

BROTHERS DON'T JUST HAVE DNA IN COMMON

Mike and Vance Beeson are separated in weight class but united in interests and academics

Andrea Simpson
Sports Editor

The Greek philosopher Antisthenes said, "When brothers agree, no fortress is strong as their common life." For the Beeson brothers, common life is hard to find. Both are full-time students at Clackamas and among the school's best wrestlers. Mike and Vance Beeson hail from Eagle, Idaho, located right outside of Clackamas. They wrestled at Eagle High School, where Vance won the state championship all four years and had an astounding record of 154-3. Mike placed second as a freshman and junior, winning state titles as a senior. Wrestling is in their blood. My 15-year-old brother wrestled but not in the sixth grade," Mike, who is two years older, said. "My dad did it in high school. It's just part of the family." The sport has also brought them closer together as siblings. It has helped us make a lot of the same friends," Mike said. "It brought us to the same college, too." The college has played a pivotal role in their education. I came to Clackamas because of grade school," Vance said. "My grades weren't good enough to go directly to a university. From Boise, so it was closer than any other junior colleges with a good wrestling program. That was a big reason to come here." The brothers are aiming for their trans-

fer degrees and plan on returning to their home state to attend Boise State University.

"If we go to the same school, we will probably room together," Mike said.

Vance added, "Even if we don't go to the same school, it probably won't change our relationship that much."

According to those who work with them, the siblings definitely interact as teammates.

"They act like brothers," said Head Wrestling Coach Josh Rhoden. "It makes it fun because there are five or six sophomores on the team, which is unusual. We are a fairly experienced team."

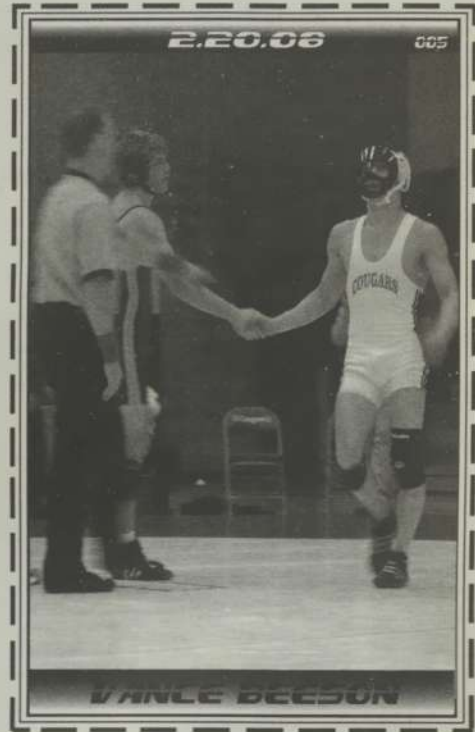
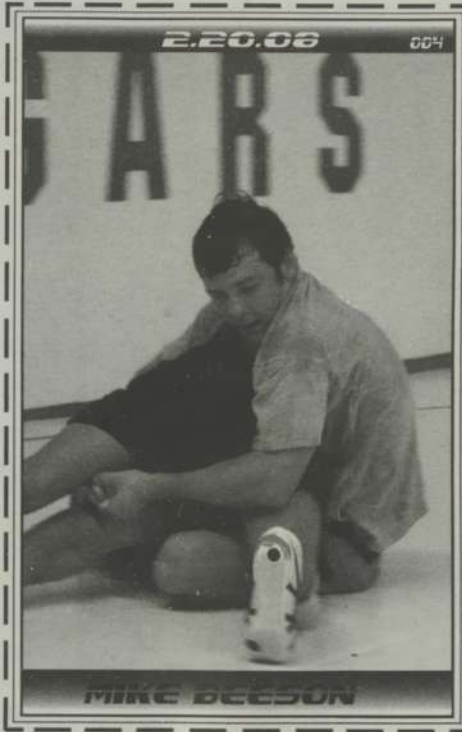
"Community colleges tend to be a revolving door. They feed into it more than the other guys, but it does help with the team chemistry. They are all making jokes before a match, and it helps loosen the tension."

