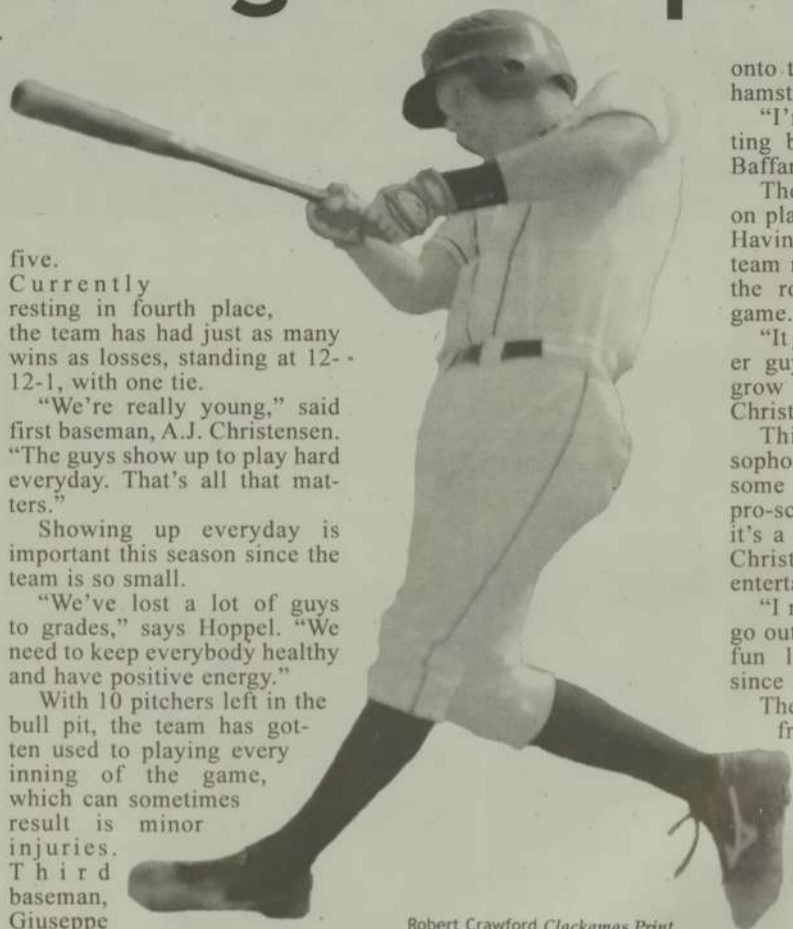


Cougars fight despite injuries

Cougars play hard despite losses due to injuries

Kayla Calloway

The bat strikes the...
 The bat falls to the dirt...
 small thud as the hitter...
 off towards first base, but...
 no difference: the bat...
 out.
 week's bright, sunny...
 day was a day of sun-...
 and relaxing. It also...
 to be a chance for...
 Cougars to defend their...
 turf against the Mt. Hood...
 Hood is the team to beat...
 year," said Jim Hoppel, the...
 head coach.
 The Saints have been beat-...
 the competition throughout...
 season, and they continued...
 at their best this past...
 The Cougars rose to the...
 challenge however, throwing...
 too fast to see and hit-...
 the balls high into the air...
 so far this season, the Cougars...
 managed to stay in the top



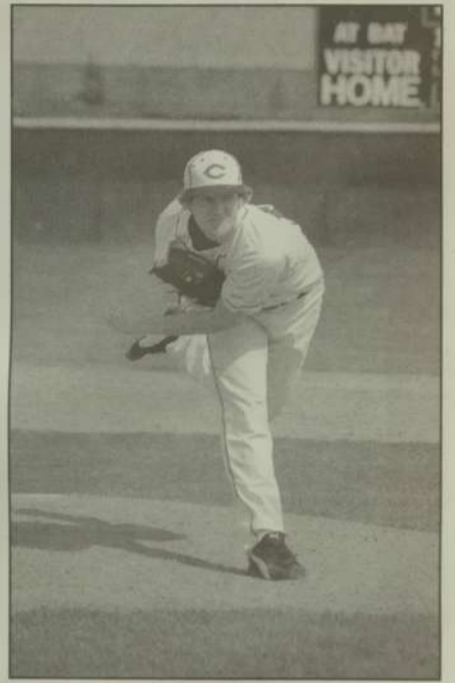
Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

five.
 Currently resting in fourth place, the team has had just as many wins as losses, standing at 12-12-1, with one tie.
 "We're really young," said first baseman, A.J. Christensen. "The guys show up to play hard everyday. That's all that matters."
 Showing up everyday is important this season since the team is so small.
 "We've lost a lot of guys to grades," says Hoppel. "We need to keep everybody healthy and have positive energy."
 With 10 pitchers left in the bull pit, the team has gotten used to playing every inning of the game, which can sometimes result in minor injuries.
 Third baseman, Giuseppe "G" Baffaro, is finally able to walk back

Brenden Landwehr, a sophomore, sends the ball flying before running to first.

onto the field after pulling his hamstring.
 "I'm focusing on getting back in the game," said Baffaro.
 The Cougars are focused on playing as a team. Having such a young team means throwing the rookies into the game.
 "It gives the younger guys a chance to grow up quick," says Christensen.
 This year, the sophomore is getting some attention from pro-scouts. Although it's a lot of pressure, Christensen finds it entertaining.
 "I really just try to go out there and have fun like I've done since I was little."
 The season is far from over, and the team is hopeful for the results.
 "We've got to stay on track and stay positive," says Hoppel, a remark that's

echoed by Baffaro.
 "We've got to play as a team."
 There are 20 games left in the season and plenty of chances to come out on top.



