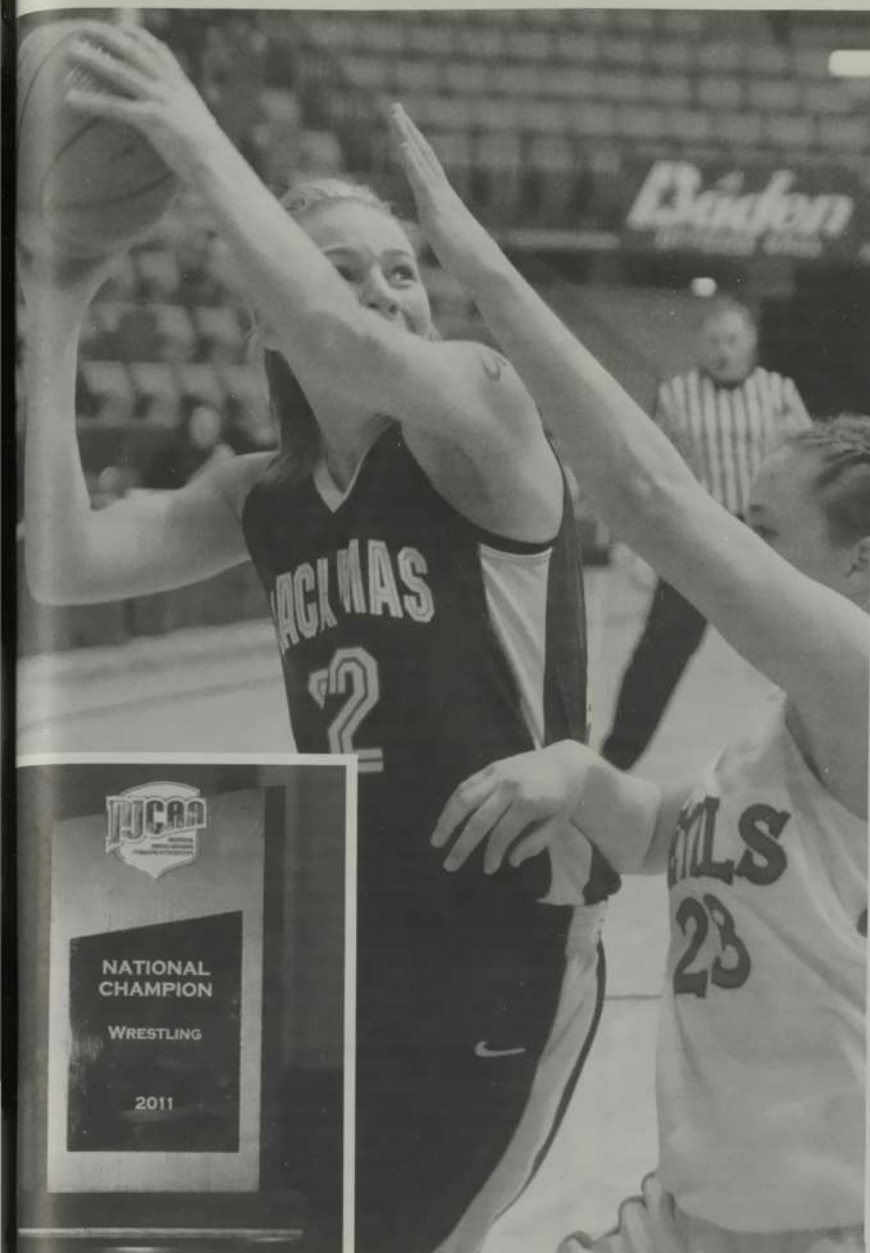
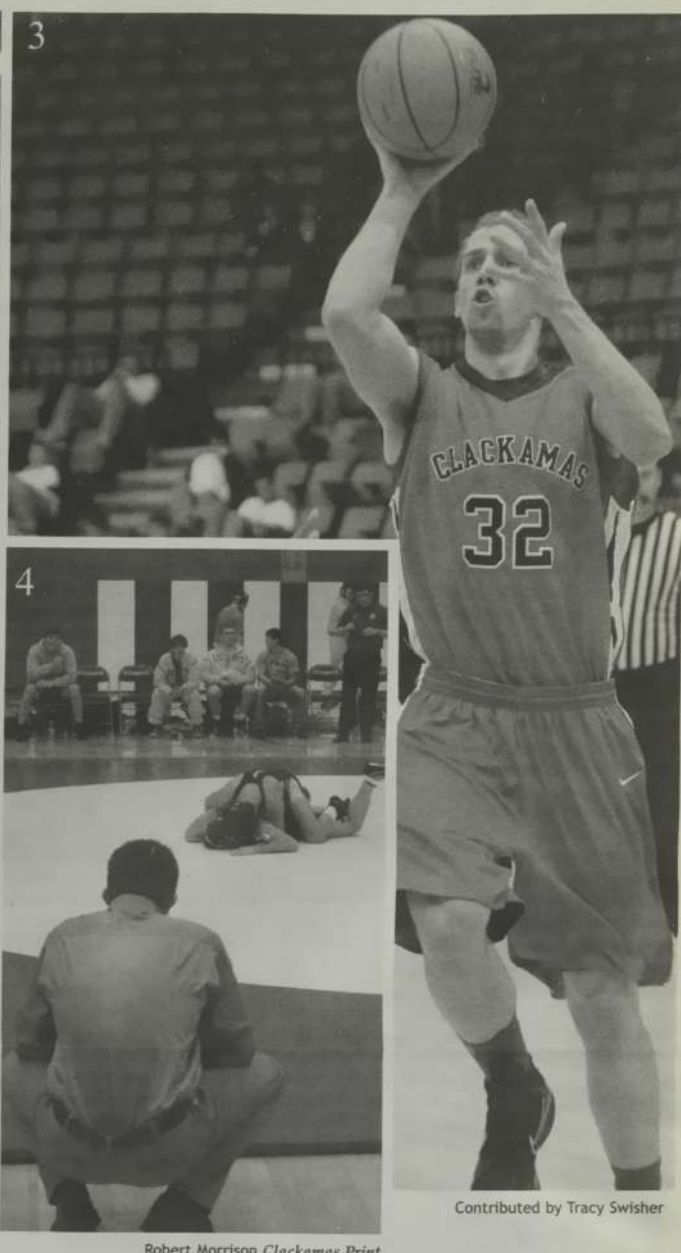


