

Basketball goes deep at NWAACC

By Mark Foster
Sports Editor

After an action packed season, the men's and women's basketball teams wind down with post-season trips to the NWAACC Championships.

The women's squad made a run at a championship but came up short, losing in the semi-finals to Yakima Valley Community College 75-64. Up to that point, the Lady Cougars took care of business handily, beating Columbia Basin College 95-68 and Clark College 77-70.

After falling to Yakima Valley, the Lady Cougs faced league rival Lane Community College in the third place game. The Cougars took care of the Titans, winning 86-76 at the Toyota Center in Kennewick, Wash. Rylee Peterson, South Region MVP, led all scorers with 21 points while first team all-region selection Dayle Powell hit five of eleven shots from beyond the arc.

The men's team continued its quest for a second straight NWAACC title, heading in to the tournament with an overall record of 21-5. Chehales Tapscoott dominated in the Cougars first game of the tournament pulling down 32 boards and posting 28 points in a win against Spokane Community College, 65-55. The Cougs also defeated Green River Community College 87-77 and Tacoma Community College 61-50 to get to the title game against Lower Columbia College.

The Cougars played in the title game March 9 but due to press constraints, coverage of the game will be available online at www.theclackamasprint.com.

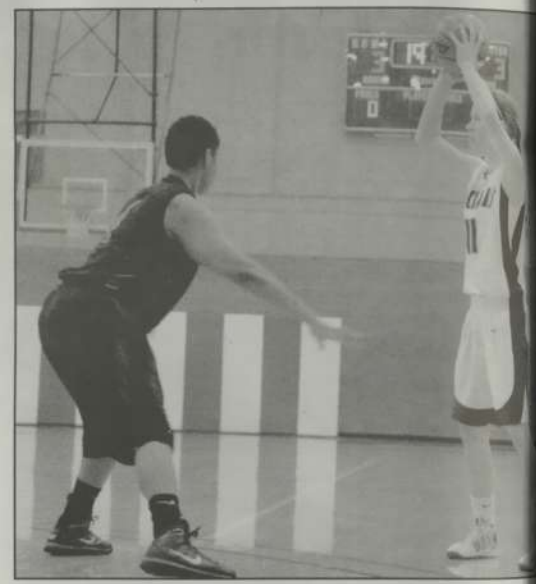
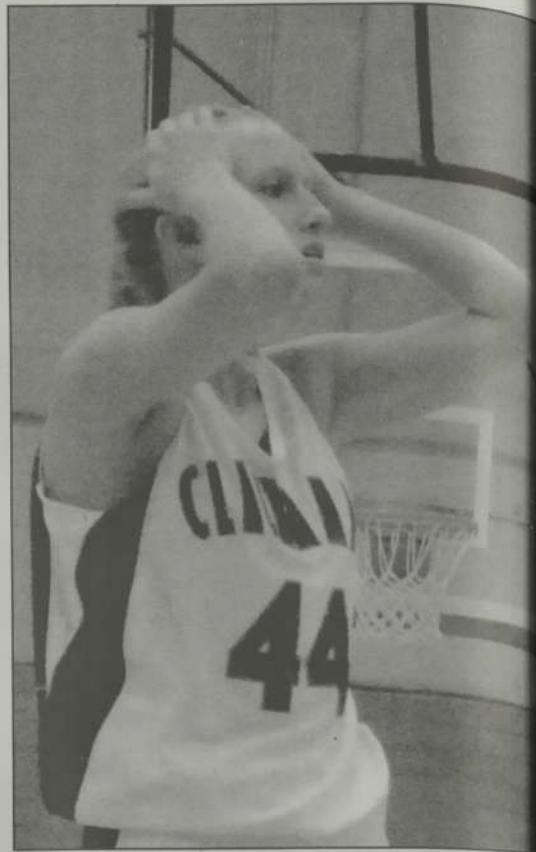
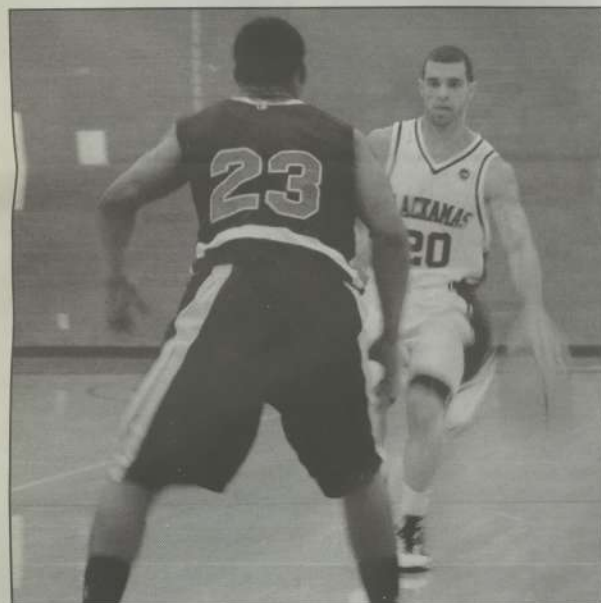
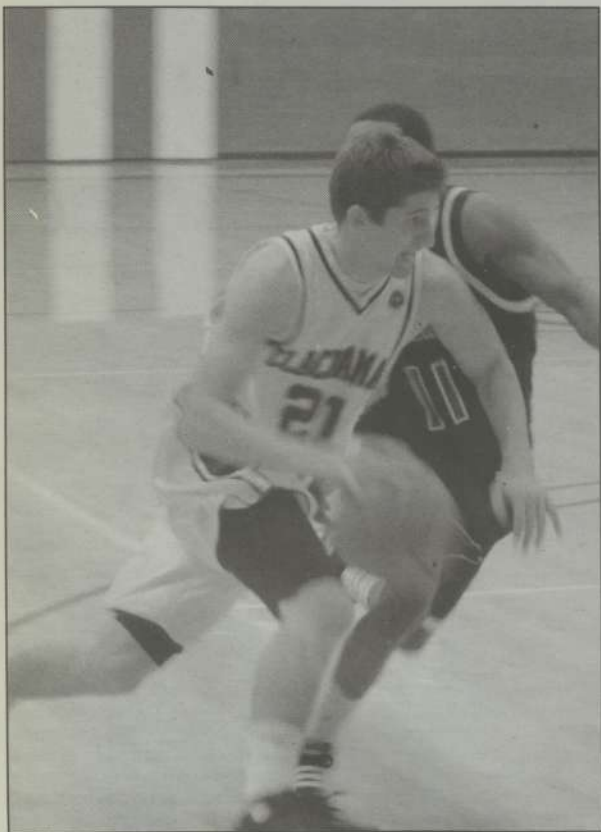
Top left: Jeff Dorman (21) makes a move past Tyrone Phillips (11) of Chemeketa Community College.

