

Softball set to succeed

Frank Jordan

The Clackamas Print

The 2007 version of the Clackamas Cougar softball team has jumped out to a 3-0 record to open the season after winning three games at the Blue Mountain Invitational in Pendleton last weekend.

The Cougars, led by first-year Head Coach Jessica Farnsworth, return five players from last year's NWAACC runner-up team, including Southern Division All-Stars Janelle Cristofaro, Katie King and Cotie Howard. Along with Jessica Schell and Heather Rightley, all five returning sophomores hope to take the Cougars back to the NWAACC tournament in May.

The Cougars have recruited some strong freshmen to help out, including pitcher Renee Santos, a right-handed hurler from St. Mary's Academy in Portland. Santos picked up two victories in Pendleton, throwing shutouts in both starts. Cristofaro got her first win of the year on Saturday, holding

Shoreline CC to three earned runs on five hits in an 11-3 Clackamas victory.

Farnsworth, taking over the head coaching reins from longtime coach Paul Fiskum, played college softball at Clackamas, and was twice honored as a first-team all-star and also was selected to an All-American team in 2000. Farnsworth transferred to Western Oregon University, where she received all-league honors. She graduated from WOU in 2002 with a Communications Degree and coached at Central High School in Independence for three seasons.

Fiskum enters his 20th season on the Cougar softball coaching staff, during that time coaching the Cougars to eight NWAACC championships and eight division titles.

The Cougars' next game is Fri., March 16 with a game against Concordia College at Delta Park in north Portland. The Cougars' home opener is April 3 against Clark College at 3 p.m. on the Cougar Softball diamond behind Randall Hall.



Internet Photo

In her first year as head coach of the Cougar softball team, Farnsworth has her girls off to a 3-0 start.

Baseball results:

March 3 @ Centralia CC: W 12-3

March 4 @ Grays Harbor College: W 8-3, W 9-5

March 10 vs. Linfield JV: Rain out

Upcoming home schedule:

March 20 vs. Olympic College, noon.

March 23 vs. Wenatche Valley College, noon.

March 24 vs. Treasure Valley CC, noon.

March 31 vs. Mt. Hood CC, noon. (DH)

Track and field highlights:

March 10

Men:

Kenjamine Jackson: 100 meter dash – 1st place

Joe Gobel: High jump – 1st place

Mike Simmons: Javelin throw – 1st place

Women:

Stephanie Dittmar: 100 meter dash – 2nd place

Meaghan Durand: High jump – 1st place

Jeeni Schantin: Javelin throw – 1st place



Mike Guidice

Sports Editor

The Good:

The Ducks basketball team is peaking at just the right time. Oregon was awarded the number three seed in the Midwest Region of the NCAA Tourney after finishing the regular season with three straight wins and dominating the Pac-10 Tournament.

Another reason for hope is that the team will play its first two contests in Spokane, Wash.; staying in the Pacific Northwest will allow the Quack Attack to have a seemingly formidable home-court advantage, not that they should need it as they open tournament play versus the University of Wally Szczerbiak (Miami of Ohio).

If the Ducks are hitting their outside shots, they can beat *anyone, anywhere*. You need to look no further than this one glaring statistic: Oregon was the only team in the NCAA this season to beat three top-10 ranked opponents, their win on the road vs. Georgetown not even withstanding.

With determined play from all-conference guards Aaron Brooks, the tiny Tajuan Porter and the re-emerging Bryce Taylor, the Ducks really just need strong performances by their "post" players, Maarty Leunen, Malik Hairston and the scrappy freshman Joevan Catron.

March Madness begins tomorrow; get your brackets filled out and prepare to look foolish!

The Bad:

Swin Cash might be the worst excuse for a NBA "analyst" I've ever seen. Why ESPN decided to hire her onto their Fastbreak segment, I will never understand. Actually, that's a lie; I'm sure it's simply because she's a woman. Cash may play in the WNBA, but that doesn't mean she has any business talking NBA basketball. All she ever does is interject stupid one-liners in between diatribes contributed by actual intelligent sports broadcasters.

In other news, the University of Illinois recently sent their longtime mascot, Chief Illiniwek, to the big casino in the sky. Native American activists have been complaining that the University's representation of the chief is "demeaning" and done in poor taste. Personally, I think that's outrageous. The mascot has been a part of the team and at the forefront of sporting events since the 1920s; to abolish his presence after all this time is simply ridiculous.

Some time ago, idiots made a big deal about the Pledge of Allegiance being recited in schools because of the mentioning of God. I guarantee you those same people don't have a problem handling money that has "In God We Trust" printed on it.

I'm contemplating a new career as a misanthrope. Yes, this means I probably hate you.

The Ugly:

Lorenzo Mata, the UCLA junior center. Other heinous things of note include but are not limited to: Kobe Bryant throwing 'bows at anyone in a fifty-foot radius, Ron Artest's rap sheet and, lastly, the Green Bay Packers are considering trading for Randy Moss. Another quality wide-out for the incumbent QB Brett Favre would be ideal, but Moss can only contaminate the young crop of players that the Pack is currently grooming. Especially after pretending to "moon" the fans at Lambeau in the past, the people who own the franchise aren't likely to welcome the troubled wide receiver with open arms, or an open checkbook for that

All-Star festivities held at Clackamas



The 2006-07 men's Southern Region All-Star team huddles during a timeout. The Cougars' starting five of Maurice Ross, Nick Eldridge, David Cernin, Steven Vaughan and Brian Freeman were all voted to play in the game, which took place Sunday, NWAACC tournament MVP Freeman chose to sit out the contest in order to allow his body to rest after taking a beating in the postseason. He represented the team as an honorary head coach. The South lost the game to the East All-Stars by a final score of 118-98.

Sam Krause Clackamas Print