

Cougars speed through pre-season

By Katherine Suydam
The Clackamas Print

The women's basketball team at Clackamas Community College is an exciting team, playing fast-paced ball and placing in Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's league championships year after year.

The Cougars have an impressive NWAACC record, gaining a 10-year champion placement streak. Though the team was Southern Region Champion last year, they have not won the league championships since 2004. Head Coach Kayla Steen hopes to change that. With four familiar names on the roster, she hopes that the team can make it to the championships this year.

Sophomores Johnelle Kapua, Shayla Ball, Melair Halterhoff and Miranda Martine will likely be starting this season.

"I look for a very promising year from all four of them. They're all very talented individuals and they play very well together," said Steen. "It's to our advantage to have all four of them on the floor together to play; we're going to win a lot of ball games with them."

Players agree that the Cougars will bring their speed and ambition into the season.

"We're really quick with everything that we do," said guard player Alex Howe, who will redshirt this year to improve her game. "Quick and crisp, our press is definitely what is going to help us win some games."

Cougars women's basketball runs a spread offense. The team plays fast and uses their speed to their advantage. Though they have official positions, the members of the team learn to play all positions so that they can create a mismatch.

"If our post players are able to step out to the three-point line, sometimes bringing their post defender with them creates a mismatch," said Steen.



John Simmons Clackamas Print

Cougars guard Alex Howe pushes to the basket last Tuesday in practice. Howe will be redshirting in the coming season, watching from the sideline while she improves her game.

With the fast-paced game that the Cougars bring to the court, they hope to wear out the opposing team.

"We're a quick team, and I have a feeling that we're just gonna run teams. When they're tired we're still gonna have energy. We're pretty much gonna run them to lose," said guard/forward Shayla Ball.

The starting positions are still up for grabs but it is likely that the four returning players will start. Freshmen on the team are competing for the last position and, though they have

an idea who it will be, they have not given up hope on getting those starter minutes.

"Sam McCloud, she'll probably be one of the starters with the other four sophomores on the team. She's good offensively and defensively. She's an all-around good player," said Howe.

Even though it's been six years since the Cougars were last named champions, they are positive going into the season.

"We're one of the teams to look

out for, we're one of the best coming into the league," said Howe.

Though they are confident, the Cougars still feel that they have improvements to make before the season starts.

"I think the most we need to work on is boxing out and communicating on the floor. We're always running extra lines to the front and doing that stuff so I have a feeling just talking more, helping people out on the floor, telling people where to go will help us the most," said Ball.

The Cougars NWAACC league season doesn't begin until Jan. 8, when the Cougars will open with a three game road trip before returning for their first home game against Mt. Hood Community College on Jan. 19.

Before the season starts, the Cougars will host the Thanksgiving Invitational, a three-day tournament in which eight teams will participate. The tournament will be held in the Randall Hall gym from Nov. 26 through 28.

Football word search

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Pig Skin	Tackle
Touchdown	Coin Toss
Kicker	Defense
Tight End	Fantasy League
Quarterback	Fumble
Linebacker	Interception
Super Bowl	Penalty
End Zone	NFL
Blitz	NCAA

NFL faces potential lockout in 2011



By Robert Morrison
Sports Editor

No National Football League next year? Yes, you heard right. What NFL fans have dreaded for so many years has finally come to be a possibility.

The NFL and the NFL Players Association have yet to reach a deal on a new collective bargaining agreement for next year and years after. Without this agreement in effect next year would be a lockout for the NFL players and their teams. Because there was a failure to reach a new deal last year, this NFL season was a season without a salary cap. Teams could go out and spend money on players and not have to worry about being under the cap.

The current labor agreement in effect expires this March. Currently players receive 59.6 percent of designated revenue, according to the NFL. Many NFL team owners think this percentage is too much for the players. The owners would like the agreement to lower that percentage.

The two sides are at such a disagreement that

the NFLPA has involved the U.S. Congress in the issue. The NFLPA wants the NFL and its owners to see the economical effect of a failure to agree to terms for a deal. In a report done by NFL.com, NFL lobbyist Jeff Miller argued that Congress isn't in a position to resolve the dispute and that trying to pull lawmakers into it is out of bounds.

This isn't the first time the NFL or the NFLPA have visited Capital Hill, as both have been to Washington to talk about the ongoing issues with head injuries in the NFL, which I talked about two weeks ago in my column.

The NFL and the NFLPA need to reach an agreement because a lockout of the NFL will affect more than just professional football. Team revenue will decline as well as the league revenue. The new Nike deal with the NFL won't be worth even half as much of what it is estimated to be if there are no players to wear Nike's uniforms. Companies such as ESPN and ABC will lose revenue they gain from televising the events. Both are operated as Disney subsidiaries so one way or another Disney will also lose money.

Both sides have their views of a perfect agreement but the reality is neither side will likely get everything it wants. The best thing for the agreement is to find a middle ground where each side has a few things that they want. But to hold out for more is selfish of both the NFL and the NFLPA. The players want more and the NFL owners don't want to give them more. The NFL owners want to give less but the players don't want less. No immediate agreement seems to be close at hand and the way things are looking now no deal will come in the near future.

Lockouts have prevented the National Hockey League and the Major League Baseball from playing seasons in the past and no one wants to see it spread to football as well. March is just around the corner, a little over three months to be exact. Without an agreement NFL fans can expect a lockout. In other words: No NFL.