

2006-07: The sports year in review

Frank Jordan

The Clackamas Print

The 2006-2007 athletics season has come to a close at Clackamas Community College, and although championships were lacking (with one notable exception), many individuals and all of the teams competed hard and well throughout the school year. The following is a recap of the season.

Soccer

Women's soccer came into the 2006 season with back-to-back NWAACC championships under their belt, but a first-round tournament loss to Spokane CC by a score of 6-2 ended the Cougars' reign. The team ended the season 14-5-1 with a third-place finish in the Southern Region. Hannah Nash, Stephanie Catt, McKenzie Creamer, Sara Carey, Deidre Debski and Georgie Christensen were named to the NWAACC all-star team at season's end.

Volleyball

The Cougar volleyball team lost to Mt. Hood CC in four games in the NWAACC final to finish second in the championship tournament. Clackamas finished the season 41-9 overall, including 8-2 in Southern Region play. Rhea Wortman and Heather Gerke were named to the Southern Region all-star first team, while Malia Kamahoahoa was named to the second team.

Cross-Country

Both the Cougar men's and women's cross-country teams finished fourth at the NWAACC championships in Spokane in November.

Andria Scheese finished seventh in the women's individual race to garner All-American honors. Lyndsey McKillup, Allison Body and Savannah Walruff all finished in the top 21 to help the Cougar women to their fourth-place finish. Brandon Snook finished 13th to lead the Cougar men at the NWAACC meet, while Jose Barajas, Daniel Alvarez and Spencer Bonney all finished in the top 30 to help the Cougar men to their fourth-place finish.

Wrestling

Six Clackamas wrestlers raked in All-American honors at the NJCAA

National Championships in Rochester, Minn. to lead the Cougars to a fifth-place trophy, their first trophy in 18 years. Sam Schmitz and John Bates each finished third at the national meet after each won Region 18 championships in their respective weight classes. Alex Bubb finished sixth at nationals, while Derick Bartlemy finished seventh and Brian Jacob and Seth Roy each placed eighth in Minnesota to help the Cougars to their trophy.

Women's Basketball

An otherwise successful season ended quickly for the Cougar women, who went two-and-out at the NWAACC championships in Kennewick, Wash. The Cougars lost to Walla Walla CC 58-47 in the opener and went home after an 82-78 loss to Highline CC at the tournament. The Cougar women lost leading scorer Charday Hunt to an injury halfway through the regular season and, despite their best efforts, could not overcome Hunt's injury.

Clackamas finished with an overall record of 20-10, including 11-3 in Southern Region play. They finished in second place in the region. Rachel Copeland and Kellyn Cooper were named to the Southern Region all-star first team for their efforts.

Men's Basketball (champs)

With all-everything Brian Freeman leading the way, the Clackamas men defeated Bellevue CC 67-56 to win their third NWAACC championship in March in Kennewick, Wash. Freeman was named the tournament most valuable player, while Steven Vaughan and David Cernin were also named to the all-tournament team.

The Cougars ran the table in the Southern Region, winning all 14 division games and finishing with a school-record 29 wins on the season against only four losses. Head Men's Coach Clif Wegner was honored with the NWAACC Coach of the Year award.

Freeman has signed with Long Beach State and Cernin has signed with California Baptist University to continue their basketball careers.

Track and Field

The Clackamas men finished third and the Cougar women finished fourth

at the NWAACC championships in May in Gresham.

Six Cougar women, led by NWAACC javelin champion Jeeni Schantin, and both relay teams garnered All-American honors for their efforts. Fourteen Cougar men, led by 100-meter champion Kenjamine Jackson, hammer throw champion Chris Dilley and javelin throw champion Mike Simmons, as well as both NWAACC-champion relay teams, grabbed All-American honors at the season-ending championships at Mt. Hood CC.

Schantin has signed a national letter of intent to throw the javelin at Seattle Pacific University next year.

Baseball

The Clackamas baseball team was ousted from postseason play on the last day of the regular season after splitting a doubleheader with Southwestern Oregon CC. The Cougars finished the season with an overall record of 22-20, including 14-16 in Southern Region play, finishing third in the region. Jeff Bjorkland and Todd McBride were named to the Southern Region all-star first team, while Bryce Roby, Todd Stutevoss, Eric Renender, Cameron Childress, Sean Sprauer and Ben Janal garnered second team selections.

Softball

The Cougar softball team lost a 3-2 heartbreaker to Lower Columbia College in the NWAACC final to finish second in the conference for the second straight year.

Numerous records were set by this year's edition of Cougar softball, including 52 team home runs and the amazing pitching exploits of freshman Renee Santos. Santos won 25 games, pitched 196 1/3 innings and struck out what is believed to be an NWAACC record 408 hitters, all school records. Santos' season was rewarded with All-American recognition by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

Santos was also named Southern Region pitcher of the year, while Katie King, Samantha Daline and Cotie Howard were named Southern Region first team all-stars. Second team selections included Janelle Cristofaro, Heather Rightley and Lacey Forbitto.



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Guard Maurice Ross sets up with a shot over competition.

Setter Renee Santos sets up as she prepares to deliver a bomb.



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Guard David Cernin shoots from deep.



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Setter Carla Crowder does her job as she sets up a teammate.

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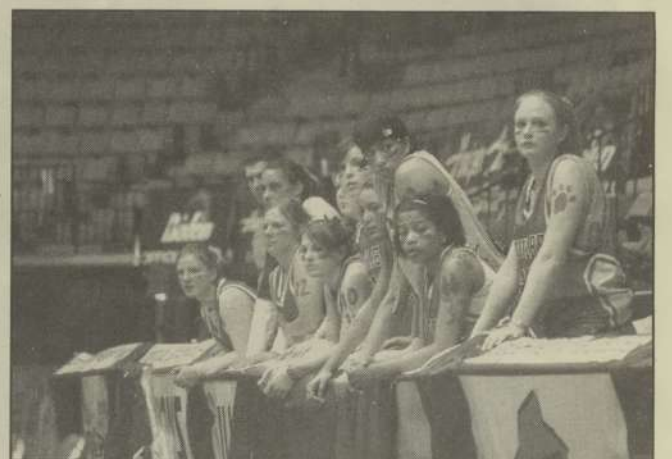


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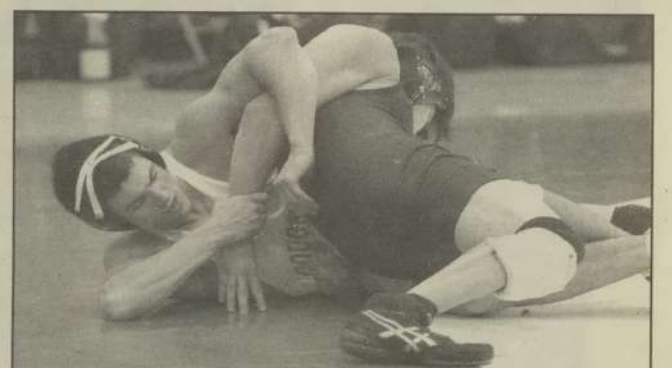
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TOP: The women's basketball team cheers on the men's squad in Kennewick, Wash. during their championship run.

ABOVE: Brian Jacob grapples with the opposition at a meet earlier this year.