

Grading on the curve: Student athletes put academics first

athletes at Clackamas go above and beyond the academic requirements, making Randall a place to play and study

By **Armando Borboa**

Clackamas Print

The typical stereotype of the dumb athlete apparently does not exist at Clackamas.

According to Athletic Director Jimson, the college has one of the most stringent academic requirements for student athletes in all of Oregon.

Most other schools require athletes to take 12 credits a quarter – we require 16," Jackson said. "Most schools require a minimum 2.0 GPA

to play. We require a 3.0 or better to stay out of a study hall."

Among the top scholars on campus is nursing major Savannah Walruff.

Walruff has been a student at Clackamas for a year and a half. She intends to transfer to a four-year university to earn her degree and eventually work with children as a primary care nurse. Perhaps down the line, she is also considering earning her medical degree and becoming a doctor working in pediatrics.

Walruff has better than a 3.65 GPA, holds down a job as a swim instructor and is a devoted community volunteer. She has been a part of a church community outreach program for years, helping to raise thousands of dollars in assistance funding.

Oh yeah – she's also a track and cross country runner.

Although a standout student in any case, Walruff isn't the only athlete to have brains to match her brawn.

In two of the past four years, the women's volleyball team has managed to achieve standings as a national scholar team, the requirement being an average



Helen Conley Clackamas Print

Baseball players work on homework and study before practice. In the athletic department, 51 percent of students earn a degree or transfer to a four-year university.

3.3 GPA across the board. The men's wrestling team has been nationally recognized for their academic achievements for the last two years. They placed first and second in academic standards, respectively.

"If they want to play, then they better have the grades first," said Head Track and Field/Cross Country Coach Keoni McHone.

A random sampling of athletes wandering about in the gym on a typical afternoon reveals that most of them are involved in other extracur-

ricular activities such as volunteer projects, charities and church groups. The athletic department's objective is to help students pursue their education and, ultimately, reach out to the world beyond sports.

"Each year, we have better than 51 percent of our kids earn a degree or transfer to a higher education program," Jackson said. "Our [department] goal is to have them pursue their education as far as their abilities will take them."



Helen Conley Clackamas Print

Sports Scores

Men's Basketball

2-06-08 – Clackamas 86, Portland 78
2-09-08 – Linn – Benton 78, Clackamas 77

Women's Basketball

2-06-08 – Clackamas 86, Portland 52
2-09-08 – Linn – Benton 73, Clackamas 63

Games This Week

Men's Basketball

Today, vs. Mt. Hood (Home) at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 16, at Southwestern (Coos Bay) at 6 p.m.

Feb. 20, at Chemeketa (Home) at 7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Today, vs. Mt. Hoed (Home) at 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 16, at SW Oregon (Coos Bay) at 4 p.m.

Feb. 20, at Chemeketa (Home) at 5:30 p.m.

Finish your bachelor's degree

At the Harmony Campus

- Partnership with CCC allows easy transition
- Transfer agreements for AAS and AAOT
- Financial aid is available
- George Fox classes at Harmony starting fall 2008

Call today to see how close you are to your bachelor's degree

sps.georgefox.edu
888-888-0178



a matter of mind and spirit