

Cougars win region

By Katherine Suydam
The Clackamas Print

Cougars Soccer has continued to dominate this season, playing hard and filling the scoreboard with wins. Last Saturday the Cougars brought home another win against Chemeketa, winning the game 6-0 and raising the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges' South Region record to 12-0-0.

"We're just trying to take it one game at a time and focus on the next game and then worry about the next game after that," said Tracy Nelson, Cougars soccer head coach.

The Cougars are amongst four teams in the NWAACC to clinch a playoff berth. Among the others is the Cougars' self-proclaimed rival, Walla Walla, one of the only two teams to have beaten the Cougars. The only other team to have beaten the Cougars is Spokane. Both losses came back-to-back in the second and third games of the season.

"As a team, everyone has improved offensively, and defensively and when we have the ball everybody is on offense and when we don't have the ball everybody needs to be on defense," said Nelson.

The team's defense has improved drastically. They are tied for second with Walla Walla in the league for shut outs, with nine games ending in the opposing team scoring zero points.

"It started with our Bellevue game; that was a really tough game," said midfielder and Cougar Captain Lindsay Bauman. "Ever since then we've really been playing hard and winning all of our league games."

"I think as a team we've improved a lot on defense and our offense continues to be strong," said freshman goalkeeper, Melissa Ferguson.

The Cougars' offense has been strong all season, making a total of 38 goals and allowing only 10. Leading the team with 17 goals is Jennifer Jackson, who is ranked third in the league for goals. Yasmin Coto leads the team in assists with nine assists on her record, making her second in the league for assists.

"As a team, they are very focused on what they want to accomplish and we are not taking anything for granted right now. Our goal is to get to the NWAACC championships and every single player on the team has that same goal," said Nelson.

"We need to make sure we stay focused and not look at our record and get too confident," said Bauman.

Though the Cougars have clinched the championship for the Southern region they still have two league matches to play. The games, held at the old Oregon City High School stadium, will determine whether the team keeps a clean record for the season. The Cougars face Clark College today at 1 p.m. and Lane Community College at 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5.



John Petty Clackamas Print

The Cougars Women's soccer team practices on Oct. 29 at Clackamas Community College in preparation for the remainder of the season. The team looks to finish strong with a current record of 13-2.

Many professional athletes fail to live up to the money they are paid



By Robert Morrison
Sports Editor

Wouldn't you love to be paid \$275 million over 10 years to fail 70 percent of the time? I know I would. This is the life of professional athletes.

The contract I refer to is that of the Yankees' Alex Rodriguez. He currently plays third base for the Yankees and he is one of baseball's best players, and gets paid like it.

As a die-hard sports fan, I'm willing to watch a player make big bucks playing a sport, but should players really make that much to play a game most of us played as kids? Sometimes I think not.

When players sign big deals there is often an amount that is guaranteed to that player no matter what happens. The player could be released and if they are guaranteed that money the team is required to pay. The team in one way or another pays for a player to do whatever they want for the remainder of the time.

One of the recent notable contracts terminated would be that of the former Oakland Raiders quarterback, JaMarcus Russell. Russell was drafted No. 1 overall in the NFL draft in 2007 by Oakland. Usually if a player is chosen first, they're not a bad player, and that was true about Russell in college. Russell went on to sign a six-year, \$61 million deal, \$32 million being guaranteed.

He ended up playing only

three years of his contract and making a little over \$9 million. In his three years as a starter, Russell threw for 18 touchdowns and 23 interceptions, horrible in a NFL team's eyes. He did horrible as a quarterback and yet was paid millions of dollars to play bad. It was the biggest rookie contract at the time.

Ryan Leaf is another one of the players that got a big contract only to fall short, sending his team's money down the drain. Leaf was drafted No. 2 in the 1998 NFL draft by the San Diego Chargers. He signed a \$32 million deal with a guaranteed \$11 million signing bonus. Leaf went on to only win four games in three years and he was injured multiple times. He also retired at the age of 26 with 14 touchdowns and 36 interceptions in 21 starts. Leaf has been named on a number of occasions as one of ESPN's top draft busts.