Clackamas: Home of Champions



Contributed by Tracy Swisher



Robert Morrison Clackamas Print

Clackamas' Melair Holterhoff is guarded in one of Clackamas' NWAACC Tournament games against Lower Columbia Community College on March 7.

The Clackamas wrestling team brings home the 2010-2011 National Championship while in Spokane, Wash. on Feb. 25-26.

3- Clackamas' Paul Walter shoots the basketball in the team's 63-86 NWAACC Tournament loss to Tacoma Community College on March 7.

4- Coach Josh Rhoden looks on as one of his Cougars wrestles against Northern Montana State during the season. The Cougars went on to win Nationals.

Go to thelackamasprint.com to check out how the men's and women's basketball teams did in the NWAACC tournaments last weekend.

NFL still in danger of 2011-2012 lockout with NFLPA



By Robert Morrison
Sports Editor

Where we go again. The NFL and the NFL Player's Association have yet to reach a Collective Bargaining Agreement. I wrote a lot on the subject in an earlier column and not much has changed as far as the agreement goes. However, some things have changed as far as talks and meetings. The two sides have met on numerous occasions

the last couple of weeks but have yet to reach any sort of establishment with the CBA. The two sides have, however, twice extended the deadline to when the CBA must be made. That alone is encouraging when no one thought talks would last as long as they have already. The sides are still so far apart on an agreement that reports are saying there might be an extension yet again. The current deadline is 5 p.m. EST on Friday, but the last two deadlines have come with the two sides agreeing on week extensions.

Many reports say that the owners of the NFL teams will attend this week's negotiations. This could be good or bad with the CBA. The owners obviously don't want a lockout because they would lose tons of money from multiple sources. On the other hand, they might not want the players to gain as much power as they want to gain or make as much money as the NFLPA is trying to agree on. The owners will get to be present and find out how close these talks really are.

Among the topics that are still being discussed in the CBA are the potential of more

games added to the NFL season. Neither side seems to be against it but the NFLPA would want more things to change such as adding another bye week for each team. The "bye week" is the weekend, without a game, that every team gets at some point in the regular season. This topic and others involving the amount of games could also hinder the amount of time it takes to get a deal done. The NFL wants the regular season to go to 18 games and reduce the preseason by two.

Another topic at talk is the franchise tag. One side likes how the format is and the other has talked about getting rid of it all together. The tag is when a team can elect to keep a player instead of letting him leave for free agency. Often it is used when a good player and a team can't reach an agreement on a long-term deal.

Tags are usually only one year unless they sign a long term deal. Each franchise tag player also has to sign a tender with the team, often making more money than they were making. Each team gets one franchise tag. A rookie wage cap has also been discussed along with benefits for retired players.

If no deal is made then the NFLPA would pursue an antitrust lawsuit which would lock the players and put a lockout on the NFL for next season or until a deal can finally be made. Neither side has got to the point of going to the lawsuit just yet. Why would anyone want to shut down a league that makes nearly \$9 million a year? According to ESPN, the last two Super Bowls were ranked No. 1 and No. 2 among most-watched TV programs in U.S. history.

I say make a deal already. It has been months since I last wrote on this topic and still no agreements have been met. The two sides are still far apart. Both sides are losing money as they speak. The NFL loses money every month the CBA isn't established. If the CBA isn't established by the season and regular games are missed, the NFL will lose about \$400 million a week in revenue, according to ESPN. Can't we all just get along? Everyone would be better off if we could. As a NFL fan and speaking for the thousands of fans of this great American sport, please just get to an agreement already. You guys are just wasting time. No NFL = No one is happy.