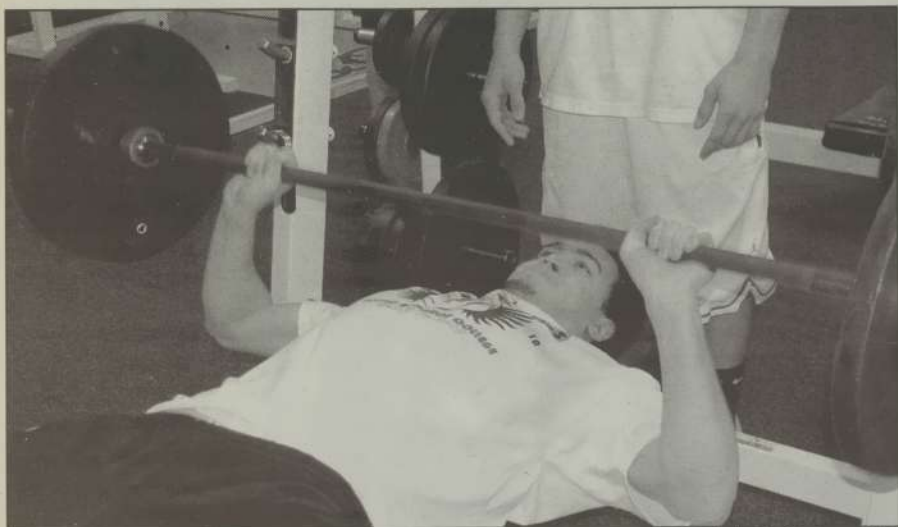


PSU calls to Tapscott



Travis Hardin, Clackamas Print

Cheheles Tapscott lifts weights to get ready for next season at Portland State University. The multi-talented Tapscott will transfer there after two successful seasons at CCC.

By Cody Ferdinand The Clackamas Print

"He has a great impact on the floor," said Portland State's head coach Tyler Geving in an interview about his recent signing of Cougars 6'5", 205 pound sophomore forward Cheheles Tapscott.

Tapscott recently signed his letter of intent and is heading to Portland State University next fall to become a Viking.

"Playing Division I basketball, it's the highest level compared to the NBA," said Tapscott when asked about what he is looking forward to most about PSU.

Tapscott finished the season with an average of 24 points and 12 rebounds a game. "I just went off," said Tapscott.

Along with the outstanding stats this season, Tapscott and the Cougars brought home their second consecutive NWAACC championship.

But things didn't come easy for

Tapscott this season. At the beginning of the season, Tapscott was ineligible for the first six games due to academics. When asked what he did to become eligible again, Tapscott said, "I just worked hard. Last year I stopped going to classes because I just won the championship. I was immature. This year I am in the classroom everyday."

His coach agreed. "They have a really good support system of tutors and academic personal," said Cougars head coach Cliff Wegner when asked about Tapscott's academics at PSU. "They are involved right now; they are coming out a few days a week checking on him. They are making sure he gets what he needs."

Wegner knows his team will be successful with Tapscott's transfer but is aware that it will be difficult.

"It's going to hurt. You don't replace a Cheheles Tapscott; you don't find those kinds of kids, and usually they go straight into Division I ball. We are going to have to be a different kind of team. We are going

to have to be diversified; people are going to have to step up and contribute a little more," said Wegner.

"I had a great experience here, coming here has done a lot for me. Coach Wegner helped me be a better person. He made me a gentleman," said Tapscott.

Tapscott has had an outstanding career as a Cougar. Along with bringing home two consecutive NWAACC championships, he has contributed a lot to the shaping of the basketball program the last two years at Clackamas Community College.

"To work harder and really get after it, that's what I learned from him," said teammate David Krantz when asked what he learned from Tapscott. "He tries hard every time he plays and that was good for us and all of our teammates and that's what made us win the championship this year."

"Cheheles is a heck of an athlete, and you don't meet too many people like that," said fellow Cougar Anthony Atherton.

NWAACC: Cougars capture title

Continued from NWAACC, Page 1

"It was good. We just had to get everyone on the same page. Me and a couple of sophomores wanted to stress to the freshmen how important it was to us because we wanted to win it again," added Steinke.

After the meeting, it was like the team had a fresh start and did not lose another game.

