

Brad Heineke Clackamas Print

Clackamas Community College's forward Rei Jensen goes to block Clackamas' Derrick Hayes in Clackamas Community College's home opener in the Randall Gym on Jan. 19. Clackamas loses 80-86.

## Saints slay Cougars

By John Howard  
The Clackamas Print

Clackamas Community College men's basketball Coach Clif Wegner's comments might suggest, Clackamas' 80-86 home loss to Mt. Hood in their home opener was quite the disappointment.

"I did not enjoy that. It was, without a doubt, the worst ball game of the month."

Keep in mind that the Cougars were coming off back to back losses in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges championship seasons and a 2010 CCC Community College Tournament championship. Clackamas was on a six game winning streak and were 11-1 since the start of the first two games of the season.

In spite of their No. 3 ranking, Clackamas started the game from the beginning, quickly getting down in the first half to a Mt. Hood Saints team that had gone into the division play. After starting the game with a lead, Clackamas went scoreless for seven minutes while the Saints built a healthy lead. Clackamas went 0-8 from three-point range in the first half. The Cougars rallied behind sophomore Derrick Hayes, scoring eight points in the first half and went on an 8-4 run in the second half to take a 21-29 lead at halftime.

The first half started flat, the second half began with Clackamas being uncharacteristically out-rebounded in the second half 21-18, the normally solid Cougars were out-rebounded on the backboards in the second half by first year forward Spencer Clayton. Overall, Mt. Hood out-rebounded Clackamas 45-36, something that is unusual for the Cougars.

"I'll be working on boxing out on rebounds in the second half tomorrow," said freshman Paul Walter, who said that the team's performance was far below what normally would have been. "We've really been together these past four or five weeks, but we

took a step back tonight. We've just got to trust one another."

Wegner echoed his player's comments. "We need to be prepared to play and not pay attention to rank. All the hustle players out there were wearing red. We played tired tonight."

As Clackamas slipped, Mt. Hood surged. The Saints roared out to a game high 21 point lead at 70-49 in just the first eight minutes of the second half. With the Saints' bench standing and applauding, Wegner called a timeout to assess the situation. That was when the Cougars kicked it into high gear.

Clackamas came out with an aggressive defense, putting pressure on the Saints from one end of the court to the other. On offense, Clackamas ran and scored quickly, much to the delight of the fans. With something to finally cheer about, they made themselves heard after every Cougar bucket.

After a stolen inbounds pass and another layup, Clackamas found themselves down by just six points with less than a minute remaining. The deficit would be cut once more to four, but good free throw shooting by the Saints would put the final nail in the coffin as the Cougars lost 86-80 for their first loss in division play.

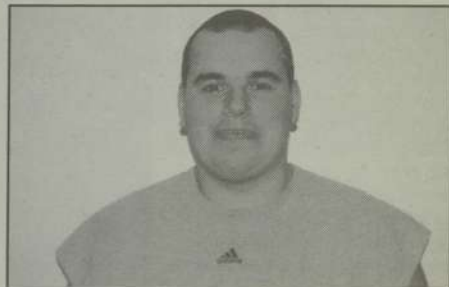
"Losing helps this team," said first year guard Kirby Hawkins. "It's a taste of reality for motivation."

Hawkins, along with fellow teammate Alix Loul, agreed that the biggest thing learned from the loss was that they needed to give more, and that effort was their coach's biggest point of emphasis in Thursday's practice.

In the end, the Cougars had just dug themselves too deep a hole to climb out of. Mt. Hood's Otho Lesure scored 21 points of his game-high 23 points in the second half and Delroy Gibbs went 4-6 from three-point range for 17 points. Hawkins paced Clackamas with 19 points and Max Jacobson added 12 points and a team-high of seven rebounds in the loss for the Cougars.

Clackamas will next play host to Linn-Benton this Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Randall Hall gymnasium.

## Seahawks fail to fly into Chicago or the season



By Robert Morrison  
Sports Editor

Will the Seattle Seahawks ever fly again? A lot of fans of the Northwest team have been asking that question since the team made the Super Bowl against the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2005. The Seahawks lost that game in questionable fashion. People say that game had too many calls going Pittsburgh's way. This year the Seahawks made a couple of trades to bolster a runningback core that wasn't getting it done. The team added Marshawn Lynch and Leon Washington. Washington helped the special teams, and Lynch teamed with Justin Forsett to make a good duo in the backfield.

The team also started the year with former NFL and USC coach Pete Carroll. Carroll brought with him a number of fellow coaches from USC to help with the Seahawks coaching staff. USC, under Carroll, won a number of Nation Championships in a professional-like system.

Many new things were expected out of the NFC West this year but that wouldn't be the case with all the teams with losing records. The Seahawks started off the season going 2-2 in the first four games before their week five bye-week.

After their bye-week the team pulled off two straight wins. Unfortunately for them, that would only lead to troubles in the following two games, losing by a total score of 74-10.

The Seahawks' offense struggled all year and for many weeks the fans could see it on the field. The Seahawks went 2-6 after that to set up a matchup with the St. Louis Rams that would be winner takes all. The winner of that matchup would become the NFC West champions and get a automatic bid into the playoffs with the fourth seed.

The Seahawks hosted the game in Seattle. The game was full of mistakes and neither team was able to move the ball very far down the field. The game ended with a score of 16-6, Seahawks. Seattle earned the right to the playoffs in Pete Carroll's first year back in the NFL.

The team was proud to make the playoffs but many sports fans wondered if the team could hang in with the big boys in the playoffs. After all, the Seahawks were the first team to make the playoffs with a losing record. When all was said and done, the Seahawks would play host to the New Orleans Saints, who had a much better record (10-6). The Saints were heading into the game as the clear favorite to win.

The game started off in the first quarter with the Saints leading 10-7. By halftime the Seahawks pulled to a 24-20 lead. In the third quarter the Saints went cold and couldn't score, but the Seahawks picked up right where they left off, scoring 10 points in the quarter. The Saints headed into the last quarter down 34-20. The Saints would go on to outscore the Seahawks 16-7 in the last quarter. The icing on the cake was a 67-yard run by Lynch to score the last touchdown for his team to close the 41-36 win. The underdog had beaten the favored Saints in what wasn't expected to be a shootout.

With their win in Seattle, the Seahawks earned the honor of traveling to Chicago to take on the Bears in the next playoff game. The first half became a showing for the Bears as they outscored the Seahawks 21-0, the first time the Seahawks had gone scoreless in quarters in the playoffs this year.

The Seahawks pulled out a field goal in the third and Chicago scored a touchdown, putting the game at 28-3 after three quarters. The final quarter saw the Seahawks bring the heat, scoring 21 points to Chicago's seven, but it wouldn't be enough with the Bears winning 35-24 in what was a mostly lopsided game. The Seahawks were eliminated from the playoffs and their shot at another Super Bowl.

The Seahawks won a division that wasn't good and beat a favorite in the Saints but couldn't tough it out for a win in Chicago, leaving the question of the team's future and that of quarterback Matt Hasselback unanswered.