



Brad Heineke Clackamas Print

dy Cougars show great defense playing against the Mt. Hood Saints on Jan. 19 at home.

dy Cougars lead successful season

by John Howard
Clackamas Print

the season nearly finished, the men's basketball team has to be proud of. They've earned a berth in the Northwest Association of Community College tournament, stand at first in the Western Region and at second place, right behind Columbia Community College. The Cougars, who have a 21-10 overall and 11-1 in the Western Region, have won nine games following a painful loss to Southwestern Oregon Community College on Jan. 15. One of their success they were crowned with a No. 1 ranking earlier in the week of the season. The team's Co-Head Coach Steen said that she saw improvement since lagging mid-

our loss at SWOCC, our defense has been a key," said Steen. "We know that offensively we're going to score plenty of points but defensively we need to be that we're getting some points." Sophomore guard Miranda Ball is one of the offensive leaders for the Cougars, agreed that defense is their Achilles heel, but that they are making progress. "We're working defensively we're getting better as a team," said Martine. The team's weakest point. Towards the end of the season and even now, our defense was struggling. "We don't have a problem with our offense." This season, Clackamas has relied on its offense, leading the league in point field goal percentage, and scoring with an average of 20 points per game, and second in overall field goal percentage. Sophomore Shayla Ball is one of three 20 point scorers in the league and one of only two players to record a double-double. "I insist that, despite Ball's impressive play has been a team effort. We have been stepping up

left and right, trying to make sure that they're doing their job when their number gets called to be on the floor," said Steen.

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I'm sure everyone is excited, and we're looking forward to battling for the championship.

Shayla Ball
Sophomore guard/forward Women's Basketball

Because of their dependence on fast-paced scoring, the biggest challenge that loomed before the Cougars was Lane Community College, a team nearly identical in offensive numbers. Both the players and the coach pointed to the win at Lane as their biggest of the season.

Coming into the game on Jan. 29, the Lane Titans held the longest active home win streak in both the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association, including men's and women's basketball. Lane hadn't lost on their home court since 2002, a streak of 83 games. The battle ended in a nail biter, with Martine's 23 points leading the Cougars to a close 68-65 win in their second lowest scoring game of the season.

Even with the Thanksgiving Invitational and Crossover Invitational championships under their belts and the Southern Region championship only two wins away, Steen shied away from placing success on wins.

"(Our success is) seeing our sophomores take charge being leaders on and off the floor, academically and

on the court, all the way around," said Steen. "It's a great group of girls and they will definitely be missed. I definitely think that watching them move on to their next two years is going to be what we'd consider our greatest success."

Steen said that several of the sophomore players, including Martine and Ball, were considering moving on to a four year university and that they were all capable of playing at a very high level.

For now, though, she and her players are focused on the games to come.

"I think we're proud of what we've done, but we can still do better and improve on a lot of things," said Ball. "I'm sure everyone is excited, and we're looking forward to battling for the championship."

The Cougars will have one final home game on Friday, Feb. 25 at 5:30 p.m. against Lane Community College before finishing the season at Linn-Benton and preparing for the NWAACC Tournament. All stats are current through Friday, Feb. 22.

New draft brings changes to the NBA



By Robert Morrison
Sports Editor

Welcome to this week's "Melo"-drama! This year's trade rumors aren't as big as the off-season choices of LeBron James and Chris Bosh to go to Miami but they are still a topic of discussion among fans. Probably the biggest talk this year is what will happen with Carmelo "Melo" Anthony.

Melo has been one of the top scorers in the NBA as the Denver Nuggets' small forward. He is a big time player with a not-so-big-time team. There have been issues on whether or not Melo actually asked to be traded or not, but the general idea is that he wants out of Denver.

Among the teams rumored to want him are the New Jersey Nets. The Nets made one of the first moves this season, trading talented small forward Terrence Williams to the Houston Rockets. In return the team got the \$5.5 million dollar expiring contract of shooting guard Sasha Vujacic, the first round pick in 2011 of the LA Lakers and the 2012 first round pick of the Houston Rockets.

The rumor is that the Nets might be building up their assets to try and acquire Melo's services. The Nets will have five first-rounders in the next two years. Melo could help the team reach a level they haven't had since Vince Carter played for them. That was the team rumored to have the biggest shot, but the owner called off all negotiations

to acquire Melo. On Feb. 21, he was traded to the New York Knicks for a number of players and draft picks.

Some rumors hit closer to home. With Brandon Roy's struggles with his knee and the problems he has scoring, some rumors have been circulating around the NBA that the Portland Trail Blazers might try to trade away some of their older players. Point guard Andre Miller might be one of those to go.

Center Joel Przybilla has been rumored to be on the New York Knicks' wish list and the Blazers have reportedly been contacted about him. The Blazers have lost many players to trades or due to those players being free agents. With Greg Oden getting hurt again and looking more and more like he won't be a Blazer next season, it seems like the Blazers might make a move this season.

Few trades have been made since more than 100 players became eligible this week, but teams still have some time before the Feb. 24 trade deadline. There are a few more rumors that surround the NBA for what seems to be a very interesting trade deadline. Some of the other rumors include the Detroit Pistons' Richard Hamilton being on the Charlotte Bobcats' list and that the Memphis Grizzlies might want to deal Hasheem Thabeet or OJ Mayo.

As usual, there will be the minor trades no one will care about that could turn out to be big in the future, such as the Williams trade. The Sacramento Kings made another small trade that could pay off in the long run. The Kings acquired shooting guard Jermaine Taylor from a familiar trade partner in the Houston Rockets. The Kings dealt Kevin Martin and Brad Miller to Houston in past trades.

This year's deadline is sure to be an interesting one, if not a busy one. Some teams will look to a youth movement and others will look for a piece to win a championship. One question that is certain to be asked: who will be dealt?



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The Print

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- The image must be taken in the Pacific Northwest within the last year
- Three entry limit
- The image cannot be altered from original

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- Runner(s) Up:**
- Photo featured in the final issue of *The Clackamas Print* for winter term