

Baseball bows out, looks ahead



Photo by Sam Krause The Clackamas Print

Freshman pitcher Nate Reif winds up as he prepares to throw the ball. Reif was a solid contributor to the team's success all season.

Mike Guidice Sports Editor

All good things most come to an end. Unfortunately for the baseball team, their season ended seemingly premature after splitting their series with Southwestern Oregon CC last Thursday.

In game one, Clackamas was handed a slim defeat, losing 6-5 in a sloppy game that saw the teams combine for nine errors. Freshman Jeff Bjorklund took the loss despite pitching strong all season.

"We made a solid run late, but offensively we didn't get it done. Too little, too late," SS co-captain Eric Renander said.

The team needed to win both games to have a real shot at controlling second place in the South and playing themselves into the postseason.

"You have to play every game like it's your last. In the first game, we came out like we had 20 games left. We didn't play with a sense of urgency," Co-Captain 3B Tony Stutevoss said.

Game two saw Clackamas win the close game this time, 4-3. Nate Reif was victorious as he continued to do work for the Cougs. Freshman pitcher Kyle Burright got the save.

Upon finding out their misfortunes later in the day, the team experienced all the emotions one would associate with missing out on the playoffs and coming up short in their efforts.

"We heard the news and everyone just got quiet. We hung around for a while and took some last team photos; that was a good memory," Renander said.

A team that held the second seed in the division for the majority of the season wholeheartedly expected to be in the playoffs come the end of the regular season. The news was not an easy pill to swallow.

"We were disappointed. We thought there was no doubt that we were the second-best team in the division; finding out we didn't make it was a real shock," Bjorklund said.

The team experienced great moments of success on the field, but maybe even more encouraging were the friendships that were forged over the course of the year.

"The thing I'll remember the most is the individuals. We developed a lot of good friendships over the year that will hopefully last forever," Bjorklund said.

The Cougars finished the season third in the South with a record of 14-16 in league play, 22-20 overall.

"Looking back, it's weird. We started with 60-some-odd guys and ended up with 25. There were some things I would have done differently, but I'm satisfied overall. I made a lot of good friends," Renander relayed.

Looking towards the future, the program has reason to be optimistic.

"We're bringing a lot of guys back, so we will have the talent. It's just a matter of if we get the job done," Bjorklund said.

Track & field team prepares for NWAACC championships



LEFT: Freshman sprinter Ime Ntehpere streaks towards the finish line.

The track and field athletes look forward to later this week, when they will participate in the NWAACC championships, on Thursday and Friday.

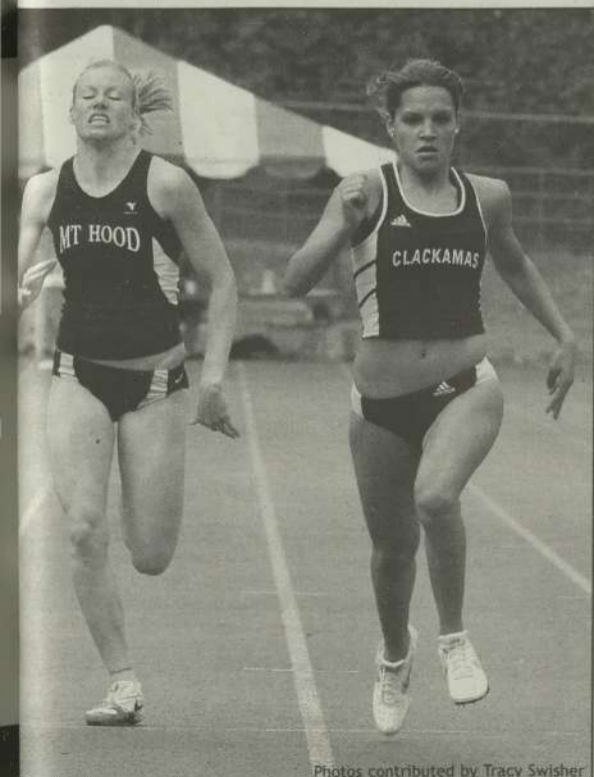
For the men, there are a lot of people to keep an eye on. Kenjamine Jackson will be running the 100 and 200-meter. Look for Mike Simmons in javelin and Chris Dilly in the discus; Dilly will attempt to continue his dominance in the hammer. The men's 4x100-meter relay team of Jackson, Joe Gobel, Wesley Keller and Stan Wester, along with the relay team of Gobel, Jackson, Keller and Matt Tweedy, are also headlining.

For the women, standouts include Rachel Hemphill in the 200 and 400-meter dash and Lyndsey McKillip

in the 3000-meter steeplechase. Watch out for Meaghan Durand in the high jump and Tricia Bollier in the pole vault, as well as the 4x100-meter relay team of Hemphill, Durand, Jamie Burg and Stefani Dittmar, and the 4x400 relay team of Hemphill, Dittmar, Burg and Allison Body.

The final meet of the year will take place at Mt. Hood CC, in Gresham.

- Compiled by Jesse Dees, *The Clackamas Print*



Photos contributed by Tracy Swisher

Freshman Rachel Hemphill runs like the wind as she competes past the competition.



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