

Wrestling is No. 6 in national poll

By Robert Morrison
Sports Editor

Clackamas Community College's wrestling season is now officially underway. The season started Nov. 7 as the team's original season opener was rescheduled. The new season opener was the Mike Clock Open hosted by Pacific University, where students Tarrence Williams and Tyrell Fortune both won tournaments titles.

The Cougars also had four other place holders: Derek Mestrovich in third, Kegan Handlovic in fourth, Martin Gonzalez in fifth and Jordan O'Neal in fifth. Gonzalez and O'Neal had to pull out due to injury. The tournament had wrestlers and teams from junior colleges and Divisions 1-3, among others, showcasing their skills.

The start of the season saw three of Clackamas's All-Americans return: Williams, Mestrovich and Fortune. Fortune and Williams were both Region 18 Champions, and Fortune was also a 2009 National Champion, so this year brings high standards.

The team as a whole is ranked No. 6 in

the Top 20 National Poll, but some players think they should be ranked even higher.

"It feels good, (but) I think we could be better. I think we can be first," said Williams, a sophomore in the 174 lb. weight class.

Fortune agreed with his opinion, adding that they "should have been better."

The season unofficially got started on Oct. 27 when the team hosted the Navy and Scarlet Intrasquad. Williams, Fortune and Mestrovich all won their matches that day, and Scarlett defeated Navy 23-13.

The team has been trying to improve on what was already a good team last year by adding a number of new prep players

to its roster. This off-season added depth to a Cougars roster that finished eighth last year. Among these additions was OSAA 6A Champion Blake Borsberry. Borsberry was champion of the 135 lb. class. Another of these additions is Handlovic, who is a transfer from Purdue University, where he was red shirted. A red shirted player is allowed to have an extra year of eligibility.

"I feel like they're guys we added were pretty good. They're good contributors," said Fortune, who competes in the 285 lb. weight class.

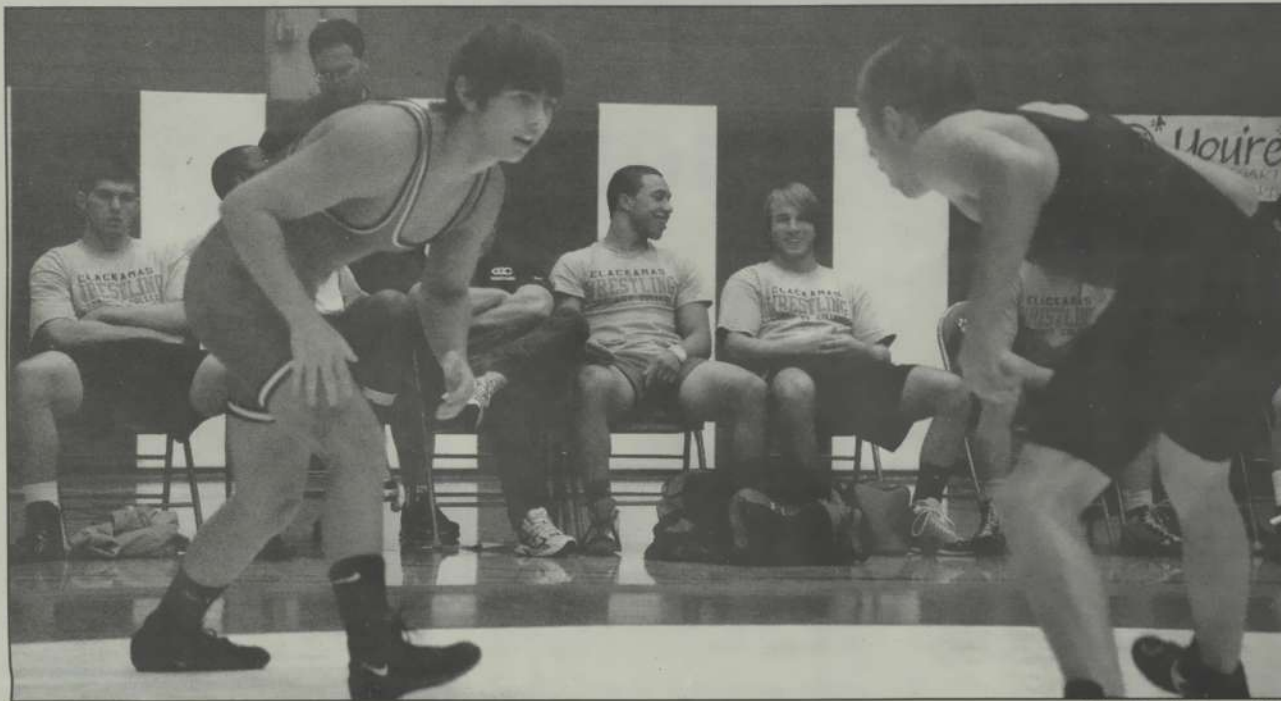
"It's good for the team and good for the program," said Mestrovich. Mestrovich wrestles in the 165 lb. weight class.

