

# Cougars declawed by Saints

This year's Clackamas baseball team has had a textbook up and down season. The team holds an overall record of 14-16 and a division record of 8-10. This year's team is also called home by 22 freshmen players. Usually a team that holds a record below .500 isn't considered a good team, but many of the Cougars baseball players disagree.

"I think we are a lot better than our record shows. We just kind of have to pull it together as a team and show everyone what we have," said Zach Miller.

Miller is the team's starting sophomore second basemen from North Marion High School. Miller came from a backup role last year to become the starter for this season. He leads the team in many offensive categories including runs batted in, or RBIs.

The team has stayed around .500 all season but currently holds the third spot in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's South Division. The team did hold second at one point but now trails both Lane and Mt. Hood, both of which finished ahead of Clackamas last season.

"Our biggest win was our sweep against Linn-Benton," said right fielder Sergio Cruz. "It put us in a tie for second place. We had planned on taking second place but it didn't go our way. Our biggest losses were the two games right after Linn-Benton against Lane when we got swept; we gave up nine runs in the first inning."

The team beat Linn-Benton 9-7 and 15-5 in a series of great offensive games but then lost to Lane 4-14 and 6-16. One of the biggest struggles for the team this year has been in pitching and consistency.

"Pitching is the key," said Head Coach Robin Robinson. "We are hitting well, we're playing real good defense, and have tremendous catching. We just have to pitch down in the zone and mix our pitches a little better. With a young group of pitchers it takes half a season sometimes for it to hit home that what they did in high school (was) effective then but not effective now."



By Robert Morrison  
Sports Editor

Robinson has coached and taught at Clackamas going on 22 years now and tries to improve the team every year he coaches. He said that he enjoys this year's group of kids.

Injuries can play a role in a team's season at every level and the cougars might not be any different than any other injured team.

"We have five or six guys that have been out from all kinds of injuries," said Robinson. "We have three key pitchers out, from Cody Ching, who would have been one of our top three guys, to Atchley, who we thought would be our fourth starter but he is out for the season. Tony Jones was one of our better defensive hitting guys but he is out for the season."

"Several of our guys out here (that) have been down for a while ... are back. Cruz was hurt for a while, Riggins was hurt so we got him out of the lineup, and Douglas got hurt and got out of the lineup. Other guys have just taken their job. Olney has been playing the last four games on a sprained ankle that most guys wouldn't even play on."

Robinson went on the talk about the team playing through adversity and how that's what the game is about, much like life.

The team has a lot to improve on to become a contender in a close race for second place in the South Division. Only the first two teams make the NWAACC Tournament in late May. The team will face the first and second place division teams before the end of the season, twice each. They will also have to face Linn-Benton in two more games and face the defending South Division Champion Chemekata Community College before the season is out. Their next game is May 7 against Chemekata in Salem.

Katie Aamatti Clackamas Print

fielder Sergio Cruz sprints for the ball on April 30. Clackamas fell to the Mt. Hood Saints by a combined score of 18-1 over the double-header.

## True sports fans show love for their team come hell or high water



Robert Morrison  
Sports Editor

side in sports is one of the best things that one can feel. Team pride is with your team no matter they do, through thick or no matter what. I think feeling that is not truly

embraced much anymore. Rooting for a team and caring yourself a fan are two different things.

A common word used among the sports world is bandwagon. When a person tells another they are riding or on the bandwagon they are saying that person is a fan for the short term. They are saying that person doesn't care about the team as a fan but are just there because the team is doing well. For example, if you have rooted for the Detroit Pistons then when the LA Lakers made it to the NBA Finals you became a Lakers fan, I'd call you a bandwagon hopper. Going to the team that is doing the best doesn't make you a fan, rooting for them for years does.

I was at the Portland Trailblazers game against the Dallas Mavericks on April 28, mainly because I work there. Mind you I root for the Blazers but I don't call myself a fan. They fought hard but lost

the series in game six. Many of the "fans" that were at the game turned their backs on the team because they lost. People were saying they suck and there were much harsher comments such as "Pop their tires!" I feel that not all but a lot of Blazers fans gave up on their team because they lost. Losing isn't the end of the world.

After the game there was disrespect to a team that bettered the Blazers. Sportsmanship is just as big a part of team pride as anything else. Have your team's back but when one team is good enough to beat yours, give them a hand not a middle finger.

Pride means supporting your team but admitting when they did something wrong. Yelling at bad calls is great but if you see the replay and see that they did what they weren't supposed to do, admit it. We are all human and every team will do something

wrong.

I'm a Sacramento Kings fan and they lose like it's in fashion, but after all of the drama they have as a team I'm still a fan. Bad or good, I will remain with my team. My college football team, University of Southern California, is the same. I've always been a Trojans fan even after they were

put on probation for breaking recruitment rules. They also did horrible last year but I still call myself a Trojans fan.

Support your team whenever you can. Don't jump on the bandwagon to another team because that just shows you can't handle losing. Being a die-hard fan will pay off someday, even if just for

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