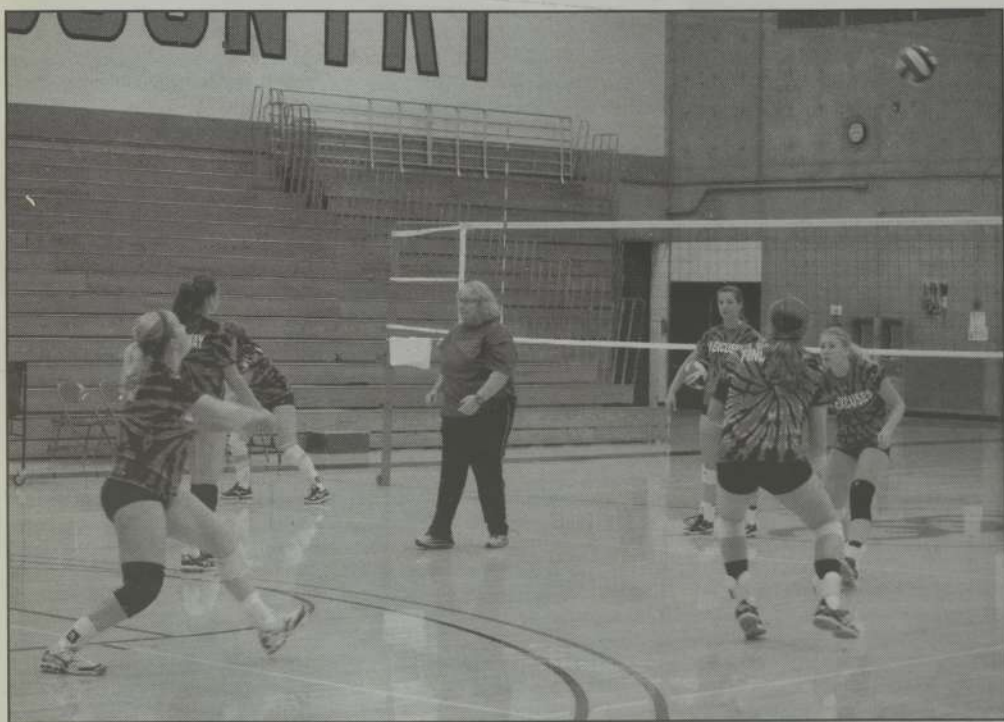


# Volleyball hits target



John Petty Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Cougars' volleyball team practices in their attempt to remain in fourth place and make the NWAACC playoffs this year.

**By Harley Jackson**  
The Clackamas Print

Fall is a season known for the changing of leaves, the introduction of pumpkins at your local store and, of course, sports. With the start of the fall term, women's volleyball is in full throttle and there's no sign of stopping.

This is not your traditional team; it's a team consisting mostly of new players. Although the team is new and the girls were unfamiliar with each other, they connected and bonded quickly.

"Right off the bat everyone got along and we became fast friends," said Rachael Strong, co-captain of the team and the only returner.

This is a powerful new team; three players have already won some very prestigious awards. Taylor Richardson and Haylee Schaab have both won Southern Offensive Player of the Week, and Rachael Strong has won Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges' Defensive Player of the Week.

Schaab, a freshman, was

especially excited about her award, since she just got over an injury. "It felt great, I finally started feeling like myself again," she said.

Head Coach Kathie Woods

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**Rachael Strong**  
Cougars Volleyball  
Co Captain

couldn't be happier with how her players started as strangers and came together as a marvelous team. "I love my team and they work really really hard, and they are improving," she said. "It's exciting!"

The Cougars have had an

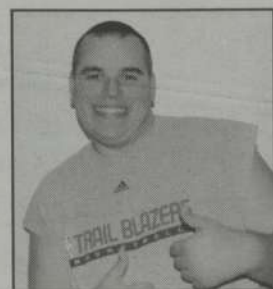
outstanding season so far with a huge win over the Highline Thunderbirds 24-26, 25-22, 25-23, 22-25, 15-13. With this win they became the champions of the Consolation Tourney held in their home court on Sept. 19.

The tenacious Cougars currently have a record of 16-18. The team is highly encouraged by this record, and is not letting it get into their heads. They are progressing and improving daily and are no doubt a force to be reckoned with.

Right now the main goal for this unbreakable team is to qualify for the NWAACC tournament at the end of the season. To qualify they need to rank in the top four of their region. This should be no problem at all for the Cougars since they are currently tied for third. This rank has given the girls a surge of positive energy and charged the team with an explosive level of moral.

"Our ultimate goal is to win the NWAACC tournament, we have a ways to go but it's possible," said Woods. For a new team, the first half of the season has been outstanding, and the second half should be even more exhilarating.

## Pac 10 vs. Pac 12



**By Robert Morrison**  
Sports Editor

The Pacific-10 has been around for a 32 years, and the teams in the conference have been around for far longer. Our local Oregon Ducks and Oregon State Beavers are two teams that head the PAC-10. Oregon currently leads the PAC-10 with a 6-0 record as well as ranked second in the nation in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

Throughout the nation many college teams are changing conferences. The PAC-10 is no different, but instead of teams leaving the PAC-10, teams are joining. The teams joining are Utah and Colorado. Although originally they were not supposed to join until 2012, the NCAA decided to have the two teams join in 2011, bringing the end of the PAC-10 closer as well as the start to the PAC-12.

