

Women bow out early in tourney

Frank Jordan

The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Cougar women had a disappointing end to their season at the NWAACC basketball championships last weekend, being two-and-out in the Toyota Center in Bellingham, Wash.

"It was a disappointing end to a tough season for us. With what we as a team went through with the injuries and our depleted roster, we gave it a run, but we came up short," said Head Coach Jim Martineau. "This was a great group of girls to coach, and I'm very proud of their effort this weekend throughout the season."

Thursday, Clackamas opened tournament play against Walla Walla CC and despite a valiant effort, the Cougars came up on the short end of a 58-47 final score.

"We played pretty well; we just couldn't hit any shots," said Martineau. "We must have missed eight or nine layups; we just couldn't finish around the basket."

Clackamas jumped out to an early lead, and the game seemed to be going in their favor. However, CCC led 24-21 at the half and held a slight lead early in the second half until the 12-minute mark, when the Lady Warriors took a lead they would not relinquish.

Clackamas battled hard until the end, but came up on the wrong end of the scoreboard. Rachel Copeland led the Cougars with 12 points, while Vanessa Schmitz had 11 points. Kelsey Cooper had nine points, and Kellyn Cooper had eight points to help the Cougars.

Katie Strunk had 16 points for Walla Walla, while Brianna Eagans had 10 points. The Warriors outshot Clackamas 36 percent to 42 percent and outrebounded CCC 51-29. Friday afternoon, the Cougars took on the Highline CC Lady Thunderbirds, who had been upset by Skagit Valley CC the night before. The Cougars fought hard once again, but their season came to an abrupt end as the Thunderbirds defeated CCC 82-78.

"We were very surprised to see them; we were upset the night before, so we had to alter the game plan a little bit," said Martineau. "We came out against Highline and played pretty well. They have a 6'1" post player, and she just killed us on both ends of the floor."

That post player, Samantha Tinned, ripped

the Cougars to the tune of 32 points and 13 rebounds to lead Highline to the win. The game was a total role-reversal for the Cougars, as they shot the ball very well, but had problems defending in the post. The Cougars were only down three at the half, 39-36, but Highline started slowly pulling away in the second half.

Highline led by 16 points with about eight minutes to play, when Clackamas went on a run. The Cougars cut the lead down to four points with a minute to play and missed a three-pointer with 20 seconds to go that would have cut the Highline lead to one, and the Thunderbirds closed out CCC from the free-throw line to move on in consolation play at the tournament.

The Cougar offense was led by New, who hit six three-pointers enroute to 25 points, while Copeland backed New with 17 points. Cooper had 15 points and seven rebounds, and Schmitz had six points and a team-high nine boards.

"If not for the injuries to key people, we could have had a much different result this weekend."

Jim Martineau
Head women's basketball coach

Following Tinned's 32-point effort for Highline was Vanessa Baines and Tammie Hilla with 11 points, while Valerie Cook had seven points and 11 rebounds. Highline shot 42 percent from the floor to CCC's 39 percent, and Highline forced 24 Cougar turnovers to aid in the victory.

