

Men's Basketball Moves Forward

The men's basketball team may have lost their game against Lane Community College on Jan. 29, but that doesn't stop them from moving on with hopes of winning the Southern Division League championship.

By Nathan Sturgess
The Clackamas Print

Following off a loss to Lane Community College on Jan. 29, the Clackamas Community College basketball team was quite surprised. This was only the second loss of the season, the first being to Hood Community College, but it merely moved Clackamas into a tie for second place.

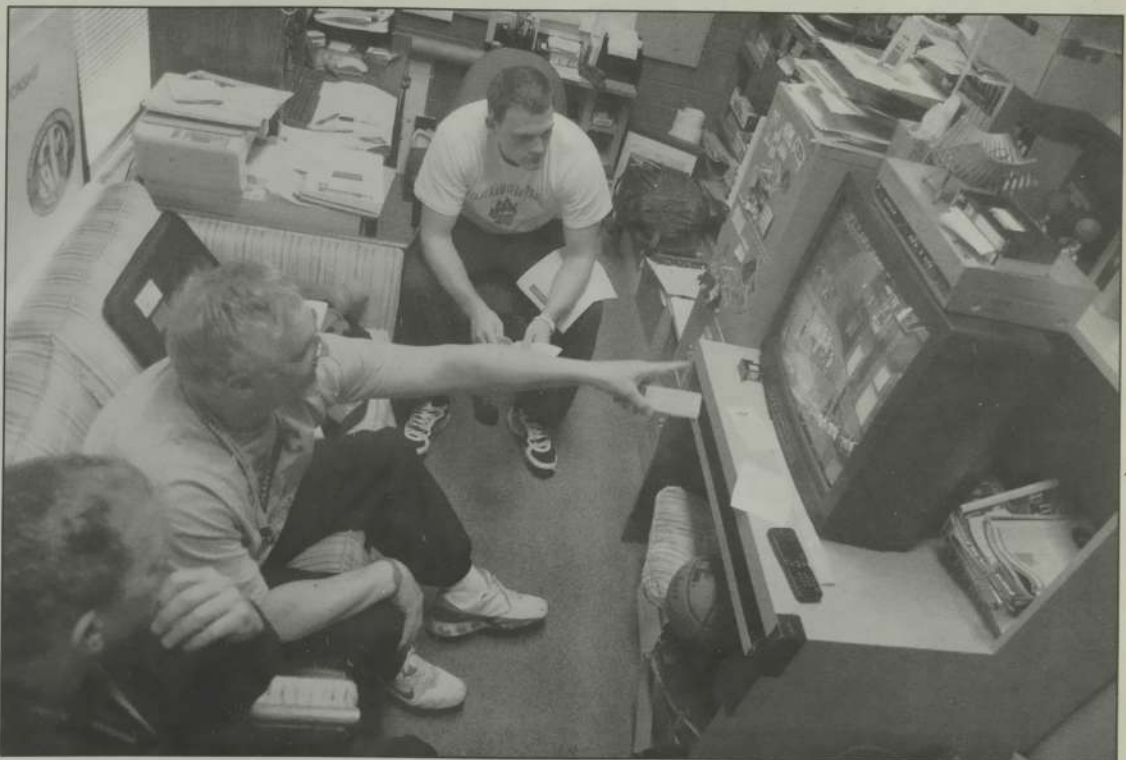
Several of the players mentioned team chemistry on the court and improvement and probably in bringing the close loss to

They had a couple little problems with team rules and stuff," said guard Paul Walter.

The team had a private meeting a few days after the game, without any fans present, where they resolved internal issues and refocused their main goal of winning the Southern Division League champion-

They had a team meeting the other day and it really helped us think. We were having some problems behind the scenes and they've all been cleared up. We're going to go forward from here and everything is going to be fine," said Paul Walter, co-captain of the Clackamas team.

Another factor that led to the loss to Lane was Paul Walter's hip injury, which made it impossible for him to play during that game. At the time, this really concerned Clif Wegner, head coach for the men's



"There's the problem," Head Coach Clif Wegner says as he and assistant coaches Paul Fiskum (left) and Jonny Brainard (right) look over game footage on Feb. 2.

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Clif Wegner
Men's Basketball
Head Coach

basketball team. He said that Walter was a really strong asset on the team, both as a point scorer and as a leader. Luckily for the team, Walter was deemed able to play in the Feb. 5 game against Chemeketa Community College, scoring 10 points and leading the team to a 31 point spread victory, Clackamas' biggest win this season.

Overall, the team is very driven to win the league this season. Even after

the loss to Lane, the players were confident they could get back on track.

"People are on board and they want to win the championship," said Max Jacobsen, an up-and-coming post.

Wegner had a more reserved tone. "If we can win the league, great, but the most important thing is to be playing our best basketball; at the end of the year be healthy and positive," he said.

In terms of logistical strengths, both Wegner and Walter were happy about the team's offensive game. With an overall shooting average of about 50 percent, the team feels pretty good about its position. Defensively, the team is still struggling to find a rhythm, but looking at the most recent game's score, that may be falling into line.

With four games to go before the championship, there is still a lot that could happen this season. But with Walter back on the court and team spirits having been tested and tempered by a little adversity, the last third of the season promises to be energetic and exciting.



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