Wrestling isn't the only area of their lives that is associated with fond memories.

"My first memory of my brother is at his fifth birthday party," Mike said. "He was wearing blue pants with white stars on them, MC Hammer-style."

More recently, Mike and Vance have bonded over wild, and sometimes illegal, escapades.

"We went cliff-jumping at midnight," Mike said. "It was in high school, prob-



ably our junior year."

Vance said, "Once, we broke into an Aquatic Center in Boise. There was a maintenance shell on the roof, and we broke the lock on it and jumped from the rafters into the pool and just swam around for a while."

When they are not wrestling or studying, the men enjoy different pastimes.

"I hang out with friends," Vance said. "I enjoy working out in the gym as well."

Mike said, "I like to long board when it's sunny ... I like to wakeboard and

try to snowboard. I like hanging with friends."

With nationals coming up, neither Mike nor Vance has much time for anything other than preparing to compete with some of the most talented wrestlers from around the country.

"I am excited for nationals and at the same time can't wait for it to be over," Vance said. "It's been a long season."

The NJCAA National Championships are being held in Rochester, Minn., on Feb. 22 and 23.

Baseball shows dedication throughout the entire year

Dale Balbi
The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas baseball team looks more dedicated than ever. The team includes 15 of last season's 32 players. Consequently, experience is one of its strengths. Also as a result, the players know each other as athletes as well as people. "These guys mesh well together on and off the field, and have good team chemistry," said Head Coach Robin Robinson. The team adheres to a seemingly busy schedule. "September through October, the team practices their baseball skills," Robinson said. "November through December, the team works in the weight room. January through February, the team practices more, and March through May, the team plays games." Some of the players look forward to practicing at least 10 months prior to the season's start. "I like it. I work on ways to throw the ball in play and balance mechanics," said centerfielder Dale Balbi. "I always learn something every practice about hit-

ting," he added. McBride has also received attention from the major leagues. He was recently drafted in the 42nd round by the Kansas City Royals.

However, baseball isn't the athletes' only focus - they have an average 3.2 GPA.

"These guys are students first and baseball players second," Robinson said.

The team has one main aspiration for the season:

"Our goal is to finish first or second in the region, in order to make the playoffs," Robinson said.

The baseball team's first game is March 1 against Spokane Falls Community College.

"We are having a good time and are excited about the games," Robinson said.



Jim Bray swings at a pitch during a scrimmage game on Friday, Feb. 15.

Basketball looks forward to securing spot for NWAACCs

With just one game to go for men's and women's basketball, the teams anticipate victories

Megan Koler
Editor in Chief

A spot in this year's Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's championship tournament seems imminent for both the men's and women's basketball teams, who each have a mere one game to go.

The women's team won both their games this week. They defeated Mt. Hood Community College at their home game last Wednesday, 75-53, and Southwest Oregon this past Saturday, 55-53.

The men's team won their home game against Mt. Hood CC as well, 72-60, but they faltered in Coos Bay against Southwest Oregon, losing 75-110.

Both teams are nestled comfortably within the top four places in the NWAACC standings, while the women's team is tied for third with Linn-Benton. The men's team also sits in third place.

With only one game left to go, their chances of placing in time for NWAACCs seem secure.

The women's standings are 8-5 in league play and 18-9 in season play. The men's stand-

ings are 8-5 in league play and 16-12 in season play.

Both the men's and women's teams will face off against Chemeketa Community College in a home game today. The women will play at 5:30 p.m., and the men at 7:30 p.m., in the Randall Gym. This will be their last home game this season.

Information regarding the NWAACC championships - hosted in Kennewick, Wash., from Feb. 28 to March 2 - can be found at the college's athletics Web site, <http://depts.clackamas.edu/athletics/Basketball>.



Coach Jim Martineau instructs the team Feb. 13 during the game against Mt. Hood Community College.