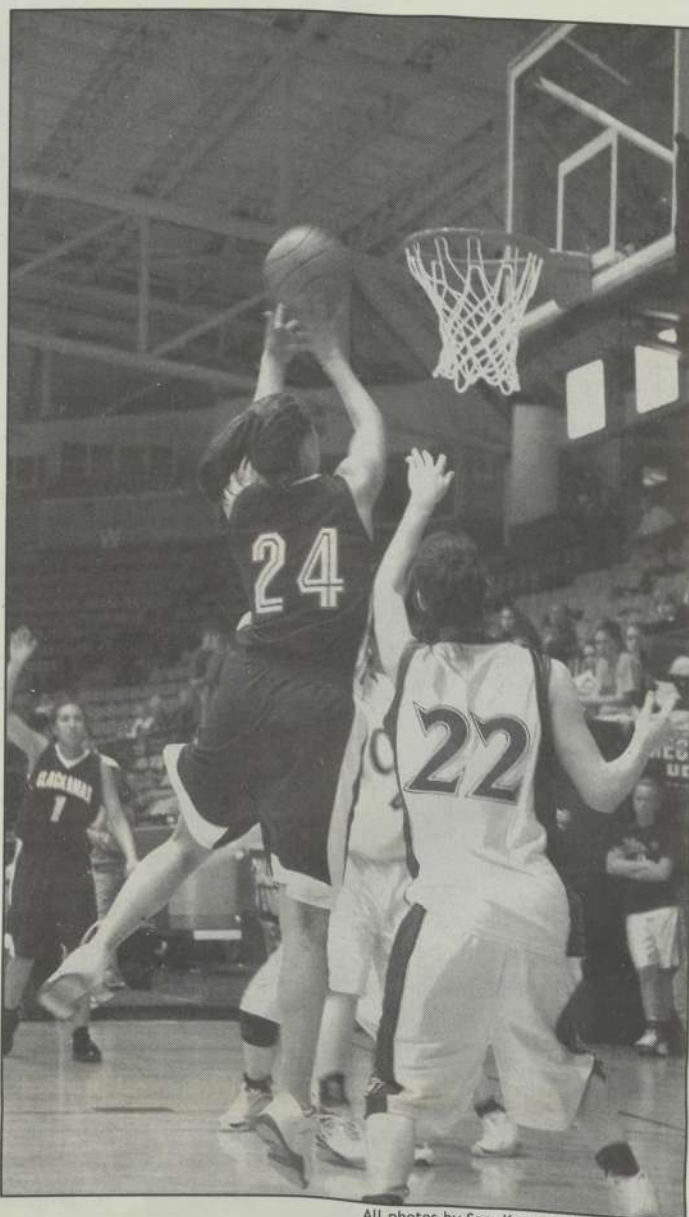
"Thank God that the guys played well (the Clackamas men won the NWAACC championship), or else it would have been a real down weekend," said Martineau. "If not for the injuries to key people (All-

stars Charday Hunt and Monique Tribble were lost for the season), we could have had a much different result this weekend. The girls played incredibly hard, and I could not be more proud of a group of young women."

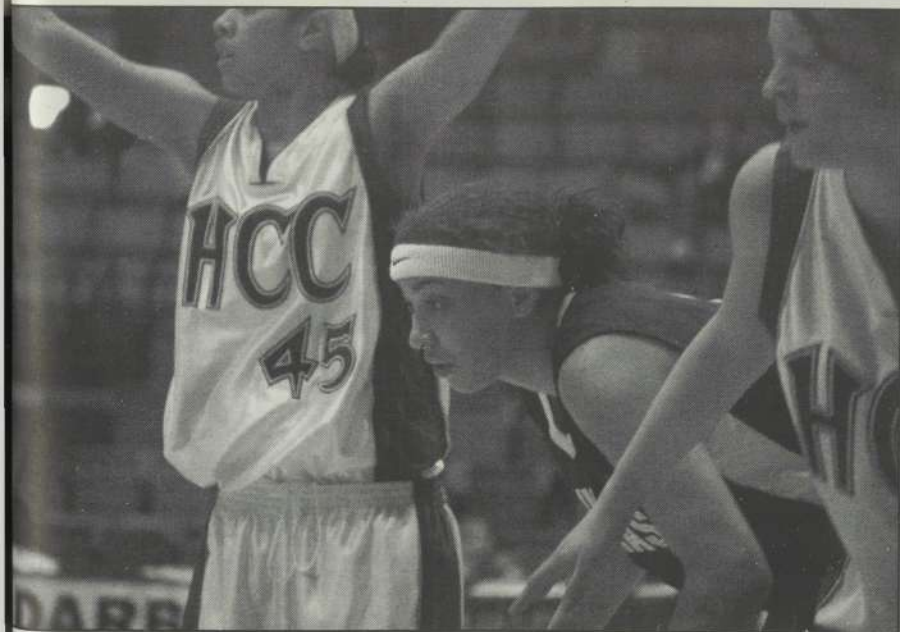
Lane CC defeated Bellevue CC 81-65 to win the NWAACC's women's championship Sunday afternoon.

Cooper and Copeland were named first-team all-Southern Division for the season, while Schmitz and New were named honorable mention All-Stars.

Cougar sophomores Cooper and Schmitz have been selected to play in the NWAACC Sophomore All-Star Game this Sunday at 11 a.m. The game will be played in the Randall Hall gym on the Clackamas campus, with the men's all-star game to follow at 2 p.m.



All photos by Sam Krause Clackamas Print



LEFT: Vanessa Schmitz stands between two Highline defenders at the free-throw line as the players prepare to grab a potential errant foul shot attempt.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Sophomore post Kellyn Cooper goes up strong against the defense. Cooper had 15 points and seven rebounds against Highline CC.

RIGHT: Freshman guard Reese Wolfe looks towards the paint as she attempts to inbound the ball.

