

Clackamas goes above and beyond Association requirements

Abby Neet

The Clackamas Print

Without the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC), the cost of running the athletic department would be much higher.

The mission of the NWAACC is to foster athletic participation in an environment that supports equitable opportunities for students, consistent with educational objectives of member colleges, according to NWAACC.org.

The NWAACC is an organization of community colleges within Oregon and Washington. The NWAACC has an assortment of duties, including rule enforcement and organizing the schedules.

Jim Martineau, director of athletics and women's basketball coach, firmly agrees with the importance of the NWAACC.

"For our purposes, it has a huge importance. If we did not have it, the cost of running the athletic department would be much more," Martineau said. "It allows competition. Without it we would have to compete on the national level, and the cost would be much higher."

The NWAACC allows for competition without having to travel outside the Northwest.

The NWAACC had standards for eligibility in athletic programs. Students must be registered for 12 credits and maintain a 2.00 GPA.

The Clackamas standards differ slightly

from the 12 credit minimum.

Martineau stated that Clackamas requires a 15 or 16 credit minimum.

"Having a 16 credit requirement also helps athletes get done and graduated in two years," Martineau said. Martineau said he believes the standards in place are not too difficult, and can easily be managed.

The standards are not any different from any other college or four year program and Martineau is confident most students will be more than well prepared.

As far as the 2.00 GPA, Martineau claims most are well above the requirement.

According to NWAACC guidelines, athletes cannot play one sport for more than two years, in an attempt to inspire moving on and getting a transfer degree.

Although, according to Martineau, there are some students who will play two years of one sport and stay for a third year and play another sport.

The coaches in the NWAACC vote on who the top eight to 10 teams are, and that is how ranking is determined.

Women's Basketball is currently ranked third. Men's Basketball is at the top of their game with a number one ranking.

The rankings are not as important during midseason as they are at the end of the term. Midseason they do allow for comparison to be made between teams, which may not be playing against each other yet.



Robert Crawford Clackamas

Jim Martineau talks with the women's basketball team before taking the court and practicing with the team earlier this week.

Because there are so few community college wrestling teams in the NWAACC, the Clackamas wrestling team is part of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

Josh Rhoden, wrestling coach, would much rather be a part of the NJCAA, as it allows national competition as well as recognition and exposure.

Rhoden believes that being able to compete nationally is what attracts the talented wrestlers on Clackamas' wrestling team. Rhoden stated that he would be reluctant to leave the NJCAA.

"The pros outweigh the cons. People know

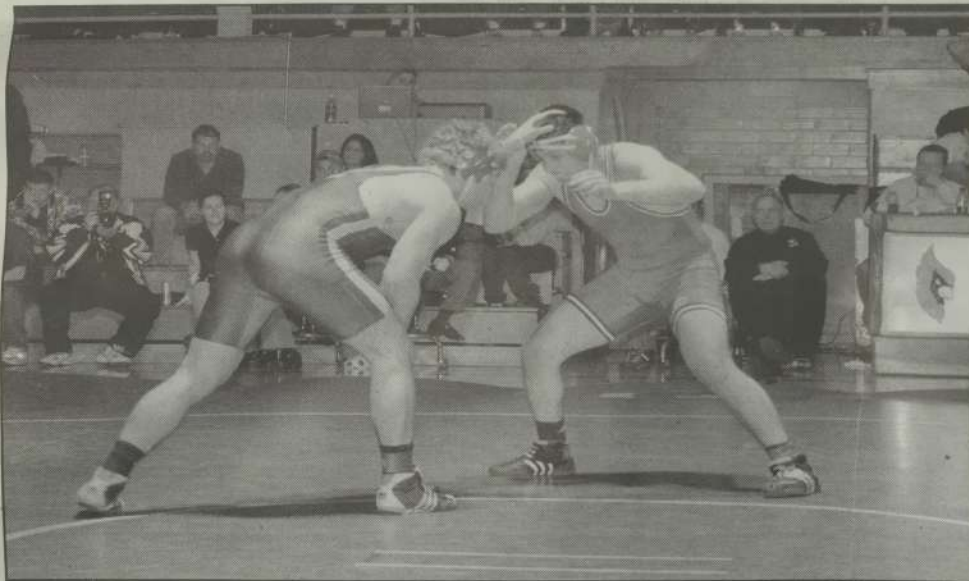
who we are," said Rhoden.

Tyrell Fortune, a freshman wrestler ranked second in the country, says he would not be on the wrestling team if they were part of the NWAACC, and only competing in the Washington and Oregon region. Fortune said being able to compete nationally is much more exciting.

Fortune feels positive about the national title at the end of the month.

