

Clackamas' teams finish winter season

Megan Koler

Editor in Chief

Clackamas basketball made the cut, while wrestling finished their season.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams will compete in this year's Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) championship. The women placed third and the men placed second in the NWAACC standings.

Last weekend, Clackamas' wres-

tling team placed seventh nationally in the National Junior College Championships. Three wrestlers (Derick Bartlemy, John Bates and Vance Beeson) made All-American.

Bates was the national runner-up and the first Clackamas finalist since 1997.

With the basketball championships still looming ahead, the men and women each played a hard game against their Chemeketa counterparts during last Wednesday's home game.

The women's team had to beat Chemeketa in order to even qualify for the NWAACC championships, so last Wednesday's game was a passionate one.

"We were down 17 in the second half and wound up winning by six," said Women's Basketball Coach Jim Martineau. "Rachel Copeland hit five straight threes and got us back in it."

The women's team ended up defeating Chemeketa 64-60. That left the women's standings at 9-5 in league play and 19-9 in season play.

The men's team also won their home game against Chemeketa, 106-105. Missing two players at the beginning of the game, including a starter, the men faced an uphill battle. Clackamas was down 13 points with a minute and a half left in the game.

"Basically, we were shooting threes to get back in the game," said freshman J.C. Cook. "We ended up winning on a buzzer beater."

This leaves the men's standings at 9-5 in league play and 17-12 in season play.

The women will start out playing Centralia at 8 p.m., while the men will face off against Puget Sound at 10 p.m.

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>.



All photos by Mistymarie Wilks-Satguero Clackamas Print

ABOVE LEFT: Ashley Cunningham, 24, jumps to block an opponent from Chemeketa CC.

ABOVE RIGHT: Scott Martin, 22, left, holds off a defender from teammate Adam Brickley, 32.

Sports Score

Men's Basketball

2-20-08 = Clackamas 106, Chemeketa 105

Women's Basketball

2-20-08 = Clackamas 64, Chemeketa 60

Wrestling

National Junior Colleges Athletic Association National Championships

Team points: 57, seventh in Division 1, ninth overall

Games This Week

Men's Basketball

Feb. 28 through March 2

2008 NWAACC championship at Toyot Center
Kennewick, Wash.

Women's Basketball

Feb. 28 through March 2

2008 NWAACC championship at Toyot Center
Kennewick, Wash.

Baseball

March 1 against Spokane CC in The Dalles at 10 a.m.

March 2 against Grays Harbor CC in The Dalles at 3 p.m.

Track and Field

March 1, Linfield Icebreaker at Linfield College

JENSEN: On motivation and bouncing back strong

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He is finally learning what it means to win. After two seasons of competing, he has won back his self-respect and earned the admiration of his teammates. Most important, however, he came back from the devastating edge over which too many drug addicts fall.

Despite being 37 years old and competing in a sport dominated by men in their early twenties, Jensen placed second in his weight class at this month's regional finals. With his team making third place overall in the Region 18 Championships, he is already a winner in the eyes of his teammates and fans for the long road he has traveled.

"Not everybody can do this (competition sports), and especially not at his age," said Men's Wrestling Coach Josh Rhoden at the team's final practice before the championship match. "This guy has heart like

you wouldn't believe."

But Jensen's goals involve more than simply wrestling. He aspires to secure a career through the automotive program and perhaps receive a scholarship.

In addition, he hopes to become a motivational speaker and be able to share his insights on drugs and redemption. He wants the opportunity to counsel younger people facing their own hard choices.

"Once you hit bottom, you have to decide for yourself that you want something different," he said. "Nobody can

decide for you, and nobody can make you do it."

It is this drive gained from his experiences that makes Jensen push himself to achieve. Despite a mispent youth, the scars still visible on his face and body, he has an indomitable will and a positive attitude

that cannot help but motivate around him.

"We have a lot of excellent students in our sports program," said Athletics Director Jim Jensen. "Some of them stand out in ways than one."

To be fair, not all attention is given to Jensen. According to Jensen, now that he has received so much coverage from the local media, sometimes he feels like he has a spotlight on his back during competition.

"Some of these guys I'm familiar with just know they want to take me hard," Jensen said with a laugh.

ESPN is featuring a story on Richard Jensen. It will be aired shortly. For more information, e-mail Head Wrestling Coach Josh Rhoden at joshr@clackamas.edu

Richard Jensen

Age: 37
Weight: 184 lbs
Previous School: Tigard HS

Goals

- To be a motivational speaker
- Secure career through automotive program

Fun Facts

- Jensen placed second in his weight class (2008)
- Favorite athlete: Dion Branch (NFL)



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Sophomore



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