

Fiskum steps down

Frank Jordan
Clackamas Print

A slight changing of the guard will take place on the Clackamas softball diamond this season as 19-year veteran head Coach Paul Fiskum will step back from his duties as head coach of the Lady Cougars to assume a more behind-the-scenes role in the Cougar softball program.

"I have been coaching Clackamas for 30 years, including 19 in the softball program, and I have been neglecting my responsibilities as a husband and a father, so I have decided that the time has come for me to step back from my lead role as head coach," said Fiskum.

"My family has always come first, but this team has taken up too much of my personal time, and now is the time for me to trend to slow down and eventually stop."

This decision has actually been in the making since the beginning of the school year, when Fiskum and Athletic Director Jim Jackson began discussing the future of the program and Fiskum's future

with it. The two came to an agreement where Fiskum will assume assistant coaching duties while a new coach comes in to take a leading role in the softball program.

That new coach is former Cougar softball standout Jessica Farnsworth. Farnsworth is currently an assistant coach at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. She received her Bachelor's in Communications from WOU, and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Education at WOU.



FISKUM

Farnsworth, 26, was the head coach at Central High School in Independence, where she led her team to a 29-16 record in Val-Co league play from 2003-05.

She played outfield for WOU in 2001-02 and was named to the honorable mention All-Pacific West Conference all-star team in 2001. She also is the current WOU record holder in single-

season stolen bases with 23 thefts.

Farnsworth was a two-time All-NWAACC selection at Clackamas in 1999-2000, while playing for Fiskum, the man who she will replace. Farnsworth graduated from Sprague High School in Salem in 1998, where she was the Valley League Player of the Year during her senior season.

"Jessica is an outstanding choice to help lead our program and help continue the excellent tradition that Cougar softball has worked hard to maintain," said Fiskum.

"She will officially be considered a co-coach with myself while she gets herself acclimated to the job," he added. "I will be working with all of the players, but we haven't quite decided what my exact role will be. It should be very interesting to watch it play out."

New soccer recruits have potential to shine

Justin Goe
Clackamas Print

After winning the NWAACC tournament the last two years, the Clackamas Community College soccer team has high hopes for the upcoming season, with six players remaining from their championship team and some worthy recruits, there will be another title in the future for the Lady Cougars.

One big reason for optimism is Head Coach Tracy Nelson.

Nelson has been coaching soccer for the last 13 years, and has been playing since she was six.

She played under Coach Clive Charles at the University of Portland, and has a lot of expertise to pass on to players.

"We are losing a really good core to our team with the players that have just graduated leading us to two consecutive titles, and that leadership will be hard to fill, but the new players fit into the system well," said Nelson.

"When we are recruiting we look a lot at personality, and these players that are coming in have a great chance to help move our program forward," she said.

The new players come from all over the Northwest. Rachel Hemphill is coming off a great four years at Century High School,

where she was a four-year letter winner. She was team captain during her last two years at Century.

Stephanie Catt is a sophomore transfer from Southern Oregon University. Before that she played at Madison High, where she was a 2003 first-team All-League Portland Interscholastic League selection.

Courtney Greenleaf was a second-team All-State player last year at Woodland High School and played for FC Vancouver in 2005.

Christie Richards was a 3A first-team All-State selection in 2005, and played club soccer for FC Willamette.

Alle Petty played for Port Angeles High school in Washington. She was the school's captain in 2004 and 2005. She also played club soccer for two teams in Washington.

Laura Peacock played at David Douglas High School for the last four years. She was a four-year varsity letter winner, and voted Most Inspirational in 2005.

Last but not least is McKenzie Creamer, who played for West Salem High School for three years as a varsity starter, and then in Farmington, Connecticut for her senior year where she was also a varsity starter.

With the addition of these new players the Lady Cougars hope to dominate the NWAACC once again.

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Tracy Nelson
head soccer coach

'Midsummer Night's Dream' of sports

Mike Guidice
Sports Editor

With the dog days of summer quickly approaching, sports fans are looking for something to be entertained with.

School's getting out and work soon only become an afterthought to partying at night and trips to the Oregon Coast. If you find yourself immersed in boredom, there are some remedies that can be taken to temporarily help quell one's insatiable hunger for entertainment.

All summer long PGE Park will host Beavers baseball games. Not a major league team, the A affiliate or "farm team" of San Diego Padres is the next best thing. If you attend on "Miller Lite Friday" after a few beers you will be able to tell the difference between the two franchises. The franchise regularly has promotional giveaways and is an extremely fan-friendly organization that offers fun for all ages.

If you prefer to stay indoors with the AC cranked and a cool glass of beer in hand, there is still something to do. The NBA Draft will once again be held in New York and you will live for the world to see.

For all you Blazer fans out there (and hopefully they still exist) it will be very interesting to see what the team does, as they possess the 28th overall pick, but maybe even more intriguing are the 30th and 31st picks they own later in the draft. With the fourth pick, I expect the Blazers getting some talent on the wing, a pure shooter with long range capability. I think Jason Roy would be a good fit. Hailing from the University of Washington in the Northwest, he is acclimated to the rain and the prescribed "herbal medicine" that the Blazers seem to regularly use. In would be a seemingly smooth transition.

With their later picks, they will certainly look to improve their front post positions with a backup center and/or power forward.

Another sub-plot worth paying attention to is the trade that seems imminent, as the Blazers will be shopping troublesome forward Darius Miles. It's not like the team hasn't traded talent for relatively nothing in return before, so I wouldn't be all that surprised if we inherited Ben Stein and Carrot Top in exchange.

For those who possess at least a sliver of athletic ability or just want to be involved in making themselves look foolish in front of others, the Blazers three-on-three street jam offers just that. The basketball

festival will be held at the Rose Quarter in Portland on July 28 - 30. Over 80 half-courts will be set up as the event will attract participants from around the world. For more information and further details, visit Blazers.com.

As you now see, sports advocates can continue to fuel our passion for prime time sporting events during the summer season. Whether by being there participating or by simply viewing the games and festivities, sports will maintain and your life can continue to revolve around them.

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