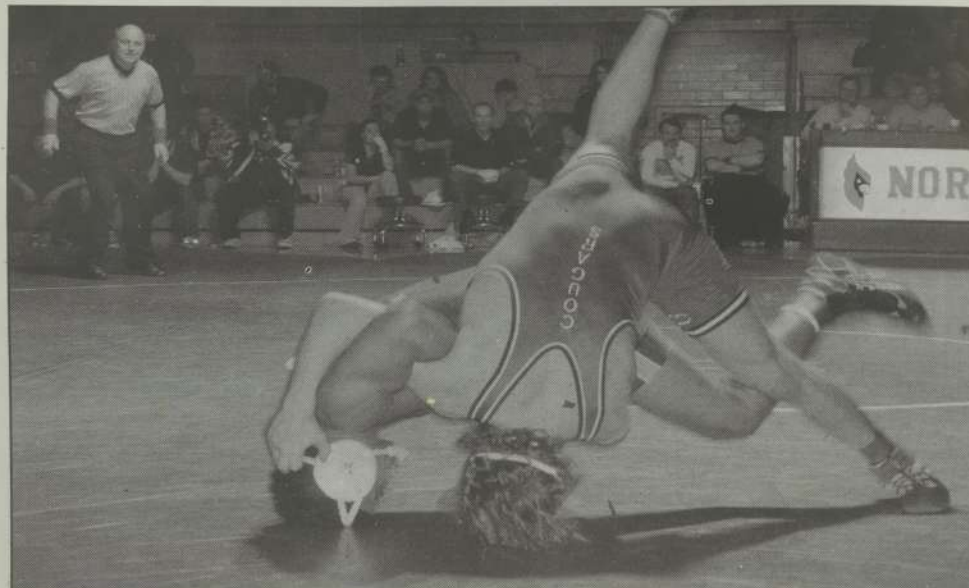
"I feel good, ready to win it," Fortune said. "Hopefully, we can come together and win it. I plan on coming back for the national title."

Wrestling domination keeps the Cougars second in national

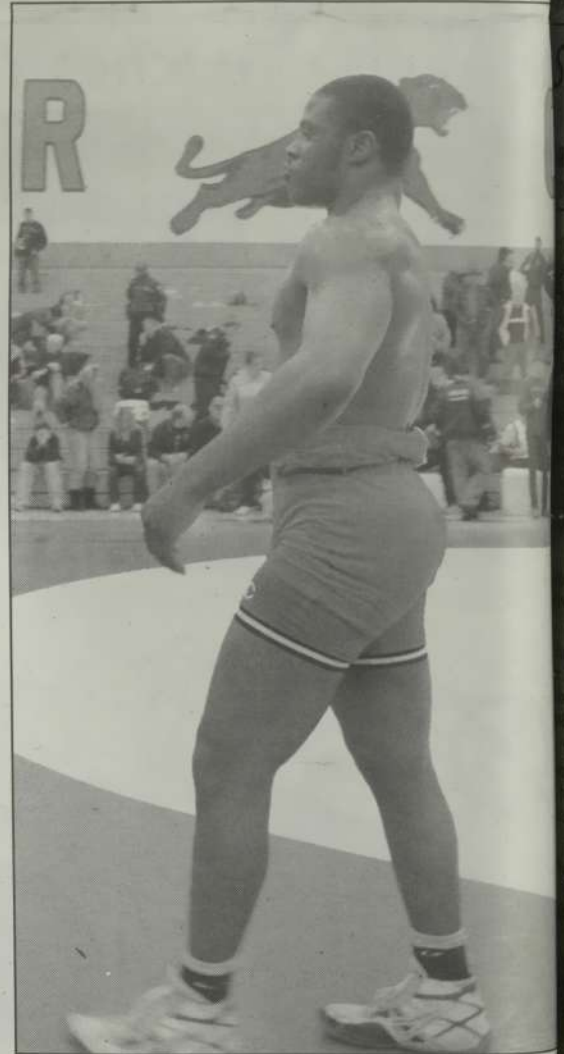


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Above: Cougar Brett Sanchez-197, right, faces off against Rudy Burtchsi at the NJCAA Region 18 Tournament in North Idaho. Below: Josh Miller-177, right, shows Celtic Bell the meaning of pain in his national qualifying match. Clackamas had eight wrestlers qualify for nationals this Feb. 27 and 28.



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Robert Crawford Clackamas

The 287-pound Tyrell "Tank" Fortune Jan. 17 after his win against Montana's number one ranked Robbie Shaw. Fortune has led the team in wins with a record of 28-2.

Correction: In last week's edition, Kayla Calloway should have been credited with the wrestling story. *The Print* regrets this error.