Wegner prepared his team and in the six games following the Cougars' Feb. 20 loss to Lane, they outscored their opponents 466-389. The Cougars beat all four of their opponents in the NWAACC tournament by double digits, including Spokane who shared an East Region title with Walla Walla and Big Bend.

Wegner commended his team for their work at the tour-

namment, saying, "We played a better level of ball once we got there. The defense was more intense, it was more focused. The rebounding was phenomenal. The hustle plays were incredible. We played harder than anybody else."

After a season of downs that turned into ups, the Cougars finished closer as a team and with the hardware in hand.

NCAA Tourney brings madness in March

By Robert Morrison
The Clackamas Print

March is one of the greatest months for sports fans because it brings baseball back to the world, golf is at its height and college basketball has its men's and women's tourneys.

It all starts with 65 teams fighting for one spot, the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship.

On the women's side, the local favorite No. 15 Portland State University was knocked off by No. 2, Texas A&M University, 84-53 in the first round.

There were few upsets in the first and second rounds but led to two No. 1's getting eliminated in the Sweet 16, Nebraska and Tennessee, both being eliminated by No. 4 teams.

A hard fought Elite Eight saw the favorites, Connecticut Huskies and Stanford Cardinals, make the Final Four. In two dominating games, both teams were able to make it to the NCAA Women's Championship held in San Antonio.

After a challenging first half, Stanford led 20-12. Connecticut would have none of it in the second half as they outscored Stanford 41-27 in the half to lead them to the NCAA Women's Championship. The final score for the game was a close 53-47.

The men's tourney started on March 18 from various cities across the United States. Neither Portland State nor University of Portland was able to make the tourney this year with PSU finishing 13-19 and UP finishing 21-11. Both Oregon and Oregon State were also unable to make it finishing seventh and eighth in the Pac-10.

Many upsets could be seen in the first round including the local No. 11, Washington, beating No. 6, Marquette, 80-78. Washington went on to also beat No. 3, New Mexico, in round two in a dominating fashion. The Huskies would eventually be eliminated in the Sweet 16 by No. 2, West Virginia, in what was a hard fought game until the last minutes when the Huskies gave up a number of shots. They lost 69-56.

The men's tourney was full of underdogs making a name for themselves as only one No. 1 team, the Duke Blue Devils, made it to the Final Four. All the top teams made it through the first round but from then on, every round saw a No. 1 lose.

The favorites Kansas, Syracuse and Kentucky were all beaten before they had a chance to prove their

skills in the NCAA Championship game.

Duke was the lone No. 1 heading into the Final Four. The Final saw two No. 5s face-off and No. 2 face-off.

In a close game Butler defeated Michigan State 52-50 and Duke defeated West Virginia 78-57.

The title game was set to be in Indianapolis as No. 1 Duke the Cinderella story, No. 5 Butler.

"I did love the tourney," Cliff Wegner, basketball coach at Clackamas Community College, said. "I love Butler and the whole theme. I'm not a Duke fan, but Coach K and that program is happy to see them win."

Mike Krzyzewski is Duke's coach and has won four NCAA Championships with the Blue Devils.

The game was close throughout and at the half was led by Duke. The second half would prove just as hard fought as Duke's outscored Butler 28-27.

In the final play of the game, on purpose, missed a free-throw down the clock so they could win the game. As the shot was missed, Duke got the rebound as an upset. Duke watched a half-court shot by Butler's Gordon Hayward hit and nearly go in to win the game.

There was shot on the Duke's faces as Hayward barely missed his shot. Duke had just won the NCAA Men's Championship, first in nine years. Celebrations over as Duke fans shouted.

Jassem Dulany, a Clackamas basketball player, said on Duke's winning, "Gotta love seeing Cougars another one."

Dulany went on to say, in his opinion, it was an awesome night. Lots of close games and upsets."

There is a push to expand from 65 teams to a 96. This would allow off weeks for high schools but would still happen within the current time frame. Some with a change, others do not. One thing is for sure that the continue to be close games and winning shots.

There are those students who could care less about the tourney. Mandy Lynn Langenhuyzen is one of these students.

Langenhuyzen said, "I could care less about college basketball. I watch it or know anything about it."

The tourneys whether people watch it or not will return March



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