The two new teams will change the whole look of the PAC-10 from here on out. The plan is to divide the conference into a north and south. I don't think that that is a bad idea because it makes the conference like many others, but is adding two teams a good bet? I have mixed feelings on the decision.

Two more teams would add some more flair to the PAC-10, but it has been unchanged for years and has been great. Why change a beautiful thing when it hasn't looked bad? The conference name changes along with scheduling and competitiveness.

Utah is a legitimate contender in the PAC-12 and is currently ranked 9th in the BCS standings. Having another ranked opponent will do well for those we can beat Utah, but Colorado, really? Colorado hasn't had a winning record in five years. They currently hold

a 3-3 record this season. The PAC-12 doesn't need another floppy team to add easy wins to a schedule. A team needs to beat good teams to get wins, not a push over team. We don't need a Boise State team in the conference — Boise State is a decent team that just happens to be ranked in the top five because they face easy teams and win. We need a team like the University of Southern California of old, a team that beats good teams to get to the National Title game.

If the PAC-12 got a team like Florida then it would be a great decision to allow an expansion of the conference. An expansion with the caliber of a team allows for more quality competition. A great expansion would have been Florida and Utah or Texas. The conference would have become one of the best in the nation but it wasn't meant to be. I'm in disagreement on it and think the PAC-10 should have tried harder to get a better team than the long-time Colorado team. In the long run though, someone has to lose. Next year it will just happen to be the newly added Colorado team.

The PAC-12 idea isn't bad. It allows for more conference games which in reality allows more revenue for home schools and allows fans to have more heartfelt wins. Every game in a conference, even the easy ones, seems like a big win. The home crowd also get to see the new teams on a constant basis if they stay in the conference. After all that is how rivalries are formed. Who knows, maybe we will get a civil war-like game with Oregon vs. Utah or a Washington State vs. Colorado game.

Added teams, especially Colorado, allows for the lower teams in the conference to be more competitive against each other. The addition might even make the whole conference better if Colorado plays better than it has in the last decade.

Whether it is bad or good for college football, the fact is that the PAC-12 is happening. With it coming in 2011, fans better get used to it, because a lot of change is in the wind with the PAC-12.

## Timbers will join Blazers as a pro team in Portland in '11

**By Katherine Suydam**  
The Clackamas Print

If you were worried about flipping on the fun box and not having any local sports to watch, you don't have to be. Portland professional sports will be represented year round.

In 2011 Oregon will have two professional teams in the Portland metro area. Everyone in Oregon should have heard of the Portland Trailblazers, our local NBA team, and hopefully most will have heard of the Portland Timbers by now.

The Timbers are transitioning from a United States Soccer Federation Division Two team to a Major League Soccer team in the next year. The team will have a newly renovated stadium and a roster full of fresh faces, along with some old favorites.

The Timbers announced yesterday four players that are signed for their first MLS season in 2011. Midfielder Ryan Pore, goalkeeper Steve Cronin, and forward Bright Dike. The Timbers have also shocked the Portland community by signing former Austin Aztex forward Eddie Johnson.

The Timbers were a part of the North American Soccer League beginning in the late '70s, disbanding in 1982. They returned to Portland in 2001, playing games at PGE Park where they posted seven winning seasons.

In 2009, Portland was awarded a MLS franchise. The Timbers will be playing in what used to be known as PGE Park, the Portland Beavers, having unofficially moved to Escondido, Calif. Timbers management is giving the park, along with the team, a renovation. John Spencer, former Houston Dynamo assistant coach, will be taking over for Gavin Wilkinson as head coach. Wilkinson will be known as technical director.

While the Timbers are just becoming a professional team, the Blazers have been around since 1970, winning their first, but hopefully not their last, championship in 1977.

A lot of people in Oregon have used the term "Rip City" but how many actually know where the nickname for Portland actually originated? In 1971 Bill Schonely, former Blazers play-by-play announcer, coined the term Rip City in the Blazers first season, the name has been used synonymously for Portland ever since.

Since their championship game, the Blazers

have had a series of ups and downs, playing in the late '80s and '90s with beloved fan favorite Clyde "The Glide" Drexler, and shamefully becoming known as the Jail Blazers in 2000. The Blazers had a 21 season playoff streak from 1982 to 2000 and since then they have made the playoffs twice in 2009 and 2010.

The Blazers appearance changed drastically in 2006 when rookie of the year and franchise player Brandon Roy joined the team. Growth in fan support is evident since 2006, attendance of the West Fargo Fanfest, a free scrimmage held every year to give the fans a chance to get to know their roster, reaching near capacity of the Rose Garden Arena.

The Blazers first game of the season against the Phoenix Suns will be held at the Rose Garden Arena on Oct. 26. The Suns beat the Blazers in the first round of the playoffs last year, ending the hopes of adding a second championship title to Portland's record.

Next year, Portland, we can go to the Timber season opener while we root for the Blazers to make it to the playoffs. The Timbers season begins again next March, just when the Blazers are hoping to clinch their spot in the playoffs.