

Cougars hold on to number one slot

They're 8-0, but with guys like these, who can take 'em down?

Tom Krause
Editor

The Cougars are on a roll. They've won every league game. All five starting players are ranked in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges as an overall leader for rebounds, steals or assists.

The team is currently 20-2 and has dominated the Southern Region of the NWAACC with a record of 8-0 and holds the top spot in the Coaches' poll.

That's because the entire team is playing well. The team shoots an average of 41 points from the bench, at the league they do. In their recent matchup against Southwestern Community College, guard Johnny Brainard shot 10 points and the 7-foot-1 center Scott King put in seven points.

From the bench, Scott Martin and Shane Fife are steadying injuries on the team.

Martin shoots an average of 10 points per game and has only one turnover to his name for the season. Fife, a freshman

from Canby, averages at least one assist, one block, and two points per game.

The Cougars starting lineup is nothing less than impressive.

Until recently, the freshman forward from Century High School, Chehales Tapscott, was ranked number one in the NWAACC for total points and rebounds. Now he's number two in both categories, with statistics of less than a hundredth of a percent keeping him from the top position. At the SWOCC game, Tapscott put in a total of 25 points with five of those from the 3-point line. Tapscott also had two blocks, four steals, four assists and 18 rebounds.

JC Cook, another player from Canby, has boosted his game at every matchup. Cook is ranked sixth in the NWAACC for scoring and second for steals and has been climbing the ranks ever since he got there. In the Coug's latest game against SWOCC, Cook sunk five shots from the 3-point line and ended the game with 17 points, one steal and five assists.

Also heating up at the SWOCC game was Jeff Dorman, an underrated freshman point guard. Dorman snuck onto the NWAACC rankings for steals and while he plays hot and cold

games, he almost always scores in the double digits and is always good for an assist or a rebound. His stats for the SWOCC game were definitely hot - 18 total points with five baskets from the 3-point line, and all in about 16 minutes.

Zack Wilde, guard, has been pulling a lot of rebounds and that's especially important for the Cougars since two of their shortcomings are points from turnovers and second half rallies from the opponent, though these problems have only proved minor inconveniences. Against SWOCC, Wilde had four assists and seven rebounds.

Placing seventh in the NWAACC for assists, Austin Dunn brings in at least 14 points per game. Dunn put in 14 points against SWOCC and added another four assists to his NWAACC ranking, one block and eight rebounds.

The final score against SWOCC was 85 to Clackamas' 118. This kind of spread is a common theme to the Cougars 8-0 record in the Southern Region: 97-71 at Umpqua CC, 66-101 against Lane CC, 106-63 at Portland CC, 90-77 against Linn-Benton CC ... the list goes on.

Hopefully, the team can keep adding to the list.



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Freshman Justin Steinke practices (and plays) before the Cougar's game against Southwestern CC on Jan. 31.

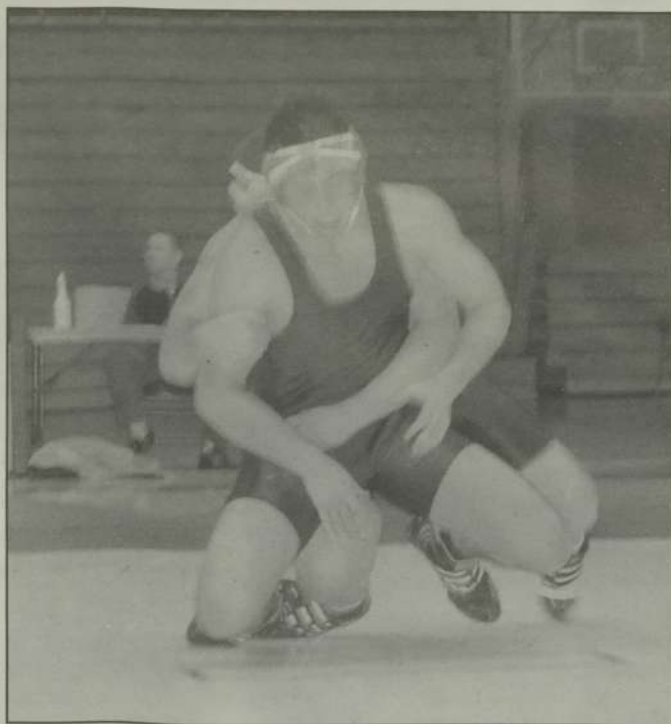
Wrestlers make their mark on the country, ranked tenth



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Clackamas wrestling team is 9-5 in the National JuniorCollege Athletic Association and currently ranked tenth in the nation.

Top left is Tyrell Fortune in a match where he claimed the title for the 285 pound weight division. Right is Brett Sanchez. Sanchez eventually won his bracket when his opponent quit.



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Bottom right, Freshman Caleb Kociemba competes in the 184 pound division, eventually winning this match. Bottom left, Kyle Wirkuty on his way to defeating his opponent in the Cougars matchup against Yakima CC.



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