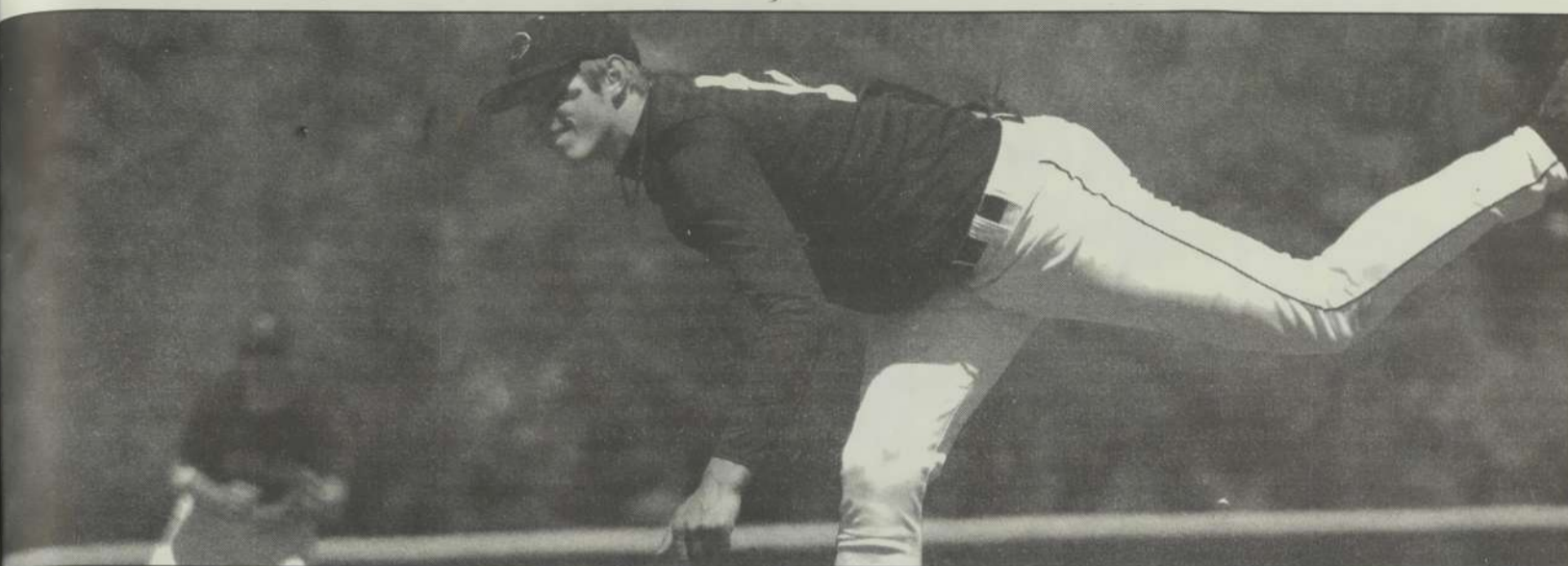


Baseball down and out in South



Photos by Adam J. Manley Clackamas Print

Cougar pitcher Chad Bennett throws fire as he serves up his special delivery during a recent cougar home game. The cougar diamond men finished 8-21 in league play and 20-26 overall. After a decent start the cougars struggled as a team to finish off Southern Division, falling to the seller in the South.

K.P. Delzell The Clackamas Print

Clackamas baseball finished a lackluster season last week, losing a double header to Linn-Benton CC while winning one out of three games against Southwestern Oregon.

Head Coach Robin Robinson attributed the undistinguished season to inconsistent pitching and team chemistry.

"We had a group of kids that didn't handle baseball adversity and a good group of athletes who wouldn't play roles," Robinson said. "They weren't as positive and directive as they could have been."

"Right now we are recruiting for pitching. We have some verbal commitments. We just need to get them signed."

The cougar diamond men

took on SWOCC May 16 in a three game series that included a make up game after the original double header.

The cougars fell in game one 7-2 with only four total

team hits; they were routed 9-2 in game two, but bounced back in game three to knock out SWOCC 16-4.

Playing the role of knock-around ball players they added

15 team hits producing one of their highest offensive outputs of the season.

"In game three they kept their composure; in the first games we didn't take our opportunities," Robinson said. "I was very pleased the way the guys played the last game."

At last place in the Southern Division (8-21 league, 20-26 overall) the cougars didn't have to stay and play game three, but opted to play anyway.

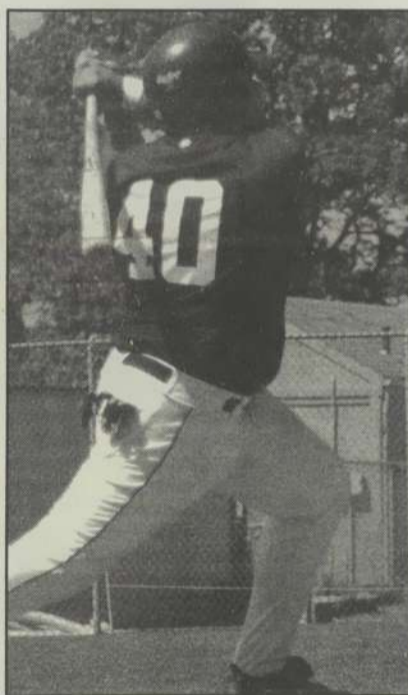
Falling back, the cougars also lost on May 13 against LBCC 15-2 in game one, and 13-1 in game two.

Two cougars were voted second team all-Southern Division: Jake Evans as designated hitter and Marco Quintero at first base.

Among the challenges the cougars faced this season according to Robinson were: adversity and the teams' wood bat transition. High school baseball is played with aluminum bats, turning even high school all-stars bats stagnant at times.

Clackamas baseball looks to improve as they move into next season to bigger and better things with, more wins and new productivity.

"Some kids we will really miss," Robinson said. "And we have some great freshmen ... so we will be better next year."



Gripping the wood grain bat Marcos Quintero blasts a shot during a recent home game. Quintero went yard five times this season and made second team all-league. He split his time this season at first base and designated hitter.

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Baseball all-league
Second team all-league:
Marcos Quintero, first base
Jake Evans, designated hitter
Honorable mention: (received vote)
Cameron Ferguson, pitcher
Tyler Shull, outfield
Logan McDonald, outfield
Mike McNally, catcher
Robert Badilla, utility