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Sophomore Derek Davis aims to strike out his opponent.

Softball snags two wins from tournament



Kayla Berge Clackamas Print

Winningham, a sophomore, hones in her skills at practice.

Mark Sunderland

The season is off to a good...
 with a three to one win/...
 ratio at last weekend's...
 game up at Mt. Vernon, Wash...
 Clackamas Cougars are...
 with some fresh new tal-...
 and a good take off from...
 weekend's games. Megan...
 Peterson, a freshman pitcher...
 of the Cougars, said she was...
 about the outcome...
 weekend's games and...
 that they went well.
 family Morrill, a returning...
 who plays center field...
 believed the games went...
 last weekend and she also...
 it is their break-out...
 The third-year head coach

Jessica Buel looks forward to the new season, and she enjoys working with a highly talented team of students. When asked who her best players were, she replied that she thought they were all great players, and it was more of a team effort than any one individual.
 "I play to be part of a team," Morrill said when asked what she liked about softball. She said also liked how the team was diverse. "We all come from different social groups," Morrill said.
 Megan Peterson plays the sport because she finds it both fun and competitive.
 The season looks promising with the strong new talent and strong team oriented belief held by the coach and the players.

Fleet feet rise to occasion

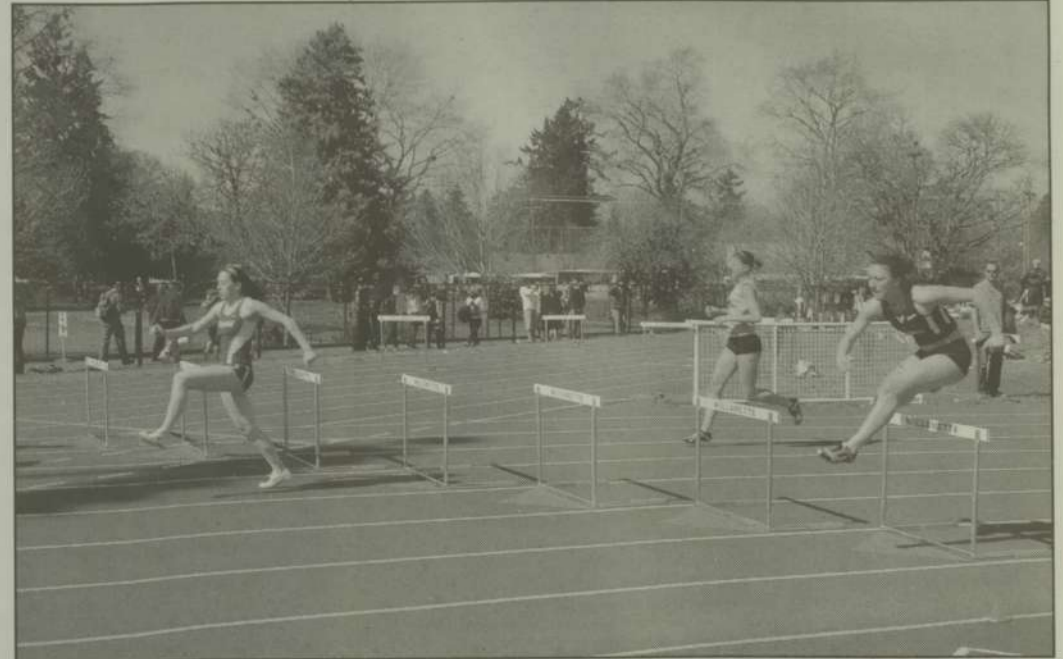
Mark Foster

The Clackamas Print

The April 4 track and field meet showed promise for the Cougars, who displayed numerous outstanding performances at Willamette University.
 Sophomore Kaitlyn Reid moved into eighth place in the college's history with a time of 1:05.33 in the 400 meter hurdles. Freshman Demarcus Garner of Mt. Tahoma High School set a personal record in the 100 meter dash with a time of 10.88, shaving off four-tenths of a second from his previous best and finishing fourth in the men's 100 meter dash.
 Coach Keoni McHone said, "The strong performances we saw on Saturday were partly due to the good weather." But, she also added, "Strong head winds caused problems for

vaulters."
 Freshman Ashley Braniff also had a breakout day finishing the 5000 meter run in 19:34.38, a 27 second improvement from her previous personal record.
 Heading in to the second half of the season, the Cougars have had decent coverage from both the men and women and are looking to make a lot of noise at the NWAACC championships on May 21-22.
 McHone noted that the toughest competition will most likely come from Spokane and Lane community colleges, as well as the Mt. Hood women's team who boasted eight top three finishes at their most recent meet.
 Wesley Keller, considered one of the top sprinters in the conference, is also looking to take the NWAACC championships by storm. Keller is cur-

rently ranked fourth in the 100 meter dash and first in the 200 meter dash in the conference.
 Venezuelan born Keisa Monterola is also one to look out for. Monterola finished second at the World Junior Track and Field Championships in pole vaulting.
 Monterola, who hopes to transfer to the University of Washington next year, is currently studying English at Clackamas and competed in her first meet of the season on April 10. Her last meet was nearly seven months ago, but said she is excited to be back.
 The Cougars next meet is Friday, April 24 at 1:15 p.m. in Eugene at Hayward Field, on the University of Oregon campus. This is a two day event, and it will be broadcast on both the Oregon Sports Network and Comcast Sports Network Northwest.



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Runners from several colleges leap over hurdles to finish first at Willamette University on Saturday, April 4.