

# Softballers slightly struggling

**Frank Jordan**  
The Clackamas Print

Clackamas softball struggled last week, posting a 3-3 record in Southern Division play and falling into a tie for second in the division. April 25, the Cougars hosted Mt. Hood CC in a doubleheader

and split two games with the Lady Saints, winning game one 4-3 and losing the nightcap 9-3. "We played great in game one, scoring in the bottom of the seventh for a one-run win," said Head Coach Paul Fiskum. "We made a couple of mistakes, but we showed some great mental toughness to overcome those mistakes and pull out a much-needed victory."

Cougar freshman Katie King blasted a three-run home run in the fourth to give Clackamas a 3-1 lead, but Mt. Hood scored two runs in the fifth to tie the game and set up the last inning heroics. Caitlin Ooley led off the seventh with a bunt single, and then she stole second base. Heather Rightley slapped a 2-2 pitch right back to the Mt. Hood pitcher, but

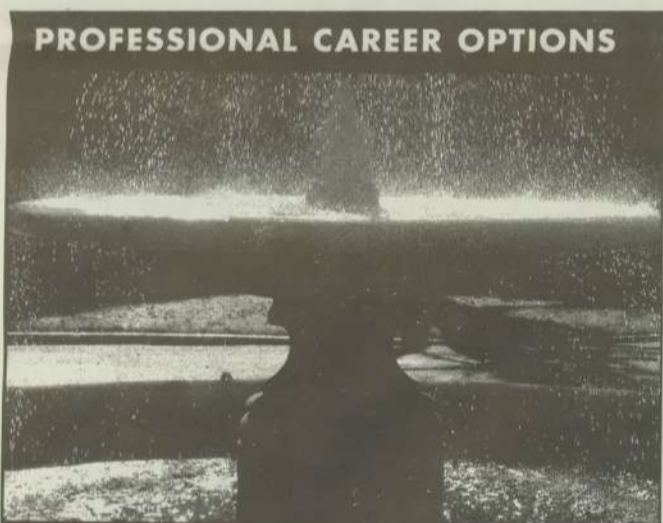
the pitcher overthrew her first baseman on the play, allowing Ooley to score from second with the game-winning run. In game two, Clackamas hit the ball hard the whole game, but none of the shots fell and that bad luck led to the 9-3 second game loss. The Cougars stranded 12 base runners and committed three errors in the field, contributing to the loss.

To make matters worse, Cougars pitcher Kelly Stratton was thrown out of the game in the seventh for arguing with the umpire, only the fourth time Fiskum has been ejected from a game in his 17-year coaching career. Friday, the Cougars traveled to Coos Bay to take on Southwestern Oregon CC and the Cougars' game came alive in an 11-6, 18-8 sweep of the Lakers.



Photos by Matt Olson Clackamas Print

Brianna Mondragon swings the aluminum in an attempt to get a hit versus Mt. Hood. Mondragon was team MVP while playing for Clackamas High School two years ago.



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A Mt. Hood player slides in safely behind the tag of catcher Kelly Stratton. Stratton was a three sport athlete in high school.

"We hit the ball extremely well all afternoon; it was great effort up-and-down the lineup," said Fiskum. "We got great pitching from James Torgersen and Lindsay Olin." Game one stars were Kelly Stratton, who was 2-4 at the plate, and Anna Alcalá, who saw her first action in two weeks and went 3-5. In game two, Erin Snyder was 3-5 and Casey Middagh tore up Mt. Hood pitching with a 4-5 effort, including two doubles and a triple, driving in six runs. Saturday, the Cougars traveled to Salem to take on Chemeketa CC. The Lady Chiefs sent Clackamas packing with a doubleheader sweep of scores of 8-0 and 5-2.

"Chemeketa's top pitcher faced us in game one and showed why she is one of the top pitchers in the NWAAC. She completely shut us down throughout," said Fiskum. "We hit the ball off of her pretty well, but those shots just didn't find any holes." In fact, Clackamas only managed one hit in the game, a single by Caitlin Ooley in the fifth. The Chiefs threw up a no-hitter in the first inning and cruised to the win. Game two was pretty much the same story. Clackamas had trouble generating much offense and fell 5-2 in the nightcap. This was a complete 360 seeing as Clackamas

had pounded the same pitcher week before in a 17-6 win. Chris Howard was the lone bright spot for the Cougars, going 2-4 at the plate with an RBI.

"Just a tough day all around. Chemeketa showed why they're the number two-ranked team in the NWAACC," said Fiskum. "We struggled offensively and defense needs some work. Oh, we get all of our team together for some meaningful practice and then we should be all right for tournament time."

The Cougars played at Lewis & Clark College yesterday. Game results were not available at press time.

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**Upcoming Softball Schedule:**

This weekend the Cougars host Mt. Hood on Friday and Chemeketa on Saturday in Southern Division doubleheaders. Friday's action begins at 3 p.m. and Saturday's games begin at 2 p.m.; both doubleheaders will be played at the Cougar Softball Complex.

Come support the Lady Cougars as they enter the home stretch of their regular season and prepare for the NWAACC's.