

Cougar athletes commit to colleges

By Steven Weldon
Associate Sports Editor

As graduation nears, athletes are making their decisions on where to go after Clackamas. Some may take their two-year degree and immediately go to work, while others decide to take their academics over athletics and go to a university without playing a sport. These athletes have decided to take their skills from the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, or even the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Jeff Dorman, a guard on the Cougars' basketball team, is taking his basketball prowess north, to Seattle Pacific University. Rylee Peterson is bouncing her basketball skills to Western Oregon. Samie Gensky, second baseman on the softball team, is headed to Concordia University. Joanna Abraham of the volleyball team is moving on to Corban College and Alison Riggs of the soccer team is kicking off to Linfield College.

Dorman, an All-NWAACC South Region player who was a starting guard on two Cougars NWAACC championship teams, averaged 19.5 points per game, 4.1 rebounds per game and 4.5 assists per game during his soph-

omore season. During his second year at Clackamas, he had two exciting game winning shots, including a buzzer-beating three pointer over Mt. Hood to cap a 19-point comeback. Dorman said he chose Seattle Pacific because, "It's like the Clackamas of that level [NCAA Division II]"

Peterson, also an All-NWAACC South Region player in the women's basketball category, is headed to Western Oregon. Peterson said, "I went on a few visits before visiting Western ... it just felt right. I wanted to stay close to home so my friends and family could come watch ... it's close to Philomath where I played high school ball for two years, and [WOU] made a good offer. I couldn't refuse."

Gensky, a softball second baseman, decided on Concordia University. "I am going there to play softball, which I am super excited about. Also I really liked the campus and Concordia has nursing so I am hoping to get a good education."

Abraham is an outside hitter on the volleyball team, heading to Corban College. The former Cougar volleyball team leader said about Corban, "I really like the coach and the girls on the volleyball team there. I know people who have gone there and enjoyed their experiences at the school, and Corban is a great school for my major." Abraham will be reuniting with coach Nels

Norquist, who coached the freshman team at Canby High School while Abraham was playing varsity volleyball.

Riggs is a forward for the women's soccer squad who is taking her skill on the pitch to Linfield College. On heading to Linfield, Riggs said, "I have always loved the campus and the atmosphere at Linfield. I've wanted to go there since I was a senior in high school ... I just knew that's where I was meant to be."

These five athletes aren't the only ones going off to four-year schools. Cheheles Tapscott of the men's basketball team signed with Portland State and wrestler Tyrell Fortune pinned Ohio State as his next stop. Also, wrestlers Anthony Weerhiem and Rudy Schaffroth have signed with Montana State University-Northern, wrestlers Brett Sanchez agreed to go to California State-Fullerton, Josh Miller decided to head north to Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia, and wrestler Prescott Garner has flown east to Boston University in Massachusetts.

While they leave Clackamas for bigger and better opportunities on and off their field, court or mat, where they began will not be forgotten.

HEACOCK: Ex-Cougar greeted by familiar faces



Hillary Cole Clackamas

Richelle Heacock gets her hair done by former teammate Kellie Gamble during a barbecue on May 11 in which Heacock returned to Clackamas Community College for the first time since before her car accident on January 4.

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Heacock was injured in a car accident on Jan. 4 while heading home to Eatonville, Wash. to attend the funeral of Deputy Kent Mundell, a colleague of Heacock's father. She was traveling along Highway 7 when she swerved to avoid an oncoming car and flipped hers. She shattered her C-5 vertebrae.

After the accident, residents of Eatonville and Ashford, Wash. began raising funds to help pay for hotels and meals while the Heacocks stayed with their daughter at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. A meeting was held days after the accident to begin planning how the town could help the family in renovating their home to make it accessible for her wheelchair.

Organizers were expecting between 30 and 50 people to show, not the 200 who appeared ready and willing to help this family in need.

Tammy Vinson became friends with the Heacock family after attending the meeting. Vinson was formerly a registered nurse and has become one of Richelle's caregivers. Vinson's church was one of the organizations that wanted to help the family with the renovations in whatever way they could but were turned away because of an already overwhelming amount of resources donated.

"Our church was trying to bring food or whatever we

could do to help and there was no room for us because many people were supporting. There was all the food that was needed, all the help. They said, 'We don't need food; we've got so much food.'"

Peg Heacock has been taken aback by the amount of support from everyone that reached out to them, describing it simply as "unlimited." She said, "I keep thinking this point that it's done, there still seems always more ... they have gone over and beyond anything that you can even imagine."

The Heacocks' home has undergone renovations that have essentially doubled the home in size. Volunteers added a whole new wing to the house which now serves as Richelle's apartment. The apartment is completely wheelchair accessible, with kitchen and bathroom that are wheelchair friendly. It was also fitted with wood floors to make it easier for her to move around with her wheelchair. Crews are also working on paving the driveways on the property so that she can move around on the property.

Peg Heacock was astounded by the renovations done to their home, she said. "It's been really amazing all the way around, and it was so well thought out that the longer I lived there the more we realized the thought and planning that went in to this."