

Poor grades thin Cougar teams

By **Maya Calloway**

Staff Editor

Anyone who goes to school knows how difficult it can be to get good grades. For most, the largest consequence would be a bad report card — something that's easily fixed the next term. But for students who are actively involved with sports, that bad report card could mean being booted off the team. "I expect every year to lose guys," said head baseball coach Rob Robinson, whose team is thin this year due to the loss of several players, though not all to grades. When asked how many guys were lost to grades, Robinson would tell you five. "Through every season and every sport is affected by poor grades. Athletes who participate in spring sports have it a little

rougher.

"One of the dilemmas for spring sports, the athletes have to make it through two grading periods," added Robinson. "We track every one of our athletes."

The coaches of spring sports monitor their athletes' progress throughout the year.

"We do attendance and grade checks," said track and field coach Keoni McHone on the subject.

Online classes make it harder for the coaches to keep tabs on their athletes, according to both Robinson and McHone.

Because of these poor grades, the teams suffer. Robinson thinks of the loss as a blessing in disguise in some cases.

"Several weren't going to help us. They would be in our way," said Robinson. "They don't have the discipline or desire."

Robinson went on to say that the players he lost didn't care about grades and what they did care about was playing baseball.

That doesn't change the fact that with the shortage of athletes, even those undedicated would've been a little help.

"Some of these guys could've helped us, plus it would be good to have depth," admitted Robinson.

On the other side of the spectrum, the track team hasn't suffered much from bad grades, although they have still lost an average number of athletes.

"We have quite a few that have done really well with grades," said McHone. "Eighteen people with 3.2 (G.P.A.) and up from last term."

Not everyone has done so great, though McHone and the other coaches have been helping.

"We still have other ones that we're trying to mentor with 2.5 and below," McHone added.

Those that were lost, however, were an asset to the team.

"Some that were coming and working hard were the ones that we lost," said McHone.



All photos by Jessica Foster Clackamas Print

The dugout is vacant and a lone student relaxes on the bleachers at the empty baseball diamond. Because of poor grades over the year, the baseball team lost five players, leaving the team thin for the season.



Brad Heineke Clackamas Print

Region All-Star Missy Eberhart slides past a Saint. The Cougars finished this season in 11th place out of 26 league teams and with a 21-21 record after the NWAACC Tournament last weekend. The team won three games against Shoreline, South Puget Sound and before slipping behind in the fourth game against Olympic. Eberhart, along with other women, including Eberhart, made this year's All-Star teams. One girl, Susan Winingham, was even named 2009 NFCA All-American team. Winingham, Emily Morrill and Peterson made the All-Star first team. And, Eberhart, Samantha Genskay and Renae Howell made the second All-Star team.

Cougar Scoreboard

Baseball

May 12, 2009

Game	123	456	789	R	H	E
Game 1	123	456	789	R	H	E
Clackamas	100	003	200	6	11	2
Linn-Benton	002	010	000	3	7	2
Game 2	123	456	789	R	H	E
Clackamas	000	010	3xx	4	12	0
Linn-Benton	100	000	0xx	1	9	0

Softball

May 15-17, 2009 NWAACC Championships

Game	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Game 2	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Clackamas	000	121	1	5	9	0
Shoreline	100	220	1	1	9	0
Game 9	123	456	7--	R	H	E
South Puget Sound	000	00x	x	0	2	5
Clackamas	931	4xx	x	17	18	2
Game 17	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Clackamas	000	011	6	8	12	0
Spokane	101	010	0	3	10	0
Game 23	123	456	7--	R	H	E
Olympic	100	210	0	4	12	0
Clackamas	000	000	0	0	7	6

Upcoming Games

Baseball

May 21-25, NWAACC Championship Tournament

Track and Field

May 21-22, NWAACC Championships, Spokane Falls Community College