

# Final meet a success



Sam Krause Clackamas Print

## Sam Krause

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The men's and women's Cougar track and field teams met last week at Mt. Hood CC for the 2007 WAACC Championships in what was a solid year.

"One of the big things for us as a team is to get peak performances at championship time, so one of the things we look at are personal records in the meet," said Head Coach Keoni McHone. "We had 31 personal bests over the two days."

The men placed third by pushing their total score to 149 points, getting beaten out by Spokane CC (228 points), who have placed first for the last three years, and Lane CC (202 points).

Placing fourth overall and bringing in 107 points, the Lady Cougs came out with strong performances in the entire team.

Rachel Hemphill made the grade by placing in four of her events. Hemphill pulled a PR in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.77 seconds, placing third. She continued her PR streak in the 400-meter run, dropping it from 58.27 seconds to a time of 57.52 seconds and stepping up to second place.

Burg and Hemphill participated in the relays with Stefani Dittmar. The forceful trio found themselves placing first in the 4x100-meter relay with Megan Durand, and later placed second in the 4x400-meter relay with Alison Body.

"When Jamie got the baton [in the 400 relay], they were down by two and a half seconds, and they were coming against the second top performer in the conference, and Jamie

went after her," said McHone. "[She] just happened to make up that little bit and catch up to her and still only miss it by seven tenths of a second."

Durand went on to place third in the high jump, clearing the bar with a height of 1.54 meters.

Javelin thrower Jeeni Schantin closed a strong career with the college, throwing 50.24 meters.

"Her mark actually qualifies her for the U.S.A. Outdoor Track and Field Championships," said McHone. "These are the top athletes in the country."

Schantin has signed with Seattle Pacific University for the next school year.

The 3000-meter steeple chase pulled Lyndsey Mckillip to a second-place finish (11:33.03 seconds) and put her ahead of the competition by over 10 seconds.

"Her personal record lowered the school record by three seconds. They went out pretty slow in the first 800 meters, and for her to have to drop the hammer by that much is pretty good," said McHone.

The men's team put on just as good of a show for the audience.

In the 100-meter dash, Kenjamine Jackson garnered a first-place time of 10.68 seconds, with teammate Wesley Keller (10.86 seconds) grabbing third.

Jackson also received a second-place finish in the 200-meter dash. Keller came in third with 22.06 seconds.

The men's relay team came through with first-place finishes in both the 4x100-meter run and 4x400-meter run.

Gobel, Jackson, Keller and Stan Wester ran a time of 41.47 seconds, another PR for Clackamas in the

4x100-meter run. Then, in the 4x400-meter, with Mat Tweedy in place of Wester, the Cougs pulled ahead of Lane CC and Spokane CC with a time of 3:17.29 seconds.

Clayton Herman found himself with a new PR in the 110-meter hurdle with a third-place finish of 15.50 seconds.

Tweedy was in action, too, with a second-place finish in the 400-meter run, raking in a time of 48.7 seconds. In the 400-meter hurdle, it was Wester who squeezed into second with a time of 54.91 seconds.

In the field, Mike Simmons, Quinten Baxter and Chris Dilley performed admirably.

Simmons placed first in the javelin throw with 68.28 meters, besting his earlier performance by more than three meters and earning a PR.

In the hammer throw, Dilley was able to throw a distance of 52.18 meters, placing first, and Baxter came in with a third-place throw of 51.31 meters, taking home a PR.

Dilley ended up taking second in the discus throw, pulling off 44.72 meters.

Gobel sprung into second place in the high jump, raising the bar to 1.9 meters.

"It was just an awesome meet," said McHone. "This is my first year as head track coach. A lot of these athletes weren't necessarily recruited, so they just kind of showed up. These guys did very well and came on this team just because they wanted to do track."

This year, the Cougs were made up of mostly freshman and suffered from slow recruitment, but a lot of the team is excited about next year.

"The incoming freshman class is looking really strong," said McHone.



Photo contributed by Jeeni Schantin

TOP LEFT: Long jumper Matt Dotson grimaces as he lands after a long jump.

ABOVE: Lyndsey Mckillip competes in the steeple chase.



## Blazers win lotto, set to buy thoroughbred

Mike Guidice

Sports Editor

Eight days ago, the greatest news an Oregonian could receive was announced: The Portland Trail Blazers, despite possessing better odds of getting struck by lightning or dying in a plane crash, were awarded the number one pick in the 2007 NBA Draft.

Soon after the news spread across the country from New York, pandemonium ensued as the people of Portland erupted in a state of pure, unadulterated euphoria.

As if last year's cash crop of stellar young talent derived from the draft was merely a preamble to the main course, the Blazers now have the opportunity to select either Ohio State freshman center Greg Oden, or Texas freshman guard/forward Kevin Durant. Both are potentially franchise-saving talents who cannot be overlooked.

Oden, who led the Buckeyes to the NCAA championship game, is coming off a year that saw him carry the team, despite recovering from right-wrist surgery that caused him to shoot free throws left-handed for much of the regular season. Despite the nagging hindrance, Oden was able to overcome the challenge and excel.

Dominant big men are a rarity, and will always be in high demand. Finding a player who is not only a

space-eater, but a skilled and dominant force inside is something that only occurs every fourth leap year — or every time someone assumes Clay Aiken is straight.

The other upside of drafting Oden would be that it would almost assure the departure of incumbent team leader/cancer Zach Randolph. With Oden and LaMarcus Aldridge holding down the post positions, the Blazers could part ways with Zeebo and hope that Darius Miles retires or ... dies.

Durant, who led the Big 12 with nearly 26 ppg and more than 11 rebounds, earned AP national player-of-the-year honors. He would fill the void at small forward if the Blazers are not able to lure Rashard Lewis away from Seattle or re-sign Travis Outlaw. Durant could also play sparingly at shooting guard and power forward.

With comparisons to Tracy McGrady and Kevin Garnett, the bar is set high for Durant. Coming out of a primetime program like Texas, and being equipped with a lanky 6-10 frame, should equate to immediate NBA success.

Despite needing to improve his defense and passing, as well as hit the weights, from day one, Durant was destined to play, and star, at the next level. While Durant would add a more exciting and entertaining offensive threat, inside and out, the Blazers cannot pass on the dominant center from Ohio State, Greg Oden.

Once upon a time, a long while ago, the Blazers drafted a center with the number one pick in the draft. His name was Bill Walton, and he led the team to their only NBA championship. I realize it's early to make any serious prognostications, but if the Blazers draft Oden, they will be on the fast track back to respectability; that, and so much more.

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