

Chehales Tapscott chooses PSU

WAACC All-Star Chehales Tapscott shows skills at Clackamas and signs with Portland State University

By Mark Foster
Sports Editor

... was a McDonald's All-American nominee and an NAIA first team All-State selection coming out of Century High School. Now he has become one of the best players to come out of Clackamas Community College. Next stop Chehales Tapscott: Portland State University.

... someone who did not play competitive organized basketball until his senior year in high school, Tapscott has accomplished a lot and made quite a name for him-

... caught the attention of a lot of people during high school, Tapscott really shined and improved his game at Clackamas. In his first outing as a Cougar, Tapscott went off for 34 points and 22 rebounds.

... that was not a typo. Head coach Clif Wegner was impressed at the show his highly-touted freshman recruit put on. Wegner said, "It was like you didn't even notice he was just so steady on the court."

... was just the first of many performances of this caliber for Tapscott.

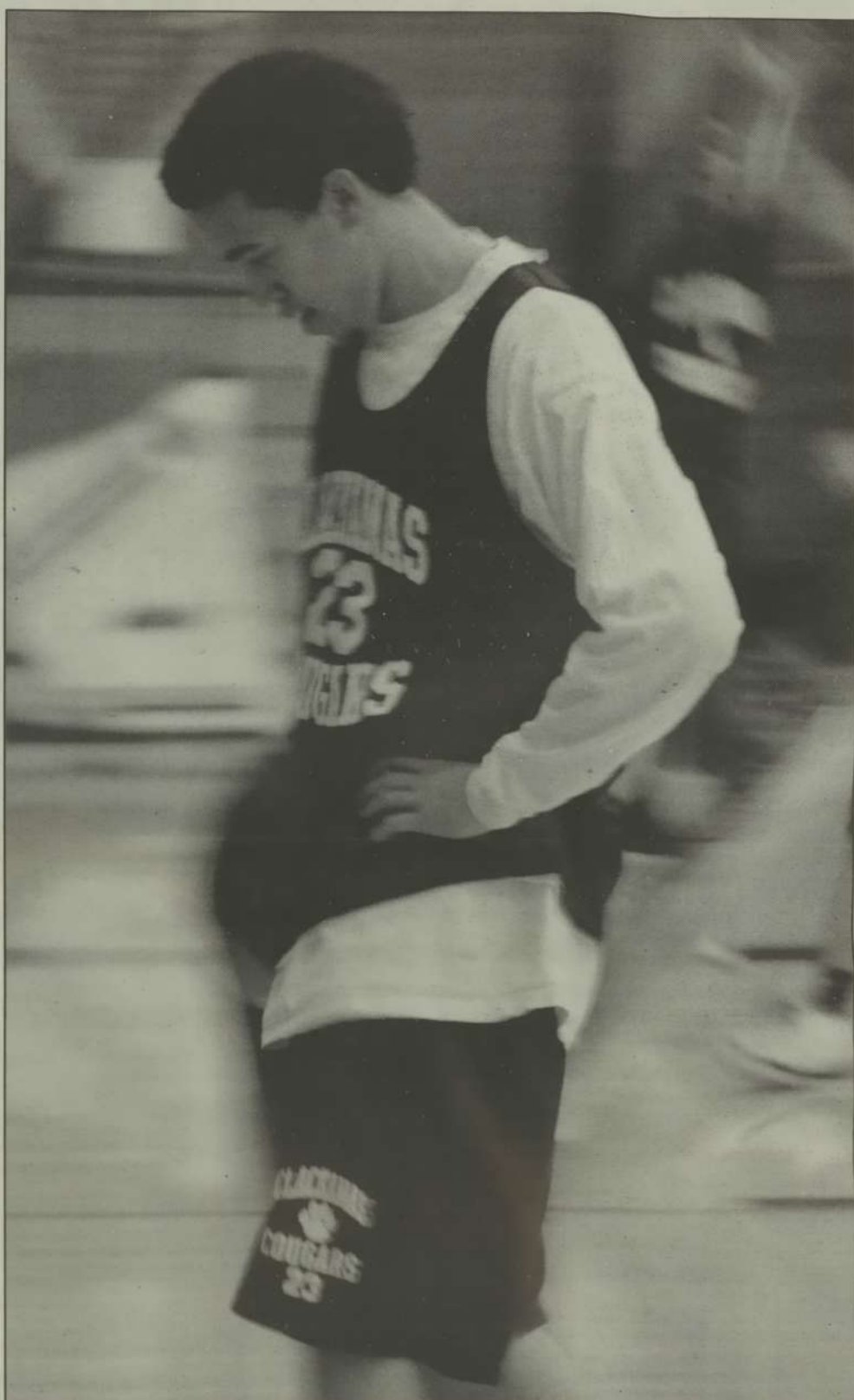
... Tapscott's first season as a Cougar, Wegner doesn't think he ever saw his star forward score less than 10 points and 10 rebounds in a game. He went so far as to say, "I believe he had a double-double every game."

