

Lady Cougars finish tied for ninth

Volleyball team falls short in NWAACC championship but grows closer throughout season

By Mark Foster
Sports Editor

Another season in the books, and another year the Lady Cougars volleyball team must wait for a shot at an NWAACC championship.

The Cougars season came to an end Friday Nov. 20, after going 1-2 in post season play.

After finishing the season 5-5 in league play, the Lady Cougars took the fourth seed from the Southern region due to a tie-breaker with Linn-Benton.

It didn't go well for them right out of the gates, losing three games to none against a Blue Mountain team from the Eastern region who posted the most wins of any NWAACC team in 2009 with 13 wins and one loss.

In their next game, it looked as if things could possibly be turning around, beating Skagit Valley two games to one. In this game Shikara White put up 13 kills on 26 attempts, the second most kills of all players who played in the game. Vanity Massey also had an impressive game with 11 kills on 24 attempts, also recording two service aces and ten crucial digs to help propel the Lady Cougars in to the next game.



Photo contributed by Tracy Swisher

Sophomore Vanity Massey celebrates after a kill during the NWAACC championships at Mt. Hood Community College.

In their final game the Lady Cougars saw their season end in only 45 minutes, losing to Bellevue 25-18 and 25-9, finishing tied for ninth. White was once again at the top for kills, finishing with a game high seven.

Kathie Woods said, "We were so close to some of the best teams but then at times so very far away. It was a weird year. I guess you could say we were consistent at being inconsistent."

One high point for the team, though, was the awards ceremony where much of the team. White earned second team American honors, while Heacock, Carmen LaForte, Rachael Strong all received League honors.

For Woods, she felt the season had it ups and downs. She said, "Just when we were having it going, we would have another set back."

One thing Woods was sure of was the team could have done more in win games. They finished overall, ending up with the second least amount of wins in the NWAACC team that made the post season tournament.

Both Heacock and Woods said that there was more that the team could have done to win more this season. White also said that the team became like a family as the season progressed.

Woods also expressed her feelings she had for the team and how close she felt they had become. She said, "This team. I love the people on this team. I love the people who are."

Although the season was over for the team, the work was not done for Woods. Recruiting for next year was an ongoing process for her. She said, "This season over, there is another to look forward to."

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Kathie Woods
Head Women's Volleyball Coach

About her team's performance at the NWAACC championships,

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