Bottom left: Justin Steinke (20) looks to get past Ra-veon Samuel (23) of Chemeketa.

Top right: Shayla Ball (44) pulls her hair back during a game against Lane Community College.

Bottom right: Rylee Peterson (11) looks to pass the ball into the key against Lane Community College.

Photos at the left by Brian Steele
Photos at the right by Hillary Cole
of the Clackamas Print



Softball team ready to hit competition

Cougars' softball team reloads for NWAACC championship run with all-star sophomores and fresh faces

By Steven Weldon
Associate Sports Editor

A seventh place finish at the 2009 NWAACC Championships was uncharacteristic of the perennial softball powerhouse Cougars, but the team looks to get back on track in 2010.

Having added several freshmen to the pride in addition to current sophomore 2009 southern region All-Stars first baseman Missy Eberhart, second baseman Samie Genskay and outfielder

Emily Morrill will provide a good balance of experience and skill. While all three did not hit for power, they did get on base and bring runners in. In their freshman seasons, Morrill hit for a .396 batting average with 20 RBIs, Eberhart hit for .310 with 10 RBIs, and Genskay was an Ichiro-type, hitting .320 and had 39 singles.

The team has had to add new pitching, as three of their hurlers of last season were sophomores. Freshmen Abbey Tollefsen, a former Oregon School Activities Association 5A All-State player and Kelsie Sears, former OSAA 4A All-league player were added.

Two freshmen have already made an impact, playing a scrimmage doubleheader against Concordia University on Wednesday, March 3.

After a single hit by Genskay brought home a runner to tie the score at four in the bottom of the 7th inning, freshman Mary Lugar smacked another single to bring

in a Cougars' baserunner to win the game, 5-4.

In the second game of the doubleheader, freshman Moriah Spreeman made the defensive play of the day. A hit by a Concordia player looked like it was about to fall for a base hit, when Spreeman rushed in and made a diving catch to record the out.

Not to be outdone by her younger teammate in the same game, sophomore pitcher Ashley Suter struck out all three batters she faced in the top of the fourth inning. The game ended in a 1-1 tie as the darkness rolled in.

Spreeman said afterwards, "I feel pretty confident with our team this year. We have good chemistry."

The Cougars begin their NWAACC southern region games with a doubleheader on Tuesday, April 6 at 3 p.m. against Clark College in Vancouver, Wash. Their first home tilt is Friday, April 9 at 3 p.m. against Southwestern Oregon.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NWAACC CHAMPIONSHIPS SCORES

Clackamas def. Columbia Basin 95-68

Clackamas def. Clark College 77-70

Yakima Valley CC def. Clackamas 75-64

Clackamas def. Lane Community College 86-76
- Clackamas takes third place

MEN'S BASKETBALL NWAACC CHAMPIONSHIPS SCORES

Clackamas def. Spokane CC 65-55

Clackamas def. Green River CC 87-77

Clackamas def. Tacoma CC 61-50

Clackamas vs. Lower Columbia College
March 9 - 7 p.m. - Championship game