

Cougars injured; still prevail

Nicholas Delzell

The Clackamas Print

With a Southern Region and NWAACC title on their minds, and their minds on titles, the Cougar volleyballers are focused and ready to get through their remaining sched-

The Cougars faced off against tough NWAACC competition in Walla Walla last weekend. They placed No. 3 overall in the tournament, defeating Umpqua 30-19, 25-30, 15-12, falling to Bellevue 30-24, 22-30, 16-14, were victorious over Edmonds 30-17, 30-25, and ousted Centralia 30-14, 25-13, but were beaten by Walla Walla

30-24, 30-21.

Third place was not the Cougar goal going in to this tournament, but injuries held back the potent team. Middle-blocker Aubrey Schneider and Sarah Hall, a freshman middle blocker, were both out for the weekend and didn't travel with the team.

"Overall, we had some challenging times at the Walla Walla tournament," Head Coach Kathie Woods said. "Not playing with a full team ... but we did have an opportunity to grow deeper because everyone got to play."

With their starting front line out, the Cougars went with freshman Holly Coutts as their only true front line player. So Meggan Chapin, at 5'6", stepped up to the front line.

"We went in with only one middle

blocker, so we had to bring in Meggan," Woods said.

"With injuries ... a great team will benefit because we will find ways to play through the injuries."

Both players are expected to be out again this week.

With the season nearing its end, league games are what the volleyballers are focusing on. The Cougars got a big league win on Oct. 4 against Linn-Benton 30-22, 30-24, 30-16. Leading the way was Rhea Wortman with 17 kills, and Malia Kamahoahoa was able to come up with 23 assists in the win.

A balanced roster and excellent coaching, as well as conditioning, have always been a part of the Cougar volleyball team. This season, they played a shortened pre-season schedule. Woods

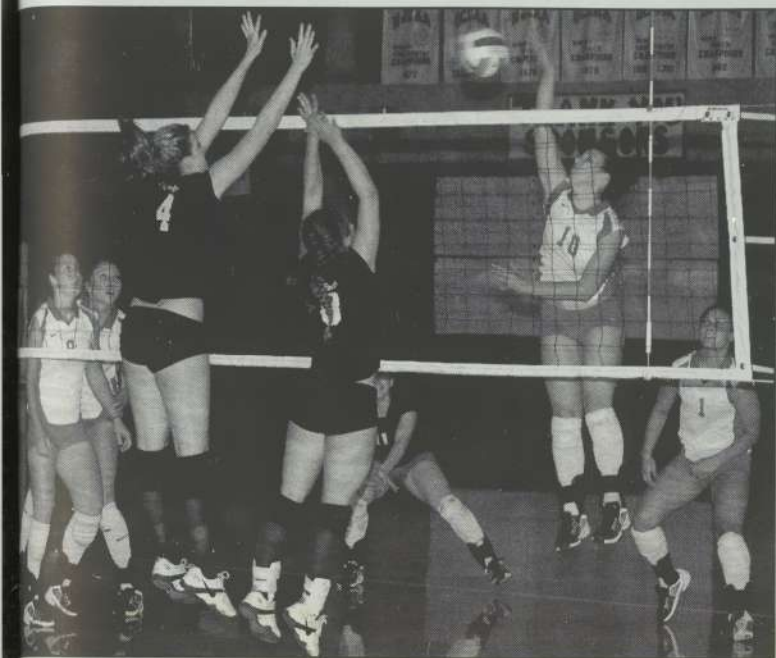
said this may have impacted her team and their overall health.

"We started out strong ... but we had a short preseason," Woods said. "I think this caused injuries this year, and the wear and tear may have held us back a little."

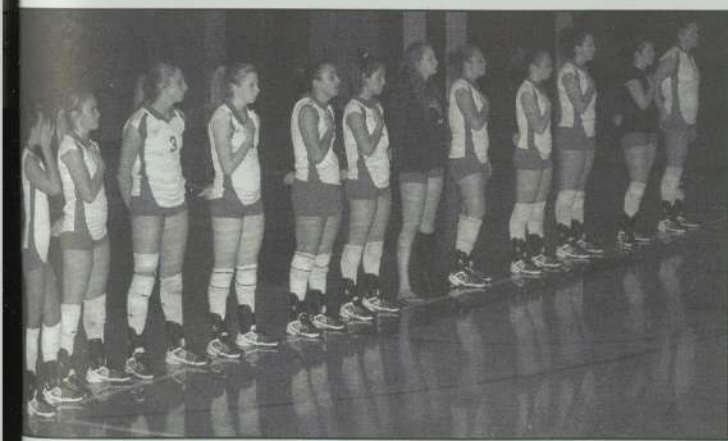
The Cougars will play a strong home schedule this week, going to battle with Umpqua CC on Oct. 13 at 7 p.m., SWOCC on Oct. 14 at 1 p.m., and Mt. Hood CC on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m.

"Right now, we are concentrating on Umpqua and SWOCC," Woods said. "Then we will get our players healthy and back in the line up."

"We need both of these wins to continue our quest for a Southern Region title; at this point we can't afford to lose anymore players ... or games."

