



Stellar game brings Cougar pitcher into spotlight

Katie Aamatti Clackamas Print

When Stencil works on pitching at practice on Monday, April 18 on the baseball field at Clackamas Community College. Baseball runs in Stencil's blood; his grandfather was on the New York Yankees.

By Brittany Anderson
The Clackamas Print

You would think that striking out 18 people would make a person known across campus, but Trysten Stencil, a quiet young man, isn't as well known as he probably should be. He is a left-handed pitcher for the Clackamas Community College baseball team. He played baseball in high school and was inspired to keep playing in college by his grandfather. His grandfather was on the New York Yankees, but he threw out his arm during spring training. I want to see if he can make it that far or beyond,"

he said.

Stencil has been playing the game for 15 years, ever since he was five. In addition to playing baseball, he's taking 14 to 18 credits every term and has a part-time job.

"Stencil comes to us from Sandy High School; he's a real good player and a real good kid," said Robin Robinson, the baseball coach.

Stencil currently commutes 35 minutes from Sandy. "It's kind of hard to commute that far because of how expensive gas is, but it's worth it because I love everyone there at CCC," Stencil said.

Like all players, Stencil has had his good games and bad games. "My worst game ever was probably the

Walla Walla game this year. I only got two outs then was pulled out. It was really disappointing because the game before, I did really well," he said. His best game was against Grays Harbor, where he made his impressive 15 strikeouts.

"Stencil is a great guy, great pitcher and athlete," said Ryan Abel, catcher for the team. "He works really hard. The team ... has such a great atmosphere and Stencil is a part of that."

Stencil is a very good pitcher but he hasn't always played that position. "I've played every position a lefty can play. Basically that means I've been the pitcher, first base and in the outfield. There are some positions that lefties just don't get to play for what-

ever reason," Stencil said.

There was a point in Stencil's life when he thought about quitting baseball altogether. "It was after a long hospital stay in my junior year of high school; my appendix was removed. Due to complications I had a 31-day hospital stay and eight of those days I was in a coma. I lost a lot of weight and thought about quitting."

Fortunately for the team, he reconsidered once his strength came back. The team is hoping to see great things from this extraordinary young man. Jersey No. 9, Stencil, has captured the team's attention and may soon be well known campus-wide.

Rain, rain, go away, so we can play our ball games



By Robert Morrison
Sports Editor

America's favorite pastime is back in full swing at Clackamas Community College. The baseball team, led by Coach Robin Robinson, is trying to keep a winning record around .500 while the softball team, coached by Coach Jessica Buel, is going along with a beautiful record. The softball team started the year with a weird note with the Inter-Region tournament getting rained out so the

team wasn't as tuned up for the start of the season as much as they usually would have been. The team did get plenty of games in the Pre-Season Tournament the following week and went on to finish that tournament with a 3-1 record, losing only to Yakima Valley 1-2.

In mid March, another Inter-Region Tournament was rained out, making the team wait another two weeks for a game. The team had a double header their next game day but one of the two games was rained out. I think the team must have gotten tired of the rain because they went on a six game win streak that saw them beat two different region teams twice each.

The team would go .500 in the Crossover Tournament, leaving them with a 10-3 overall record and 4-0 division record. They would walk away from that tournament leading the region but tied with two other teams for it: Southwestern Oregon and Mt. Hood. The team lost that lead in their next two games with a 5-6 loss and 6-9 loss to Mt. Hood. The team then went on to clinch a series against Chemeketa by

out scoring them 22-0 bringing their division record to 6-2 and 12-5 overall.

Those games were at Mt. Hood so they had a little home field advantage, but if the Cougars expect to beat the high-powered Mt. Hood team they will need to step up their already impressive game. Their next game will be against this year's competitive Southwestern Oregon team.

The baseball team has had what I would call a down season. The team started off the season great with 3-1 record but the teams they beat weren't exactly top teams. Their next two games were against a team the Cougars could really show their stuff against: a very good Lower Columbia team. Unfortunately both games were cancelled due to rain.

The Cougars went on to beat a weak Blue Mountain team to improve to 4-1 before losing three straight games to Walla Walla, Prairie Baseball Academy and Columbia Basin. Walla Walla and Columbia Basin both are good teams that have continued to do well throughout the season. The Walla Walla game is the only one of the three that was a blowout.

The Cougars would pull a .500 record at their Crossover Tournament, bringing their overall record to 6-6 but they still hadn't played a game in their region. They would alternate wins and losses for the majority of the next 10 games, going to 9-13 overall and 3-7 in the region.

Their games against Southwestern Oregon on April 16 were rained out. The rain was a nice breather for the Cougars because they won their next two games against Chemeketa. They went to an 11-13 record overall and a 5-7 record in regional play. They split a series with SW Oregon and win a series against Linn-Benton to go to 8-8 in the division and 14-14 overall.

The team has gone 2-2 against Chemeketa this season. Chemeketa was the region champion last year with an amazing 34-12 record and 21-9 regional record. Clackamas has a lot to build on when they finished 21-20 last year which was only good enough for fourth out of six teams in the region. Their next game is against Mt. Hood on April 30 at 1 p.m. here at Clackamas.