

Spring brings promise on the field

All stories by John Hurlburt

Track and field prepares to test team unity in new season



Sprinters Joseph Gobel, left, and Mat Tweedy finish a run during practice. The team just competed in the Linfield Icebreaker this last weekend.

Mistymarie Wilks-Salguero Clackamas Print

For a sport that is devised of so many different types of events, Clackamas' track and field team has been training diligently to form a cohesive group.

The team, which is composed of a balance between new players and veteran athletes, has been training since the beginning of this school year to think in terms of working as a team first and as individuals second.

The season kicked off March 1 in the Linfield Icebreaker at Linfield College. The men's team placed third, and the women placed fourth.

Head Coach Keoni McHone sees this meet as important because it will show the team what they must improve upon in order to be successful.

Clackamas' strong points

include both men's and women's sprints, women's long jump and women's pole vault.

McHone describes throwers as "the one potential." This year, the team has no returning throwers. Out of the throwers Clackamas does have, none of them participated in the ham event that is not offered at high school.

All of the members of the track and field team tested in two of their meets, the Oregon Preview and the Oregon Relays, which are available only to the top 100 in the state.

The competition will be significantly more difficult this year because of the tryouts, and many Division I teams will participate in the meets.

Softball hopes to continue success with fairly new team



LEFT: A Clackamas player connects with the ball while hitting during practice. The softball team plays its first game today against Concordia.

BELOW: Pitcher Renee Santos lobs a pitch in practice. Santos is a 2007 All-Star as well as a 2007 All-American.

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Last year, the softball team ended its season at the top of the league, feeling like Titans, and this year, Head Coach Jessica Buel doesn't see why it should be any different.

"I believe we should be at the top of NWAACC again," Buel said.

The coaching lineup has remained the same this year, but the players are a different story. Only three players return from last season, leaving a team that is almost completely new to Clackamas.

Among the returning players is sophomore pitcher Renee Santos, who set an NWAACC record last year for strikeouts, earned the pitcher of the year award and made the Louisville Slugger NWAACC All-American Selection for 2007.

The fact that the team mostly consists of rookies will not hold them back, Buel said. "Each player will have a chance to contribute to every game."

The long road for the softball team started back in September with practice. The team will see if its effort has paid off March 5 in an away game with Concordia at Delta Park.

During spring break, the team will travel to Arizona, where it will play against the top junior colleges in the country.



Baseball works overtime to come together and perfect pitch



Andrea Simpson Clackamas Print

Clackamas' baseball team has been working hard, hoping for an opportunity to compete at the state level of competition.

Last season ended with the team pointing missed chance at the state level. This year, Head Coach Rob Robinson says things may be quite different. "We're excited about it because we got a real good group of guys," Robinson said.

Robinson's excitement is founded, as the team has been practicing regularly from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. since September.

The group consists of 15 players, which makes it a center of experienced players. Todd McBride, who has been with the team since he was 12, was drafted by the Kansas City Royals.

The baseball coaches believe that, although all aspects of the game are important, the team's pitching will be the ultimate necessary strategy for this season.

The team will be tested in the next few months, especially in the state tournament. The team wishes to accomplish their goal of being first in the league. The initial process was playing against the Linn-Benton Community College on March 1. Clackamas will play at Delta Park.

One major competition the team hopes to excel in is the Valley Tournament, where they will face off against second-place Linn-Benton Community College.

Mt. Hood, however, is the team's goal to beat this year. Rob Robinson says Clackamas will get its chance to beat the current division champion on March 29.

ABOVE: Tyler Waters winds up for the pitch in practice.

BELOW: Sean Sprauer steps up to the plate and prepares to hit an incoming pitch. Catcher Ben Janal waits patiently behind.

