

Volleyball No. 1 at tournament

Dot Delzell

The Clackamas Print

Taking home first place at the Chemeketa Crossover tournament, it looks as though the Clackamas volleyball team did their game and their hustle on as they prepare for NWAACCs. The Lady Cougars were triumphant last Saturday, putting the tournament championship in the bank by beating Walla-Walla 30-20, 30-23 and 30-28.

The Chemeketa Crossover and the Mt. Hood Halloween Classic Tournament are known as preparation for the NWAACC tournament.

"We will continue to prepare and tone down conditioning before NWAACCs," said Head Coach Kathie Woods. "We are on top of our conditioning by now, and we look to maintain it going into NWAACCs."

"We basically have a week before NWAACCs because we have next Wednesday."

In the semifinal game, the Cougars were matched up against Mt. CC and won 25-30, 30-30-28 and 30-21. Game one, the Cougars lost 25-30 for their tournament loss.

"We beat Blue Mt. in the Spokane tournament earlier this year," Woods said. "We are 2-0 against them, but they're a much



Contributed by Dick Clouser

LEFT TO RIGHT: Volleyballers Carla Crowder, Heather Gerke and tournament MVP Rhea Wortman are all smiles as they floss their Chemeketa Crossover Tournament tees.

improved team from the beginning of the year."

The Cougars will be matched up in the first round of the NWAACC tournament against Blue Mt.

In bracket play, the Cougars played Whatcom for the second time in the tournament and won 30-27, 30-24 and 30-21. They also played Walla-Walla and came away with one more win 30-27, 34-32 and 30-27.

In the Cougar's tournament

opener, they played Whatcom for the first time in the tournament and won 30-21, 30-21 and 30-26.

"All of these tournament games are best three out of five," Woods said. "So that's a lot of volleyball. We definitely played well in a lot of matches. This will help us simulate NWAACCs ... this will help us gain momentum."

The Cougars' Rhea Wortman was voted the tournament's most

valuable player, as she busted out with 103 tournament kills on 226 attempts, for 35 percent kill efficiency. She added 82 digs, making her an offensive and defensive menace for opposing teams.

Malia Kamahoahoa had what Woods said was an incredible tournament with 60 digs. Jamie Duhrkoop had 67 digs.

Middle blockers Aubrey Schneider and Holly Coutts added 17 blocks each.

"We were much more aggressive on the block," Woods said.

The Cougars are still No. 2 in the NWAACC Southern Region with a league record of 7-2 and an overall record of 36-7. At press time, the Cougars were ranked No. 1 in the NWAACC coaches' poll, but Woods thinks that today the Cougars could fall as far as No. 3 in the coaches' poll.

"We probably will not retain our No. 1 ranking, but we will use this for motivation - but that's just a poll," Woods said.

The Cougars were also able to get some league work done, beating Chemeketa on Nov. 1 30-22, 30-21, 28-30 and 30-16. Wortman came up big again with 23 kills and 17 digs. Coutts had 11 kills and five blocks.

"In the Chemeketa game, we were soiled," Woods said.

With the NWAACC tournament slated for Nov. 16 to 18, Woods is confident that her team is one of the favorites.

"We feel that we are in the top three in the NWAACC tournament," Woods said. "It's between Columbia Basin and Mt. Hood and us ... and all of these three teams seem to be leading the pack."

"I believe it should be one of us three getting the NWAACC title," Wood said.

The Cougars have one league game remaining against Linn-Benton CC tonight in Albany at 7 p.m.

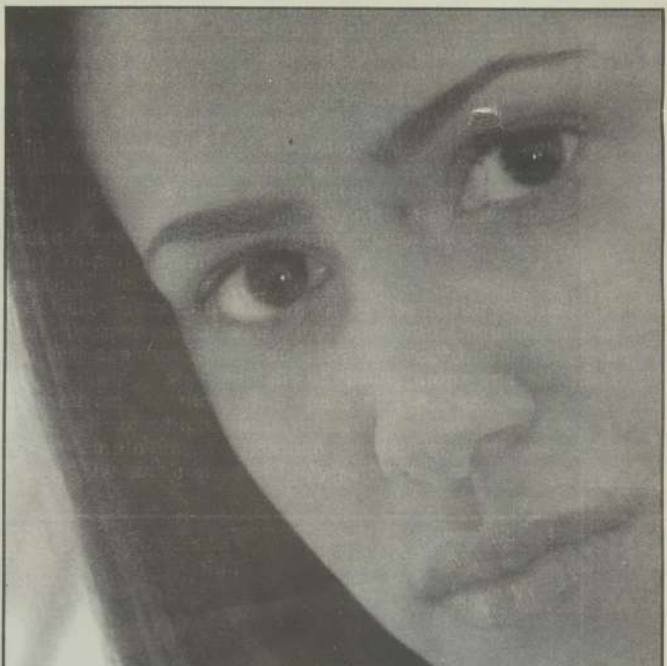


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Freshman McKenzie Creamer slide tackles the opposing player during a game earlier in the year. The Cougars finished their regular season Nov. 1 by beating Clark College 1-0. The Cougars enter postseason play as a third seed in the Southern Region. The team plays today at 12 p.m. in Spokane, Wash.

Cross-Country

The cross-country team has the week off as they prepare for the NWAACC championships, which will be held Nov. 11 in Spokane, Wash.



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