cellar of the NWAACC south. The Cougars battled Linn Benton CC (7-9, 14-14). Results were not available at print time.

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## Sports journalism not for faint of heart

Mike Guidice

Sports Editor

Recently I had the pleasure of having lunch with two well respected sports writers from *The Oregonian* - John Canzano and Ken Goe.

Canzano is the main columnist for the sports section, while Goe primarily covers Pac-10 athletics.

During our conversation I was told of countless adventures and interactions Canzano had experienced during his time as a sports journalist. Canzano's stories ranged from interviews with various Blazers players and management to running a marathon in Greece and hitchhiking with the locals.

I was in awe with all the things Canzano had experienced and accomplished. Travelling around the world attending sporting events, interviewing and meeting athletes is what I have wanted to do since I was as big as Mugsy Bogues (eight or nine years old).

Canzano and Goe eventually did point out something that I can honestly say dis-

couraged and disappointed me. They said that they had lost their love for sports to an extent.

Canzano told me he no longer went to sporting events for fun, and was actually surprised when he found out one of his colleagues still sporadically attended baseball games. They said that by getting behind-the-scenes access to professional athletes they had become jaded and desensitized after encountering so many egotistical, selfish players and being exposed to so many scandals.

Canzano explained how when he first broke into covering sports in California, he tried to interview Barry Bonds when somebody stepped in front of him and told him that if he had any questions he would have to write them out first and then have Bonds review them. Canzano obliged and did what was demanded of him, only to have all his questions dismissed. This was just one instance of an athlete leaving a bad taste in a sports journalist's mouth, and it happens everywhere every day.

I understand sports is a multi-billion dollar business and no longer is seen as simply a form of entertainment, but even with this being said, it saddens and disgusts me to hear about so many ungrateful, disrespectful ball players and the people associated with them.

I'm not completely oblivious to the ways of the world. Living in West Linn I have had multiple discouraging encounters with members of the Trail Blazers. That said, it still bothered me to hear the various accounts from the sports journalists from our area.

I hope I never lose the passion I have for sports. In my future endeavors I'm sure I will run into difficult athletes and disrespectful players, but I can only hope and pray that it doesn't leave me permanently jaded. If I get to the point where I can no longer sit and enjoy a game or root for my favorite player I will know something is wrong.

Over time sports may have become something less than holy, but I always intend to be mixing pleasure with my business as I cover it.