

Cougars on the hunt for Saints

Jacob Izso

Clackamas Print

They say that you win some and lose some, but the Cougars baseball team is certainly appearing to be the underdog around the dugout. While most players acknowledged that the season is important, they seemed concerned with the having right things going in to them. "We just need to make more plays, more clutch," said Joe Bray the center fielder. "Iverson a right-handed pitcher is even more adamant. "If everyone what they're supposed to do, we win," he stated. "Yeah, it puts some pressure on you, but we know what we just need to go for it." The team has a lot of work to do. One of the biggest obstacles is the four games against Mt. Hood at the end of the season.

"We have a good chance against Mt. Hood," said Isaiah Ferrer the short stop. "We need to come together as a team, we can beat them as long as we don't have an off day."

"Mt. Hood isn't the robot we thought they were," Bray tossed out casually in regard to their most recent loss. "(Their loss) isn't a confidence builder, but it definitely lets us know where we need to be."

While the competition may not be a concern on the surface, the one issue the team can't deny is the rampant amount of players they've lost to injuries, academic issues and lack of motivation.

"We got the guys that we want, the guys that we need," Ferrer said confidently.

Iverson had a thought from the angle of pitcher. "We got to go the extra innings," he said with a sigh. "Sometimes it sucks, but you got to keep going." Iverson's comment comes at a time when the Cougars are suffering from a shrinking bullpen.

"Every year we lose a few guys to arms," said Robinson on the topic. "These guys come in after having their arms abused in high school; sometimes they're just not ready by the spring." Despite that, Robinson wasn't phased by the player losses. "We just have to stay healthy," he remarked confidently. "Guys have to ask 'what's your level of commitment when things are rough?'" Third basemen and designated hitter



Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

Cody Ching pitches a fastball at a home game against the Mt. Hood Saints last month. Mt. Hood is the team to beat this season.

Kyle Elkins was even more cheerful. "Everyone's playing. Everyone's getting a chance to participate," he said happily, "we're having fun."

One on one with the Vanilla Gorilla

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Brause is one of the left-handed pitchers for the Cougars. "The rumor has it you want a nickname 'The Vanilla Gorilla.' Why? Because Joel Przybilla is Vanilla Gorilla, and he is a man. And, I'm the man, right? What's your favorite about playing baseball... Hitting fungos. You were to invest your money into anything but baseball, what would it be? Something with the out-

doors. Maybe I'd be a police officer because I could carry a gun.

Do these crazy baseball haircuts help?

Well, we've had mullets, mohawks, all kinds of stuff, just look at Baby Mullet. But yeah, I'd say they help.

When did you get started with all this baseball stuff?

I started playing tee-ball when I was 8. I was always a pretty big kid; it just worked out.

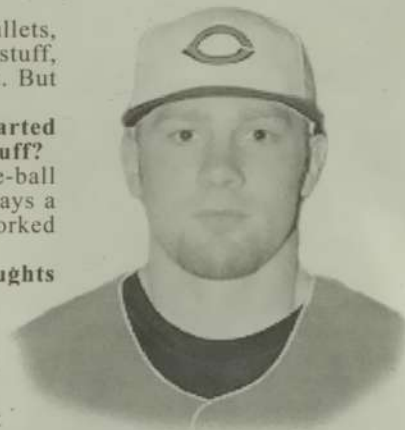
What are your thoughts on Big League Chew?

Hmm, I prefer sunflower seeds.

So, it was Earth Day recently, thoughts?

I felt let down. It

wasn't sunny. If she's going to do that to me, I might just leave my car running and not recycle.



Contributed Photo

Cougar Scoreboard

Baseball

April 30, 2009

Game One	123	456	789	R	H	E
Southwestern Oregon	000	040	000	4	6	0
Clackamas	000	020	100	3	7	1
Game Two	123	456	789	R	H	E
Southwestern Oregon	002	000	03x	5	7	2
Clackamas	002	000	02x	4	6	0

May 2, 2009*

Game One	123	456	789	R	H	E
Clackamas	---	---	---	2	7	1
Chemeketa	---	---	---	1	4	4

Softball

May 1, 2009

Game One	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Clackamas	200	003	1	6	11	0
Mt. Hood	003	000	0	3	10	0
Game Two	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Clackamas	000	005	0	5	10	0
Mt. Hood	102	000	0	3	7	1

May 2, 2009

Rained out, rescheduled to May 7.

Upcoming Games

Baseball

Thursday, May 7, Salem, 3 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, Eugene, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12, Albany, 1 p.m.

Softball

Thursday, May 7, Home, 3 p.m.
Friday, May 8, Home, 3 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, Home, 1 p.m.

Track and Field

Saturday, May 9, Lane CC, Southern Region Championships

*We were unable to get the full scores from this game. Sorry for the inconvenience.



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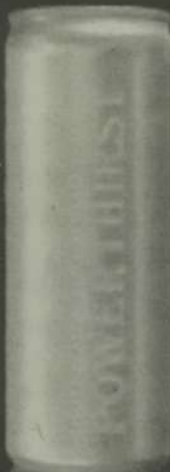
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