... this year, Wegner doesn't expect to see anything less. He expects to see a lot more. He believes Tapscott still has room to grow and hasn't reached his potential yet.

... Tapscott feels that, coming out of Clackamas and playing for Wegner, he has been able to make huge advances in his

... really helped me out before I used to be a player who could attack the basket but now I've added more skill in handling and shooting so much. I'm ready to go now," Tapscott said.

... Tapscott has been able to showcase his talents on the court and he deserves to make the jump to play D-1 basketball.



John Shufelt Clackamas Print

Chehales Tapscott, who was a McDonald's All-American nominee in 2008, earned NWAACC All-Tournament MVP honors last season leading the Cougars to a conference title.

He's also very happy that he is going to be a Viking next year. The proximity to home and his father made the choice that much easier, although PSU was his first choice.

About Portland State being his first choice, Tapscott said, "Yeah, it was because it's close to home, close to my father, and I actually like the coaching staff there too."

Not a bad choice seeing as the Vikings have made the NCAA tournament the past two years.

Head coach Tyler Geving is ready for Tapscott to arrive on campus and believes he can

become a contributor.

Geving said, "We expect him to come in and have an immediate impact for our team. He's extremely skilled; he is ready to compete right when he walks in the door. So, we're expecting big things out of him when he gets here."

Wegner also sees him as being an instant impact player for the Vikings, saying, "He is going to make them better. He could be in their starting lineup, I'm convinced."

Geving also agreed, saying, "He has a great chance to come in and start if he continues to work hard and continues to work hard when he gets here."

Neither Tapscott nor Wegner see Portland State as his last stop, though. Both think he has the ability to take his career to the next level and play overseas.

Wegner said, "He's got a chance to be bigger than that. He's got a legitimate chance to play overseas and make some money playing basketball for a long time."

His physique also helps his case. Coming in at 6'5" 205 pounds, Tapscott's size makes him a force to be reckoned with on the court.

Wegner added, "He's got the kind of body that I think is going to handle the pressures of basketball for a lot of years. Some guys' bodies start to break down after a few years but he's got a different kind of body."

Five years of organized competitive basketball, that's all Chehales Tapscott has under his belt. That's all he needed. For one of Oregon's most sought after high school recruits and one of Clackamas' best players to wear the red and blue, it has been a long journey of hard work and perseverance, a journey that has paid off.

Cougars basketball Pre-Season:

Nov. 27-29: Red Devil Classic at Lower Columbia College

Dec. 4: vs. Clark College at CCC

Dec. 13: vs. Columbia Basin College at CCC

Dec. 18-20: Clark NWAACC Crossover at Clark College

Dec. 28-30: Clackamas Holiday Tourney at CCC

Women's soccer doesn't reach goal, lose in first round

By Mark Foster
Sports Editor

When a season comes to an end other than expected, one word comes to mind: disappointment. The Clackamas women's soccer team's season was short in the first game of the season by an opponent they felt were better than.

Just the seventh minute, Chelsea Grow of Spokane put in the only goal of the game. One crucial moment of the game that cost the Lady Cougars their season.

... Allision Riggs

acknowledged that they got lucky, referring to the goal scored by Grow. She said, "... they got lucky. They got past one of our defenders; they got that break away. I don't think Chelsea [Grow] had any way of stopping it. It was a one-on-one with the keeper."

From that point on, they needed to hold Spokane, and that is exactly what they did. Unfortunately, Clackamas could not get as lucky as their opponent. The Spokane keeper held them at bay, blocking everything that came her way.

Riggs said, "We had shots all day long and they were great shots, our

offense was in their face."

Coach Tracy Nelson also agreed that not being able to end what they started contributed to their downfall. "We couldn't finish our opportunities. We dominated the game, but struggled to finish off the game," said Nelson.

They knew going into the game it was going to be tough and that it was either win or go home. Prior to the postseason, Nelson pointed out that the weakest part of their game is scoring and finishing.

Leading up to the game against Spokane, she said, "We have struggled to score this season. We have

been working a lot on finishing in the final third for the past two weeks."

Riggs attested to the rigorous practices Nelson has put them through, saying, "It was frustrating because we worked our asses off and were definitely the better team and it just didn't show at the end."

After an early exit, there isn't much for a team to do but learn from their mistakes and look to the future.

Despite the negatives, Nelson did take some positives from the game. She hopes that this game is something that will stick with her

freshman and they will remember during the off season and going in to next year.

Nelson didn't seem satisfied with the season as a whole and thought she shared the same feelings as her players, saying, "We had a lot of expectations going in to this season and our goal was to win another NWAACC championship. I think everyone was disappointed with the way the season ended."

For a team with an abundance of talent, a push for another NWAACC title run is not an unlikely feat, but for now the Lady Cougars must wait another year for their shot.