

Cougars host Jamboree at home

Basketball team gets warmed up with preseason Jamboree with the

By Steven Weldon
The Clackamas Print

The NWAACC conference centered around CCC for an afternoon as multiple teams from all around Washington and Oregon came to play in the Clackamas Jamboree Scrimmages to warm up for the season. Teams from Skagit Valley, Bellevue, Mt. Hood, Linn-Benton, Grays Harbor, Centralia, Blue Mountain, Lane and Clackamas community colleges all played in 20 minute games centered on getting the new players involved, showcasing the talent and seeing where the teams stacked up amongst each other.

In the case of Clackamas, the Cougars benched three of



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Jeff Dorman (21) shoots over a defender from Skagit Valley College. Dorman, a sophomore, is returning from a season in which he earned second team All-South division honors.

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their five sophomores leaving sophomore point guard Jeff Dorman and sophomore forward EJ Manley on the floor with a collection of freshmen making their unofficial Cougars debut. While the team has been practicing with each other since before school started, they were still in the process of learning the nuances of head coach Clif Wegner's offense.

This season the Cougars

have an entire roster's worth of new players. Twelve freshmen and one transfer complete the team with returning players Shane Fife, Justin Steinke, Manley and 2009 NWAACC Southern Region All-Stars Dorman and Cheheles Tapscott. While the team has many fresh faces, the expectations from last year continue, as they look to repeat as NWAACC champions.

The Jamboree provided some good competition for the Cougars, and plenty of opportunities to learn and make adjustments. In a game against the Skagit Valley Cardinals, the Cougars looked a bit lost on defense and weren't clear where to go with the ball, leaving the door open for the Cardinals who took advantage winning 27-15.

After Wegner declared a team meeting in a classroom above the Randall Hall gym, the Cougars were ready to take on their next challenger, the Chokers of Grays Harbor. Freshman Frenchman Mathieu

Michaud showed leadership and helped lead Clackamas to a 25-14 victory in a much needed turnaround.

It was then a challenge arrived - the Bellevue Bulldogs, a team who played the Cougars in the 2007 NWAACC championship los-

ing in the title game, hungry for a vengeful victory. The game was hard fought and nitty-gritty, finishing in a 27-all tie.

Cougars freshman Andre Dickson made a statement in the game with a fastbreak slam dunk that made the crowd

'ooh' and 'ahh' like they just seen Michael Jackson in ~~their~~ final game. Cougars played the Cou Trail Blazers. The game out of the Trail Blazers control early, and the Cou finished them off with play and good defense secured victory, 27-15 final game of the Jamboree.

While it wasn't a test of the Cougars as they like their preseason opener Nov. 20 against the Wildcats JV squad was a good measure to see who would be a and who would need to the gym and work on things to get their game right level.

Some notable appearances include Portland State basketball coach Tyler who was taking a look at talent the nine schools and five players were going to Clackamas Community opposing schools. Jake and Robby Rivers, both mates of Rex Putnam School in Milwaukie for Mt. Hood Community College, Kamal Smith Oregon City High alum for Centralia, and Clack High School had two ers come, Craig Siesel a member of Centralia with Kevin Stanley played for Grays Harbor



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Freshman Travis Robbins drives to the hole against an opponent from Grays Harbor College.

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