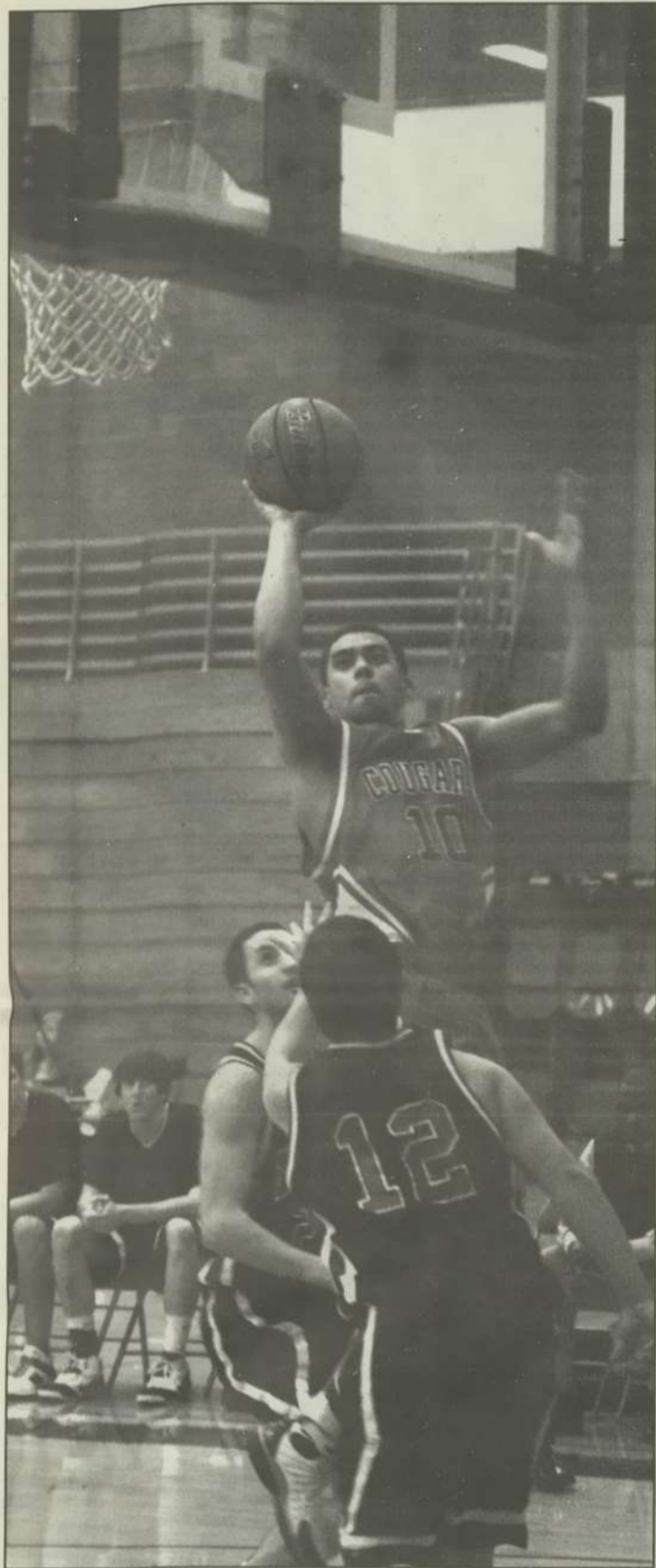


# Men hungry for NWAACC 'ship



## Mike Guidice

Sports Editor

Last Wednesday, the Cougar men's basketball squad finished up an undefeated league schedule by beating Portland CC by a final score of 89-63.

Like they have done multiple times this season, the Cougs regrouped from a sub-par first half, made the proper adjustments and came out in the second half strong, taking control of the contest.

Steven Vaughan led the team with 26 points, registering another efficient shooting night, going 11 for 13. David Cernin contributed with 15 points and 10 boards, while Brian Freeman cleaned the glass, finishing with 12 boards.

Concluding the season with an undefeated league record is significant and not easily accomplished, but Head Coach Cliff Wegner knows now is not the time to celebrate the achievement.

"I told them it was a great

accomplishment," he said. "Then, I told them to put it aside for the time being and focus on what we still wanted to accomplish. There will be plenty of time later to reflect and enjoy the achievement."

Next up for the number one seed Cougars is a first round match-up with Blue Mountain CC tomorrow at 2 p.m. The game will take place in Kennewick, Wash., where the tournament will be held.

Clackamas faced Blue Mountain on the road early this season and were dealt a defeat. They present a tough challenge for the Cougs, and Coach Wegner knows what it will take to beat them.

"It's a team we played on the road in December and got beat, so our focus and determination has been good," said Wegner. "They are a very good team, and the key for us will be defense and rebounding. Blue Mountain is an excellent offensive team."

The Cougars enter the tourney riding a wave of confidence and success, but

know that the NWAACC tournament is a whole new season with high stakes and a whole new level of intensity.

"The team is focused and confident. They know they have to play hard and play well at the NWAACC tournament to be successful. They will have to take their game up a notch," Wegner said.

The team will stick to their style of play that has been successful thus far this season. Wegner expects his sophomore-laden group to be able to lead by example and use their prior experience to their advantage.

"No change in strategy we play hard; we play fast; we have fun. Winning is the natural outcome of doing those things well ... I expect it [players stepping up] out of all the sophomores, especially the ones who bring tournament experience to the arena."

Look for full tournament coverage in next week's sports section. Tri-Cities Wash., here come the Cougars.



Photos by Sam Krause Clackamas Print

ABOVE: A look down the Cougars bench reveals big man Brian Freeman and guard Maurice Ross. They are two of the sophomores who look to lead the team to an NWAACC tournament success story.

LEFT: Cougars guard Maurice Ross rises up as he takes it strong to the hole, despite being opposed by pair of defenders.

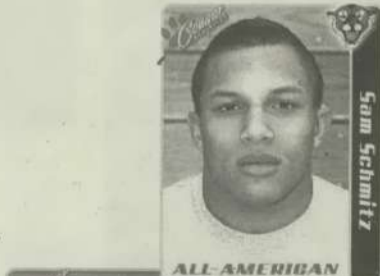
## Wrestlers excel at Nationals; receive individual, team awards

This past weekend at the NJCCA National Championship in Rochester, Minn., the Cougars took home their first team trophy in 18 years, placing fifth.

It was also the first ever for Head Coach Josh Rhoden, as it was his inaugural season leading the team.

The weekend saw a school-record six Clackamas wrestlers named All-Americans. Sam Schmitz and John Bates did the best, placing third in their respective weight classes of 149 and 285 pounds. Alex Bubb placed sixth at 165 pounds, Derrick Bartlemay placed seventh at 141 pounds, and both Brian Jacobs (125) and Seth Roy (157) finished in eighth place in their weight classes.

- Compiled by Joe Elliot, The Clackamas Print



Sam Schmitz

ALL-AMERICAN



John Bates

ALL-AMERICAN



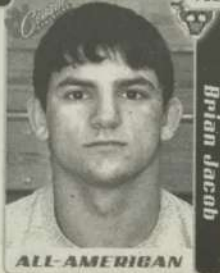
Alex Bubb

ALL-AMERICAN



Derrick Bartlemay

ALL-AMERICAN



Brian Jacobs

ALL-AMERICAN



Seth Roy

ALL-AMERICAN



Josh Rhoden