

Softball team superlative



Frank Jordan
The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas softball team has adjusted quite well to the change at the top of the coaching staff and has compiled an 18-3 overall record to start the 2007 season, including a 10-0 mark in the Southern Division of the NWAACC.

Jessica Farnsworth, in her first season as head coach of the Cougars, got off to somewhat of a nervous start at the helm, but has grown into her job and, with the help of her stellar coaching staff,

has led the Cougars to their superlative start.

"We really have started off great; our pitching has been outstanding, and our bats are coming around," said Farnsworth. "We have battled a few minor injuries, but we have had girls step into the lineup and perform very well. I am very happy with our progress to this point."

This past Saturday, the Cougars traveled to Vancouver, Wash. to take on Clark College and used great hitting up and down the lineup to whip the Penguins 25-0 and 17-0, with both games called in the fifth inning due to the 10-run rule.

Katie King led the Cougar offensive juggernaut with four hits in each game, including five singles, two doubles and a second-game home run. Cotie Howard,

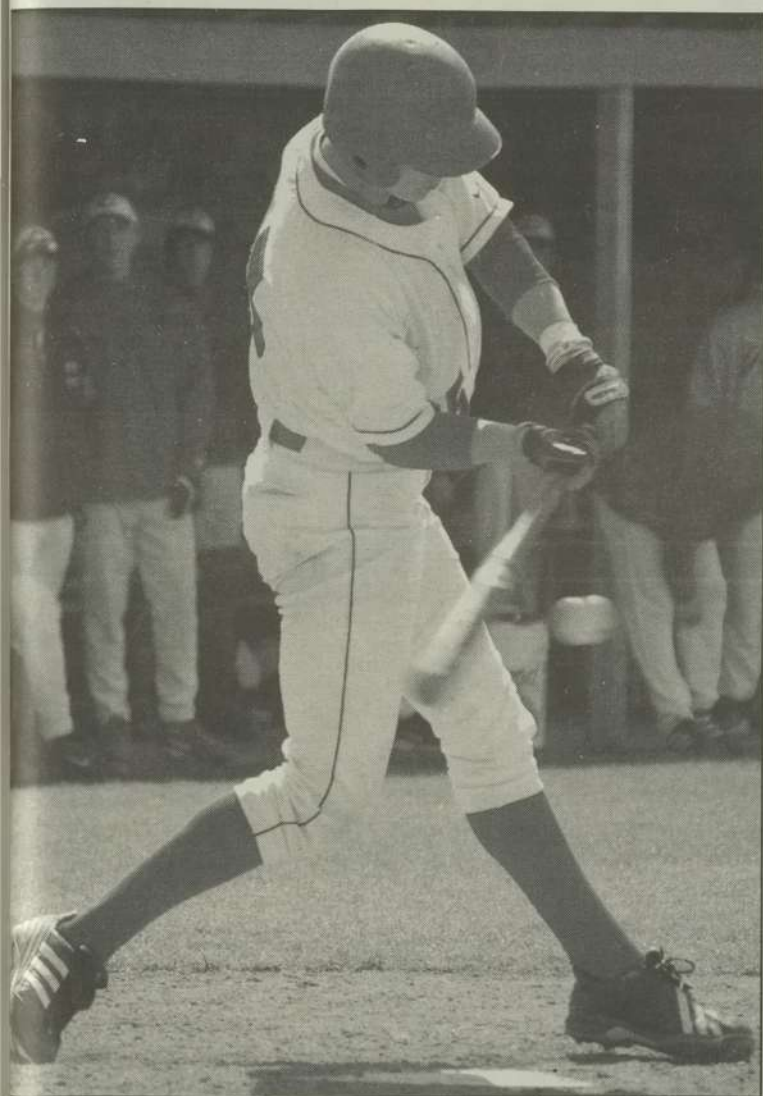
Janelle Cristofaro and Lindsey Ables each hit first-game home runs to back Renee Santos' stellar performance on the mound. Santos tossed a one-hitter, striking out 12 Clark batters in the process. Cristofaro won the second game on the mound, also tossing a one-hitter and striking out eight.

Clackamas has a big stretch of games this week as they took on Mt. Hood CC in a doubleheader in Gresham yesterday; results were not available at press time. The Cougars travel to Wenatchee, Wash. this weekend for the NWAACC Crossover tournament. CCC will play four different teams from the NWAACC's other divisions in what usually is a preview of the end-of-the-season NWAACC championship tournament in the second to last week of May.

Adam J. Manley Clackamas Print

Sophomore catcher Cotie Howard takes a wack at a pitch during a game vs. Mt. Hood on April 6. Clackamas won both games handily. Howard was a Southern Region All-Star last season. She is a multi-skilled athlete who also played for the volleyball team during the 2005 season.

Baseball battling for top spot



Photos by Sam Krause Clackamas Print

ABOVE: Freshman OF Sean Sprauer swings for the fences vs. SWOCC during a game this weekend. Sprauer has a big arm and a big bat, equipped as a pitcher or an offensive threat.

RIGHT: Sophomore hurler Bryce Roby brings the heat vs. SWOCC. Roby pitched and played 1B at Lewis and Clark College in 2004 before leaving for his two-year mission.

Mike Guidice
Sports Editor

Despite losing some close games late, the Cougar baseball team finds itself battling Mt. Hood CC for the top spot in the Southern Division standings. With a 6-4 record in league, and 18-6 mark overall, Clackamas has reason to be optimistic.

"We've beat ourselves in the games we've lost. We're young, but a very talented team," Co-Captain SS Eric Renander said.

Most recently, the team swept SW Oregon CC in a double-header over the past weekend at home. In game one, the Cougars won 5-3 behind starting freshman pitcher Nate Reif. Reif went seven plus innings, allowing two runs on eight hits, while striking out five.

"The team played outstanding defense behind me. It got me really pumped to throw," Reif relayed. "It's all starting to come together, especially the defense, which is real nice for a pitcher."

Freshman OF Todd McBride paced the offense with three RBI on two hits, scoring a run in the process.

Game two featured an offensive explosion as the Cougs scored 11 runs in a 10-run rule shortened five-inning game. Freshman 1B Cameron Childress had four RBI on two hits, going yard on one.

"Cam's been impressive this year. He hits the ball real well and has a good attitude," Co-Captain 3B Tony Stutevoss said.

Stutevoss chipped in admirably with three RBI on two hits, scoring two runs. He also ran the bases well and stole three bags, including a Jackie Robinson-esque theft of home in the fourth.

Freshman pitcher Russell Lende got the win as he allowed a mere one run on four hits.

The team was scheduled to play at Mt. Hood on Tuesday,

but the game was rained out for what seemed like the 43rd time this season. The games will be made up on April 26.

Next up for Clackamas is a home double-header vs. Lane on Thursday; first pitch is set for 1 p.m. After that, the team plays two on Saturday vs. Chemeketa, also at Clackamas.

** Editor's note: Come out and support the Cougar baseball team as they make their late season push for the post-season.*