Going more local, a semi-bust is that of Portland's own Greg Oden. Oden was the No. 1 pick in the 2007 NBA draft. He made just under \$4 million his rookie season, just over \$4 million his second season and \$4.5 million last year. In three seasons, he has played only 42 games because of numerous injuries. He suffered a season-ending injury last December and has yet to return. Oden has not lived up to his hype, and will be a restricted to free agent after this year.

Teams continue to pay athletes big money to play a sport even when they continue to get injured. The bigger cities, such as New York, continue to pay big contracts to multiple players just to have a chance to win. Why pay a player a massive contract to fail? If anyone wants to pay me \$30 million to play badly, I will have my phone number in my next column. Call my agent, Cody Wilson.

Jennifer Jackson: improving in life, improving in soccer

By Nathan Sturgess
The Clackamas Print

Soccer has been a big part of Jennifer Jackson's life since she was very young. "I just tried it out when I was about five years old and just began to love it," she said. According to Jennifer's father, Jeff Jackson, her real passion for the sport began at a U.S. national women's soccer game they attended when she was about eight years old.

"We went there and watched them slaughter the Mexican team like 8-0, and Jennifer told me then, 'Daddy, I want to be a soccer player,' and I said OK ... I'll do what I can to help you," he said.

From then on they became a father-daughter team. In fact, Jeff was Jennifer's first coach in the Centennial soccer club.

"It turned out they were short on coaches ... and I didn't know any-

thing about soccer, but volunteered to be a coach so long as I could coach my kid," Jeff said.

"He didn't know what he was doing ... He had a little handbook and everything like that," Jennifer said.

As Jennifer's passion for the sport increased so did her skill, as did the stakes. She waded through the politically charged club soccer scene, having to change clubs several times, and deal with intense competition and rivalries.

"On more than one occasion she was ready to hang 'em up, but dad wouldn't let her," said Jeff. "I used to tell her, 'Jen, if you quit now, you're gonna look back one day and you're gonna regret it. You're gonna have to stick this out.'"

Jennifer did stick it out, becoming a starting varsity player for all four years at Centennial High School.

Once Jennifer met Tracy Nelson, Clackamas Community College

women's soccer coach, it was clear where Jennifer wanted to start her college soccer career.

Jen said, "Tracy is a great, great coach and a really good person too. She's definitely had a huge impact on me on and off the field. I've become a better player here than like anywhere else."

Jennifer's first year as a soccer player for CCC did not go without acknowledgement. According to Jen's website, she scored 13 goals and had 6 assists in the 2010 soccer season. She was also selected for the All-Star team and received the Most Valuable Player award for the Southern Region league.

"That's definitely something I'm very proud of, and very much still excited for," Jennifer said.

Jennifer Almond, another CCC soccer player, said that she didn't think anyone else deserved the MVP title more.

Jennifer, or "Jax" as her team-

mates call her, only continues to improve. "She has grown tremendously from last year to this year. She has matured as a person and as a player, which has made her such a better soccer player," Nelson said.

Jennifer's father also acknowledged how proud he is that she has taken on the responsibilities that come with her adult career, learning to balance soccer, school, and a job at Bally Total Fitness all at the same time.

Going forward, Jennifer hopes to be selected for a scholarship to play for a Division I institution like the University of Oregon, which will help move her closer to her dream of becoming a pediatric nurse. Jennifer loves children and specifically remembers working at little kids camps in high school and really loving that experience.

Reflecting on all her successes, Jennifer was grateful for several people who have helped her along

on her journey, but none as much as her father.

"My dad has been there every step of the way and done everything in order to keep me going," she said. "I want to be a person and soccer player that my dad can be proud of."



JACKSON