

Men try for perfection

Mike Guidice
Sports Editor

The Valentine's Day game between Clackamas and Chemeketa Wednesday was full of heart, but not a lot of love was exchanged between the two rivals.

The Cougars found themselves in a rare situation at halftime; down by a double-digit margin, 40-27.

Head Coach Clif Wegner made it clear what the team needed to do in the second half; "run the offense!" It was something Wegner repeated a countless number of times, pounding the sentiment into his team.

Other modifications were made as the Cougars stepped up their defensive intensity, applying the full-court press and forcing Chemeketa's hands into various turnovers. The team also made a concentrated effort to rebound the post and go to their interior, utilizing big men Brian Freeman and Steven Vaughan.

The kids stepped up their effort in the second half and did a great job with the adjustments," Wegner said. The Cougars would go on to win the contest, 76-72.

Big man Freeman finished with 20 points, 15 boards and four blocked shots, while Vaughan contributed 18 points, seven rebounds and four steals.

"It was just a good win in a tough game with an opponent that was very determined and played very hard. It was a good experience to be

in a tough, close game because we have not had that many. This should help us in the tournament," Wegner commented.

The Cougs clashed with a far less competitive opponent on Saturday, defeating Lane CC 92-66.

It was the last home game for Clackamas, a night in which the sophomore class was recognized in a ceremony before the game.

"... You grieve a bit thinking it's the last time this team plays on its home turf..." Wagner said.

David Cemin had an extremely efficient night, scoring 19 points on 7-8 shooting. Cemin was also 2-3 from the foul line.

Brian Freeman added his usual double-double, scoring 17 points and snaring 11 rebounds. Alex Brock chipped in with 17.

Today, the Cougar men take on Portland CC at PCC-Cascade. Despite having already clinched a number one seed, the group will aim for an undefeated conference record for the first time since 1994. Coach Wegner has been impressed with his team, but also pleasantly surprised.

"It would be a great accomplishment (going undefeated) ... The conventional wisdom around the league's coaches was that the region was tough and very balanced, and that whoever managed to win the conference would probably have four losses. To be honest, I thought the same thing back in December."



Sam Krause Clackamas Print

Sophomore guard Luke Defrees (40) looks to dish inside while a host of appendages flail every which way. Defrees was one of nine sophomores honored on Saturday.

Clackamas women battling for two seed

Frank Jordan
Clackamas Print

The Clackamas women had a recent week on the hardwood, defeating Chemeketa on the road and losing their first game with division-leading Lane CC on their home floor Saturday.

Last Wednesday, the Cougars hit 12 three-point-

ers, including eight in the first half, as they defeated the Chiefs 73-60 in Salem to maintain their hold on second place in the Southern Division.

"We played really well; we shot the ball well when we needed to, and we played solid defense throughout," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "I was really pleased with the effort and the focus of

the team, especially on our opponent's home floor."

Kellyn Cooper led the Cougar offense with 18 points from her post position; she also hauled in a game-high 14 rebounds. Kelsey New continued her solid guard play with 17 points, including five threes, while Rachel Copeland had 16 points and eight rebounds. Vanessa Schmitz contributed 14 points, eight boards and five blocked shots to the Cougar effort on the night.

Clackamas shot 39 percent for the game and held Chemeketa to 31 percent shooting from the field. Katy Lambert led the Chiefs with 15 points, while Brittany Wilson chipped in 10 points and 12 rebounds in the losing effort.

Saturday, the Cougars hosted the number-one ranked team in the NWAACC, the Lane Lady Titans, and Lane used an 8-0 run near the end of the first half to grab a lead that they would not relinquish in a 69-57 win over Clackamas in the Randall Hall gym.

"We played solid defense throughout the game and held tough during the game, but we just couldn't get over

the hump," said Martineau. "We cut the deficit down to three twice in the second half, but we would commit a turnover or Lane would hit a big shot at the right time."

Cooper led the Cougar offense with 16 points and a game-high 13 rebounds, while New had 12 points. Reese Wolfe chipped in nine points and Schmitz had seven points. Clackamas outshot Lane for the game, hitting on 42 percent of their shots and holding Lane to 39 percent shooting. But the Cougars were outrebounded 41-35 and committed 21 turnovers in the losing effort.

Shelby Stevens led Lane with 19 points and 10 rebounds, while Kammy Martindale had 18 points for the victorious Titans. Lane used the win to clinch the number one seed from the Southern Division in the upcoming NWAACC tournament.

Clackamas will need to win their final regular season game tonight against Portland CC to clinch the number two seed from the Southern Division in a tie-breaker with Linn-Benton CC. The game tonight is at PCC-Cascade and begins at 5:30 p.m.

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Mike Guidice
Sports Editor

Musings from around the sports world: NASCAR reigns supreme, while Barkley lives the dream

The Good:

NASCAR stole the show this weekend, in a way I had previously thought impossible.

On Sunday, they held their biggest race of the year (which, strangely enough, also happens to be their opening-day event), the Daytona 500.

After a relatively uneventful race, disaster struck in the final lap. With the checkered flag in sight, the unthinkable happened.

While jockeying for position on the home stretch, minimal contact quickly turned into a full-blown multi-car wreck. As cars crashed and burned in the background, Kevin Harvick and Mark Martin pushed their cars to the limit as only NASCAR lead-foots can.

The two crossed the finish line in perfect unison, or so it seemed. The photo finish revealed that Harvick was the victor, edging Martin by the slimmest of margins - 0.123 seconds to be exact.

I have always associated NASCAR with rednecks, country music, cheap beer and tobacco. While the events of the weekend have not changed my view at all, I can honestly say I've earned some appreciation for their "sport."

The Bad:

The Ducks continued their downward spiral in the Pac-10 standings, losing on the road to both Stanford and Cal last week. If the Ducks don't win two of their last three games (they play at home vs. Wazzu, U-Dub and OSU), they risk missing the "big dance" altogether. After an 18-1 start, who would've thought, come crunch time, the team would be scrambling just to get an invite to March Madness.

More discouraging news is that Dick Vitale has officially been announced as a finalist for induction to the Basketball Hall of Fame. While I'm sure there are people out there who are Dickie V. fanatics, I am not one of them. He annoys me to no end, and I feel like, if he keeps up at the pace he's going, he will have a heart attack while broadcasting a game sometime in the near future. Then again, if 186-year-old Lou Holtz hasn't died mid-analysis yet, Mr. Vitale will probably continue to plague the airwaves for another decade.

The Ugly:

Never before have such a pretty people made this list, but there's a first for everything.

Patriots' QB Tom Brady is apparently now a father; unfortunately it's his ex-girlfriend's baby. Actress Bridget Moynahan recently came out and made the announcement. Brady claims to be happy and excited about the news; however, something tells me his new, breezy, lingerie model Gisele Bundchen, is not.

Other things that have disturbed me as of late include, but are not limited to, "The Round Mound of Rebound" Charles Barkley participating in a footrace against 67-year-old NBA official Dick Bavetta. If the race itself wasn't ugly enough, their subsequent lip-locking sealed the deal. I wonder what the man with the sickest homophobic crossover ever, Tim Hardaway, thought of that one.