The team is improving everyday they practice together. Many of the players are trying to improve the team as well as personal goals. Each player has improved from last year in different areas.

"Derek Mestrovich (is the most improved player) because I used to be him up easy at the beginning of the season, then he shaped up and beat me up," said Williams.

The Cougars' National Champion has a different perspective, however. "I haven't wrestled many matches so I can't really tell right now (who's most improved)," said Fortune.

The players feel that the thing that could hold them back the most is possibly themselves.



John Petty Clackamas Print

Alan Farmer, 133 lb. weight class, takes on Chance Blackburn in the first round of matches at the Mike Clock Open. The Open was in Forest Grove and was hosted by Pacific College on Nov. 7.

Mestrovich mentioned his biggest opponent is himself. Fortune said the team will have much competition this season and could go far in the National Tournament.

The team has a number of matches in different locations this year so they will get limited time to see their Cougars at home. They look to bring the National Title to Clackamas as well as more All-Americans to the team. The Cougars' next matches are the North Idaho College Cardinal Dual on Nov. 19 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The new era of rules to come



By Robert Morrison
Sports Editor

This year in sports, rules have been changing. The changes are mainly in professional sports, but how long until they reach college sports, Clackamas Community College in particular?

There have been both good changes and awful ones. One of the most approved changes in sports is the extended use of instant replay. Baseball now uses it to get home runs called correctly, basketball uses it to get last second shots right as well as clear path fouls right, and NCAA and NFL football teams already use replays for everything. Replays are nice because they take some of the human error out of sports while making sure calls are made correctly.

Probably the biggest issue in sports right now is the NBA's new technical foul rule. The new rule now eliminates any arguing by players. If a player thinks they

are fouled but get no call they are no longer allowed to express their opinions. I remember I was watching the Portland Trail Blazers season opener and they were called for four technical fouls. I haven't seen that many from the Blazers since they were the "Jail Blazers."

A technical foul is no longer for just language or excessive arguing; a player could put their hands up and get called for a technical. A team could lose a game because of the points the other teams score off of free shots. It isn't even about player safety, it was a rule change that affects not only players but the games as a whole.

While on the subject of player safety, the newest NFL rule has to do with "player safety." It is based around the NFL and the U.S. Congress talking about the concussion issues. Players are now being fined for hits that are to the neck or head area, regardless of where on the field they are.

It is hard to tell someone that has hit players the same way for 10 years to change their ways. The NFL now wants defensive players to keep their heads up and not hit near a player's neck or head, but it is hard to do so, especially in the middle of a game.

James Harrison, Pittsburgh

Steelers linebacker, has been fined a total of \$105,000 for hits on quarterbacks and on a Cleveland Browns receiver that ended up with a concussion. Harrison, who is known for hard hits, talked about retiring because of how strong he felt about the NFL's new rules. The Steelers organization defended Harrison's hits and said they will not change their way of football. The NFL said suspension could happen for repeat offenders.

Once again, the NFL is turning football into a little kid's game. They are taking one of the reasons people watch football out of the game, making it where players can't make hard hits without losing money or being suspended. They are getting to the point when protecting a player is going too far. Players know what they get themselves into when they put on those pads. It's a bad rule change.

Rules are there to be enforced, but when rules that are changed effect the game to the point that fans, coaches and players complain, maybe it isn't a good rule change. Organizations need to do research before changing rules instead of just changing them right off the bat. CCC could be seeing rule changes too if the professional rule changes reach the college level.

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