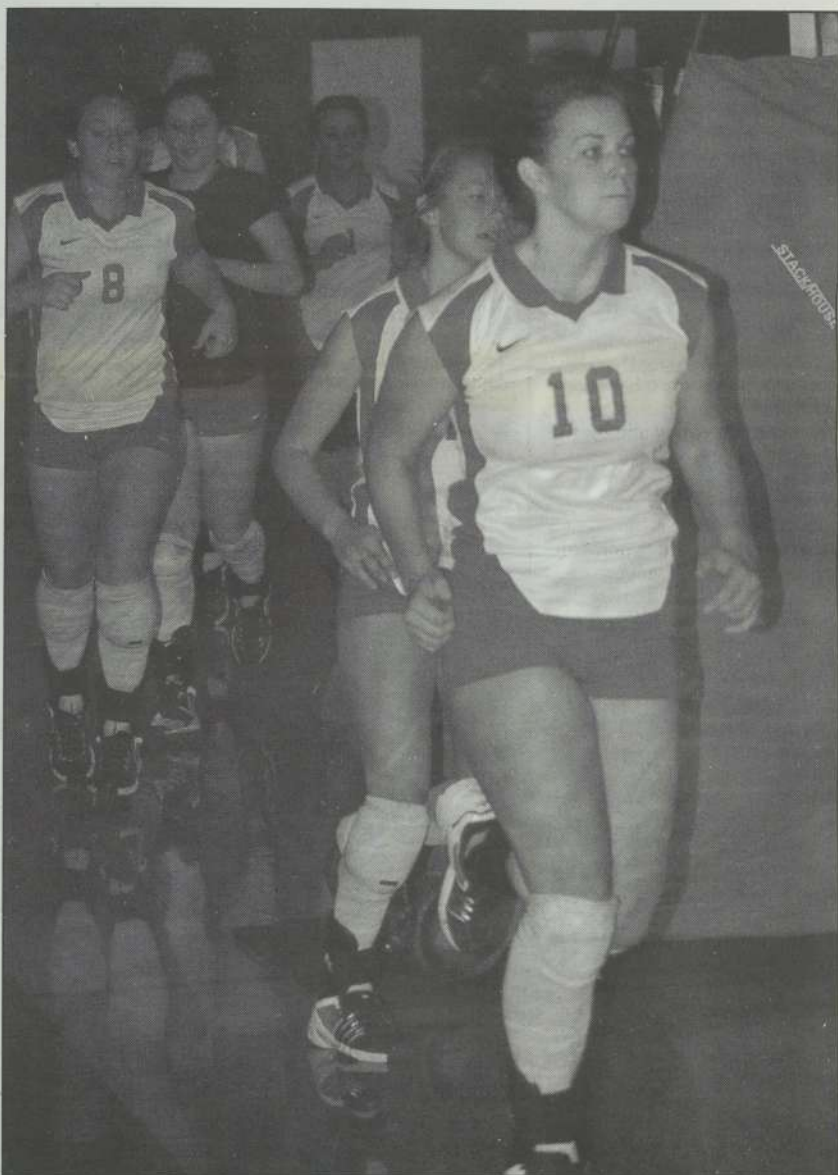


ABOVE: Wortman spikes the ball during a match vs. Linn-Benton CC. Wortman doubles as an outside hitter and middle blocker for the Cougars this season. Wortman recently transferred from Eastern New Mexico University.



ABOVE: The Lady Cougars stand tall and proud during The National Anthem before starting play.

BELOW: Sophomore Rhea Wortman (10) leads the charge as the team runs a victory lap around the court after winning their opening match against LBCC. Clackamas went on to win all three matches on that day. Wortman led the team with 17 kills, while Malia Kamahoahoa (8) dominated play with an impressive 23 assists.



All photos taken by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Cross Country:

Oct. 14 Mike Hodges Invite HOME
Oct. 28 Southern Region Championships @ Battle Ground
Nov. 11 NWAACC Championships @ Spokane

Soccer:

Oct. 14 3 p.m. @ Clark College Home
Oct. 18 1 p.m. @ Oregon City High vs. Lane
Oct. 27 3 p.m. @ Lane CC
Oct. 28 12 p.m. @ Coos Bay vs. SW Oregon C.C.
Nov. 1 2 p.m. @ Vancouver, Wash. vs. Clark College
Nov. 6 Tiebreakers
Nov. 10/11 NWAACC Quarterfinals
Nov. 18/19 NWAACC Championships @ Tukwila, Wash.

Volleyball:

Oct. 13 7 p.m. vs. Umpqua CC
Oct. 14 1 p.m. vs. SW Oregon CC
Oct. 20 7 p.m. vs. Mt. Hood CC
Oct. 27/28 @ Gresham vs. Mt. Hood CC (Halloween classic)
Nov. 1 7 p.m. @ Salem vs. Chemeketa CC
Nov. 3/4 @ Salem vs. Chemeketa CC (Chemeketa Crossover)
Nov. 8 7 p.m. @ Albany vs. Linn-Benton CC
Nov. 16-18 NWAACC Championships @ Spokane, Wash.