

Basketball teams begin league play

Men's and women's basketball start league play and hope to compete for conference title

By Travis Hardin
The Clackamas Print

It's official; Cougars basketball is back.

As the first week of winter term came to an end, it was just the beginning for the Clackamas Cougars men's and women's basketball teams.

Both teams played host to the Chemeketa Storm on Jan. 9, in what became their first games of the 2009-2010 season.

The Lady Cougars walked



John Shufelt Clackamas Print
Johnnelle Kapua (15) shoots free throws during a game against Chemeketa on Jan. 9. Clackamas won 95-53 at home. The Lady Cougars are currently 3-0 in league play.

away with a 95-53 victory in their home opener. First year co-head coach Kayla Steen said, "To play at home always means a lot to [the team] and definitely helps us with momentum."

According to freshmen post Tessa Stadel, "Playing at home means a lot because we haven't had many home games."

The first points of the regular season came by way of a three-pointer by sophomore guard Dayle Powell. The tough defense the Lady Cougars displayed in the first half resulted in 17 turnovers being committed by the visiting Storm.

Steen, after the game, said, "[The players] are very comfortable playing with each other. The freshmen have stepped in; they are doing a great job with the system that we run."

According to their Web site, the Lady Cougars enter this season with a record of 21-9 and are lead by coach Jim Martineau, who enters his 12th season with the program.

According to Steen, the team has six new players to the program and five returning.

Freshmen guard Johnnelle Kapua, who comes to Clackamas from Honolulu, Hawaii, said, when asked about what goals she has for this season, "Pretty much just do whatever my teammates need to do [whether] it's shooting out, passing, getting the ball into the post, defense; whatever my coach needs me to do."

When asked if she learned anything from the pre-season, Kapua responded, "We learned that we are definitely beatable, so we can't take any team lightly."

As the Lady Cougars walk away with their first win of the season, they already are looking at the future.

According to sophomore guard/forward McKenzie Ausman-Meyer, she would like to see the team win 18 games and the championship.

The men's team entered their



John Shufelt Clackamas Print
Jeff Dorman (21) cuts past defenders on Jan. 9 against Chemeketa. Dorman led all scorers with 21 points and finished with four rebounds, two assists and two steals in the 74-73 loss.

season as the defending NWAACC champions. Leading the way is 2009 NWAACC Coach of the Year Clif Wegner. Wegner enters his

12th year at Clackamas.

New to the coaching staff this year is Assistant Coach Paul Fiskum. Fiskum has had a remark-

able career coaching the softball team and is now on the campus. According to the team's Web site, Fiskum will concentrate on team and individual defense, skill development and academic support just to name a few.

Returning players including forward Chehales Tappin who had a tremendous first year being named the NWAACC Tournament's Most Valuable Player. He also was named Team All-South Division 2008-2009 season.

Returning point guard Jeff Dorman enters this season being honored with Second All-South Division last season.

The Cougars had a challenge waiting for them coming in their first game against Chemeketa. They were ready for it. Just like the women's team, the first game of the season came from the point line by sophomore guard Jeff Dorman.

The game was evenly matched and the Cougars trailed at the end of the first half.

"The team worked hard every day in practice," said Steen about preparing for the opener.

In the second half, the Cougars didn't leave anyone disappointed in terms of performance. In the 38.3 seconds left in the game the Cougars led 72-69 against Chemeketa to the foul line making both free throws, they trailed the Cougars by one point the game with 2.0 seconds left in the half. Chemeketa went to the foul line again and ended the game with a 74-73 win over the Cougars.

"Well, we keep our heads down and next game, that's what we need to do," said Tappin about the next game, "said Tappin about the game when asked where the team goes from here.

When asked what goal the team as a whole has for this season, Tappin simply responded, "Win a championship."

PGE Park prepares for renovations, more seats to be added

Timbers plan to begin Major League Soccer play in 2011 in renovated PGE Park, more seats and restaurant to be added while still keeping view from SW 18th Avenue accessible

By John Hurlburt
Co-Editor in Chief

Although no one has been shot in the chest with a crossbow bolt over match results yet, it is becoming apparent that more Americans are starting to see what the rest of the world has been staring at for years, soccer.

Internationally, the U.S. national team has made it to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, continuing their push to show that America will become a powerhouse team within the sport.

Even more importantly, PGE finally announced its plans for renovation just in time for Christmas, letting Oregonians all over the state feel secure that we will have a Major League Soccer team in 2011.

The decision to open up an expansion team has been fought hard, but Portland's firm, consisting of wealthy Timbers owner Merritt Paulson, Portland Mayor Sam Adams and Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard, has managed to keep the world's most popular sport in our city without having to throw bricks at opponents.

Stadium renovations have left the Portland Beavers' future in limbo. A major argument against promoting the Timbers and upgrading PGE Park to make it soccer only is it would destroy this "popular" Portland franchise. But arguments battling the Timbers off the field have been boot-stomped the same way the Timbers thrashed competition on the field.

The Portland Beavers have never even been able to draw in a crowd the way the Timbers have. As for spirit, Portland

Beavers fans sit like motionless cadavers compared to the frat party atmosphere brought by the Timbers fully possessed fan base; the lunatic Timbers Army is a spectacle worth watching in itself and being a part of it breeds a sense of insanity only felt by strong drug users and the clinically insane.

America's favorite pastime is starting to show its age in our state, and it's time for the old to die and the young to thrive. I don't agree necessarily that we should completely toss out a franchise which has been in our city in some form or another for over a hundred years, but if it comes to a showdown

between MLS and minor league baseball, baseball should will unquestionably lose.

Perhaps the best part of the proposed plan for PGE has been the decision to keep viewing access from SW 18th Avenue outside the stadium. This street has allowed college kids, bums and eighty-sixed fans to keep on the games regardless of if they had the \$12 admission. The viewing socialist idea helps to breed Portland spirit and Paulson's promise about the field alive that the stadium "as unique as they come in the soccer world."



Shown above is the future view of the east side of PGE Park. The new seating will run parallel to 18th Avenue but will not completely obstruct the view from the street.

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