

Cougars prepare for NWAACC

Jaycob Izso
Clackamas Print

Cougars attacks are pretty rare on Mt. Hood; at least not until this week. With just six games left in the regular season, the Clackamas Cougars baseball team has closed the gap on Lane Community College and now has a firm hold on the No. 2 spot in the NWAACC South. It all comes down to who is pitching; who's at the wheel determines the game," said Head Coach Robinson. This comment comes at a time when the right-handed pitcher Casey Albright has come through the woodwork to manhandle opponents, going 3-0 with a 16-0 victory in the past week. "He's impressed us quite a bit," said Assistant Coach Hopple. "He's definitely earned a few starts." Robinson was on par. "He's pays attention really well, he started out a bit wild, but he's become a much better locator."

Albright's play has been so consistent lately even his teammates are excited. "The guy was underrated," said outfielder Joe Bray. "For someone to step up like that is huge." But, Albright isn't the only thing that's holding the team together these last few games as they close in on the NWAACC championships. "The question is 'can our defensive guys do the job they need to?'" Hopple asked rhetorically. "The hardest thing is to get a good group of guys behind the pitcher and we've played some great defense lately because of that." "The team is fine," said Jake Boyd, one of the right-handed pitchers currently out with an injury. "They know what they need to do." Bray's thoughts paralleled Boyd's. "Some clutch things have been happening," he said with a smile. "It's great when things fall your way for bit." Bray might be right, as it seems Mother Nature has decided to side with the Cougars lately with all the rainouts. "It helps," Robinson confirmed. "It's timely because the guys needed some rest."

Cody Ching, a freshman left-handed pitcher, wasn't as sold on the recent weather. "Rain is good for rest I guess," Ching said with a tone of uncertainty. "At the same time, you still want to play." What makes this recent surge toward Mt. Hood Community College truly impressive is the fact that the active roster is down to 17 players for the Cougars. Despite having so many guys out or just plain gone, the team is staying positive. "It gives guys a lot of experience," Boyd stated. "It makes guys more accountable." Ching agreed. "It changes the perspective of the game," he said calmly. "Less relief pitching means you have to stay focused and stay on the program." Other players described similar feelings. The commonality seemed to be taking one game at a time and working hard as they work their way up to the final regular season game against Mt. Hood. Robinson's closing statements summed up the whole situation. "I'm very proud of these 17 guys," he said solemnly. "They've worked hard, and have really shown a lot of character."

Jessica Foster, Clackamas Print

Cougar Scoreboard

Baseball						
May 7, 2009*						
Game One	123	456	789	R	H	E
Clackamas	020	200	120	7	13	3
Chemeketa	100	100	000	2	10	0
May 9, 2009						
Game One	123	456	789	R	H	E
Clackamas	000	754	0xx	16	12	1
Lane	000	000	0xx	0	3	3
Game Two	123	456	789	R	H	E
Clackamas	001	000	0xx	1	5	1
Lane	000	000	0xx	0	6	1
Softball						
May 7, 2009						
Game One	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Chemeketa	330	000	0	6	14	2
Clackamas	010	000	0	1	9	0
Game Two	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Chemeketa	501	000	1	7	10	2
Clackamas	000	002	1	3	10	3
May 8, 2009						
Game One	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Lower Columbia	500	000	6	11	14	2
Clackamas	110	200	0	4	10	4
Game Two	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Lower Columbia	000	135	0	9	9	0
Clackamas	301	010	2	7	11	2
May 9, 2009						
Game One	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Clark	402	010	1	8	12	0
Clackamas	300	120	0	6	9	5
Game Two	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Clark	000	003	1	4	10	3
Clackamas	301	104	x	9	14	1

Upcoming Games
Baseball
Thursday, May 14, Home, 1 p.m.
Saturday, May 16, TBA, Southern Region tie-breaker.
Softball
Friday-Sunday, May 15-17, NWAACC Championships
*Game was postponed on May 2 due to rain.

Cougar chat with David Greenstein

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The Clackamas Print

I had an opportunity to sit down with David Greenstein, a pitcher, outfielder, and great at bat. Greenstein is a sophomore here at Clackamas and a graduate of Oregon City High School. His coaches and teammates have great things to say about him, and he was more than willing to answer a few questions.

How are you feeling this far in the season?

A little nervous, it's a little bit of a footrace right now. I'm really excited though to see how it turns out. It's tough, but I'm just taking one game at a time.

How do you feel about the team?

Oh, love the team. They're a great group of guys; I have a lot of fun with them. I'm excited about next year. We've got some good freshman, and sophomores are always exciting to have.

Speaking of sophomores, here you are. What's the biggest change from high

school?
(Laugh) Wood bats... You know it's just a completely different game. It shows who can hit the ball and who can't. Small ball is also a lot bigger here in college too.

So you pitch a bit, you do some fielding, you hit; what do you say is your specialty?

I used to pitch a lot more, but hitting has always been my forte since I was younger. I like the other stuff too.

What's the feeling of being asked to play all those different positions?

It's fun, but it's also a lot of pressure. You know, if I'm pitching, than I'm thinking about hitting. If I'm hitting, I'm thinking about pitching. It's not bad; it's just a lot of pressure, definitely at the plate.

So, what's the next step? Oh, I guess play another year at CCC.

Why baseball in the first place?

(Laugh) My dad was kind of a hard-ass. When I was younger I needed something to do in the spring and so, why not try it - you know?

So you owe this one to pitcher Matt Brause. Do the haircuts help?

(Laugh) Yes... No, it's fun. It lightens everything up. It just keeps a positive attitude, makes it fun atmosphere.

Thank you, David, any closing statements?

(Laugh) Go cougars...



Jessica Foster, Clackamas Print

David Greenstein gets ready to "Just Do It" at a practice. This sophomore pitches and hits for the Cougars.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE
TOURNAMENT
THIS FRIDAY, MAY 15,
3-7 P.M.
AT THE SOCCER FIELD

