

BASEBALL: Cougars fall prey to Saints

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The batting for the Cougars sprung to life in the bottom of the eighth. Four quick runs renewed the chatter from the Clackamas dugout as the home team pulled to within seven runs. The comeback, however, fizzled far short of satisfactory, and the inning ended with the Saints still holding on to a commanding 12-5 lead.

In the ninth and final inning, Mt. Hood would tack on one more run and hold Clackamas scoreless to wrap up a trouncing of the Cougars. The sun and the happy attitude had long since faded. Robinson and his players huddled up to regroup before the break between games, and then scattered, looking for answers.

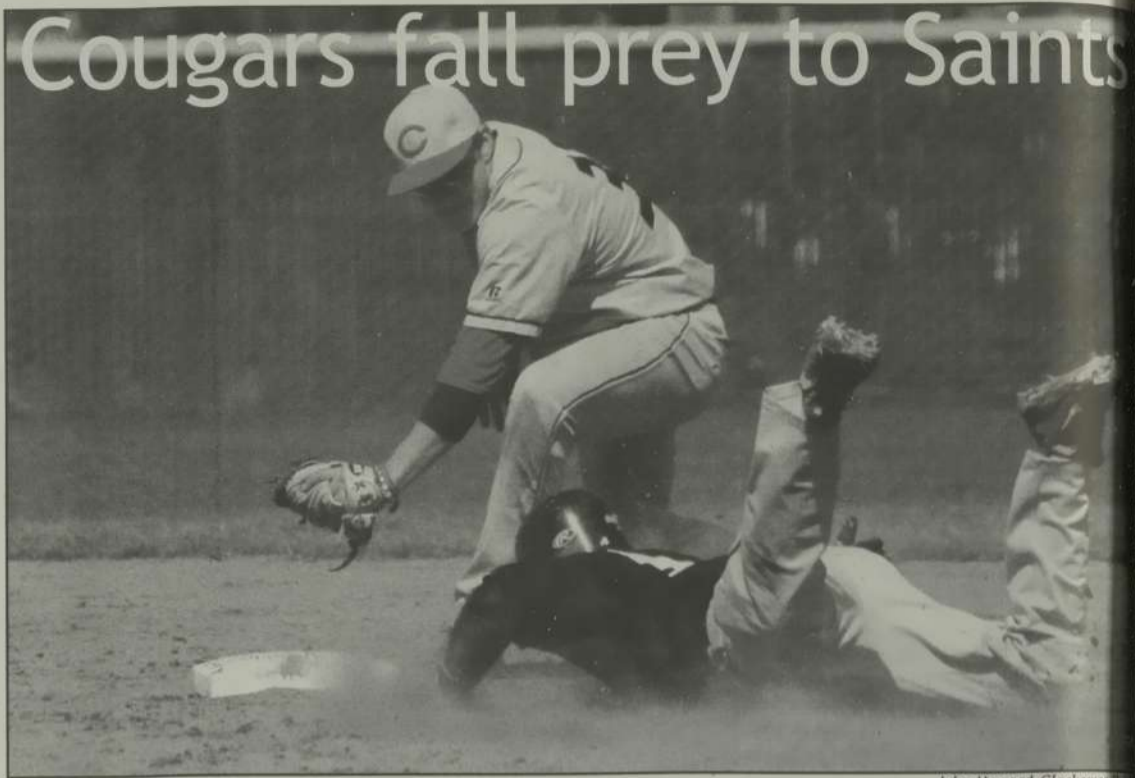
"They're the best team in our league right now, and they're the team that's way ahead of everybody else, and they showed it right there that they should be," said Robinson. "We've got a lot of real good kids that are competing, but they're young they're inexperienced and they didn't handle good pitching very well, which is typical for a lot of young kids."

"I think everyone came out flat," said second baseman Austin Keifer, a freshman from Lake City, Idaho. "We thought we were just going to roll through it, and it showed. They came out to play and we didn't. (In the second game,) we're going to have to make some changes. We're going to see what some new kids can do; bring in some new fire."

