

Volleyball takes fourth at NWAACC



Contributed by Tracy Swisher

The Clackamas Cougars celebrate one of their victories at the NWAACCs last weekend. They went on to claim a respectable fourth place finish.

Jon Helmkamp

The Clackamas Print

After making a name for themselves as one of the premiere volleyball teams in the Northwest by qualifying for the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Championships 13 of the last 14 years, Cougar Volleyball finished this year with a fourth place finish at the NWAACCs last weekend.

According to Kathie

Woods, head coach, they have been working toward the NWAACCs since they first got together as a team back in August.

"We have worked very hard to get to where we are today. We started in August with this tournament as our goal. We are ranked fourth in the entire NWAACC (out of 29 teams) and the girls are deserving of all the respect they have received," said Woods.

At the start of the season, the team set out to not only

be a great volleyball team on the court, but to be outstanding individuals as well. According to Taya Clark, co-team captain, they have focused on becoming better people by focusing on four main covenants – passion, integrity, selflessness and commitment.

"We apply those covenants to school, volleyball and life. This year we have stuck by those covenants and have become a better team because of them," said the 19-year-old sophomore.

Practicing those qualities in their lives and committing themselves fully to becoming a team led them to a successful season and a fourth place rank going into the NWAACCs. During the regular season, the Cougs compiled a 41-15 record overall, including a 7-3 record in league.

The Cougars started off the NWAACCs with a tough win over the West Region's third seeded Highline Community College in five sets on Thursday, Nov. 20. The following day, they defeated Linn-Benton Community College in three sets, then was defeated later that day by the East Region's top seed, Walla Walla Community College, in five tough-fought sets.

Despite the second loss to Walla Walla, Woods was very pleased with the attitude of the team after their first loss.

"I was very proud of this team to bounce back after the first loss. A lot of teams

will not do that. We had to play a lot of volleyball to make it back to the Championship game and this team was proud to do so," said Woods.

On the final day of tournament, the Cougars defeated Walla Walla for the second time, and the result was better than the day before. Walla Walla defeated Clackamas handily in two sets. After their second loss, the Cougars defeated Bellevue Community College in three sets and Green River Community College in two

"This was the most exciting NWAACC Championship in my 28 years of coaching at this level ..."

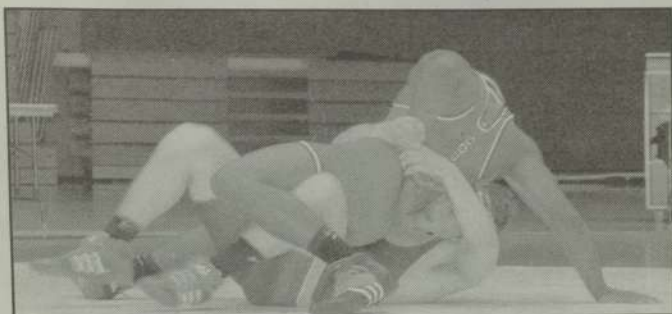
Kathie Woods
Head Coach

"We played well and played hard the entire tournament," continued Woods. "To finish out fourth place this year, the NWAACC is am

WINTER SPORTS

-at a glance-

All photos by Megan Shaw



Left: Tyrell Fortune, on top, struggles against John Forrester from North Idaho College.

Middle: Patti Polk (1) tries to dribble around Kayla Hutcheson (24) from Walla Walla Community College.

Right: A Clackamas player drives to the hoop in a game against Walla Walla Community College.



Clackamas Print

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