

Baseball fails to make post season

By Robert Morrison
The Clackamas Print

The Cougars' baseball season came to an abrupt end on May 24 when the team failed to make the Southwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges tournament. The team finished the season with a final record of 16-15 in the South Region which put them fourth for the year. Their overall record was 21-22. A game above .500 in the region was not good enough for the team to hold one of South's two tournament spots. "I'm very disappointed we didn't make the playoffs. I feel that out of the whole region we had the best team," said freshman second baseman Zach Miller. The year had its lows but also its highs. The team lost a number of games but they kept their high and looked at the good part of the year. "We played very well. We had a number of injuries, but we kept going," said Head Coach Robin Robinson. With the team not making the playoffs, they look forward to next year a little bit earlier than normal. Next year brings them new challenges and new players. While some members of the coaching staff and majority of the freshmen players will not. Well-performed pitcher Taylor Hill will be one of those who will not return. "I enjoyed the experience and in the middle of August I'm moving on to play for Hawaii Pacific," said Hill. He also went on to talk



Hillary Cole Clackamas Print

A Cougars' infielder takes ground balls during practice. The Cougars finished the season with a league record of 16-14 and 21-22 overall.

about working as a team as well as improving as individuals. Each member of the team had their own opinion on who the most improved was. "I think both Marshall [Crawford] and Sergio [Cruz] improved a lot throughout the year. Sergio gave us a lot of walk-off wins," said Miller. "I'd have to say Sergio was our most improved. I just found out he had only been playing baseball for a few years. Since like middle of high school, he has improved a lot," said Hill. "Crawford was our most improved pitcher. Cruz and Beau improved as well," said Robinson. Though the team looks towards next year sooner than expected, the team already has its eyes set on improvements to make so the team can make the NWAACC tournament next year. The biggest need at this point for the team looks to be pitching. "We have to go out and get some pitching to come here. Pitching and experience will help next year," said Robinson. Robinson will return next year as head coach. With much to build on, the team looks to find a way to win close games. Eleven of the team's 22 losses were one-run losses. "I know we lost a number of one run games. If we had won those, who knows how many we could have won," said Hill. The building blocks are set and now the Cougars just need the right pieces. Look for the Cougars to try and bring a Championship to Clackamas come next spring.

ELL: Award-winning athlete pitches to Hawaii

continued from HILL, Page 1
Of course, all of this sounds good but what do the coaches of Hill? Meeting up with Mick Ellet, the pitching coach, a question was asked that kind of pitcher was Hill. Taylor has probably been our best pitcher for the last two years," Ellet responded quickly. "He's a guy that's not overpowering but knows how to pitch. He's got a fastball, change-up and a breaking pitch he can use anytime, any count." Personally Ellet had this to say about Hill. "Taylor is one of those athletes that he's kind of been his own a little bit," Ellet said. "He's had to work along with going to school. He's had to work so he could be able to live. He does have scholarship money with us

“Taylor has probably been our stellar pitcher for the last two years.”
Mick Ellet
Clackamas pitching coach

but he is a very dedicated individual. He works late, he's on time here. He gets his school work done. He's just been a great kid for us to have and the kind of kids you always like to coach," Ellet said. Head Coach Robin Robinson reinforces Ellet's words, saying, "He's a good student; he's worked

hard. He's worked a job full-time as well as being a full-time student as well as being a baseball player with the number of hours of time we demand of him. He's done great." The coaches have nothing but words of praise for Hill. Robinson said, "A very good team guy, he's been one of our team leaders. In the dugout he's the guy that keeps the guys going whether he's pitching or not. He keeps the good positive, high energy in the dugout all the time which has been very helpful to us. I have high accolades for that young man. He's worked his butt off to get where he is." It also seems Hill is leaving a piece of himself behind with Robinson's comment. "I think he has been a great mentor for our young pitchers. We have some pretty good young pitchers and I

think they've learned from him. How they train, how they condition and what it takes to be a winner. I think he's done just a great job showing guys what it takes to be a champion." Hill is signed up to go to Hawaii Pacific when he is finished at Clackamas where it sounds like he has a steady career ahead of him. In the words of Robinson, "He'll be fine; he'll have a great career there."

Taylor Hill NWAACC stats rankings:

ERA: 48th, 1.92

Saves: 52nd, 1

Win/Loss: 28th, 5-6

Softball update

The Clackamas Community College softball team's season came to an end May 24. The Cougars fell to Southwest Oregon Community College 2-1 in a 10 inning bout. The Cougars previously beat Green River and Everett community colleges to reach the semi-finals. Freshman Ashley Suter pitched in every game of the NWAACC tournament amassing 35 strikeouts over the three games. Suter pitched a complete game in the semi-final loss to SWOCC. Suter and the Cougars won the NWAACC South Region with a league record of 16-4 and 31-11 overall. It was the second place team in the region though who took the title this year. Mt. Hood defeated SWOCC 7-4 Monday May 24 at Delta Park.

baseball
catcher
coach
crackerjacks
hotdog
infield
lineup
outfield
pitcher
trainer
umpire

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