The most important change, however, would be to change the level of concentration and minimize costly errors.

"I've thrown worse; they just took advantage of the mistakes I made," said starting sophomore pitcher Marshall Crawford. "I think we just need to refocus and try to forget about that last game. We're just as good as them, they just took advantage."

Despite the positive attitude of the team and the willingness to work hard and compete, the Cougars were again smoked, this time to the tune of 13-2, accented by a six run second inning for the Saints. At the end of the day, Mt. Hood had scored 26 runs on 31 base hits and had forced seven errors to only one of their own. The only highlight in the second game was a two-run homer by sophomore Nick Onley, and the Cougars left their home field with their tails between their legs.



John Howard Clackamas Print

Second baseman Austin Keifer reaches to tag a Mt. Hood player diving during the first game of last Tuesday's double-header. The Cougars lost both games by a combined score of 26-7.

Game 1 - Mt. Hood 13 Clackamas 5

Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Runs	Hits	Errors
MHCC	2	0	4	0	1	1	0	4	1	13	19	1
CCC	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	5	7	3

Game 2 - Mt. Hood 13 Clackamas 2

Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Runs	Hits	Errors
MHCC	1	6	0	3	0	3	0	13	12	0
CCC	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	4



Katie Aamatti Clackamas Print

Clackamas shortstop Tyler Arnold reaches for a ball while Mt. Hood's Trevor Cass slides in to second base.

“
We thought we were just going to roll through it, and it showed. They came out to play and we didn't.”

Austin Keifer
Cougar Second Baseman



Katie Aamatti Clackamas Print

Cougar catcher Cole Rise surveys the infield. Clackamas committed seven errors in two games.

Mariners preseason success hasn't transferred into regular season



By Robbert Morrison
Sports Editor

“Take me out to the ball game. Take me out with the crowd ... For it's one, two, three strikes you're out, at the old ball game.” -Jack Norworth

As many of you guys, know it's baseball season time. Time to play ball! Personally I'm not a Seattle Mariners fan. I'm an Oakland fan, but the Mariners are the "local" team so let's have a go about the season ahead.

The Mariners finished with a horrible 61-101 record last year, last in the American League West Division. They were one of only two teams to lose 100 games, so they had a lot to improve on. Some

of the high points last year were the continued hitting of right fielder Ichiro Suzuki, the acquisition of Justin Smoak at first base and the continued improvement of Felix Hernandez. The team expected infielder Chone Figgins to improve his play, but he fell short of that expectation.

During the off-season the team looked to improve by adding some players. Infielder Brendan Ryan, infielder Adam Kennedy, catcher Miguel Olivo, and designated hitter Jack Cust were some of their acquisitions. The Mariners knew Kennedy and Cust very

well as they both played for the Oakland Athletics last year. Olivo and Cust were signed to be starters for the team while Kennedy and Ryan were signed for depth because of a shortstop and second base position full of injuries.

The team went into this year's Spring Training with big hopes and few position battles. The Mariners would go on to finish spring with a nice 16-13 record, fifth best in the American League. Spring training is typically thought of as more of non-competitive games, unless you are those players that are playing for a job.

The team's starting center outfielder Franklin Gutierrez missed multiple games during spring training with a stomach issue and the team decided to place him on the disabled list to start the season. With the loss of Gutierrez both Ryan Langerhans and Michael Saunders took over the center field position. The team also lost closer David Aardsma to the DL for the start of the season.

During spring training, a few rookies showed that they had what it takes to be in the majors. Luis Rodriguez made the team as backup third base and shortstop. Michael Pineda clinched a spot in the starting rotation for the Mariners with a good spring.

The team has started the year with a cold offensive that has resulted in a 4-11 record to start 2011. The team has struggled to score runs even when the pitching staff does great. If the Mariners can get their offense going they could very well be a force. They have a lot to improve on to make playoffs but it is still early in the season.

