

# Clackamas bites competition

By Robert Morrison  
Sports Editor

Play ball!

For the Clackamas Community College Cougars softball team, that is exactly what they plan on doing heading into the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Championship Tournament. The team heads into the tournament with a second place finish in the division.

Their first NWAACC game will be on May 20 against Treasure Valley at Delta Park. The game starts at 9:30 a.m.

The softball team finished the year with a nice 21-8 overall record, 15-5 in the division. They finished only one game behind division champion Mt. Hood. The Cougars finished strong as they were in third place heading into their last two games against SW Oregon. SW Oregon came into those games as the second place team but Clackamas would win both games to clinch second. In the last 14 games the Cougars went a crazy 11-3.

"Our biggest win was our last one against Hood because we really had to work as a team to come back against them," said Abbey Tollefson. "A game for us is seven innings and we came back in the seventh so it was a big win." Tollefson is a sophomore pitcher from Hillsboro who is second on the team in wins with six while sporting a 2.64 earned run average.

Pitching has been a big part of the team's success, along with their defense. Ashley Suter leads the team in wins with nine, an ERA of 1.25 and strikeout-walk ratio of 106-18.

The team only lost eight times, and of those eight many of the players think their Mt. Hood losses were the biggest of the season. The Mt. Hood series was the only one the team lost all season long and proved costly.

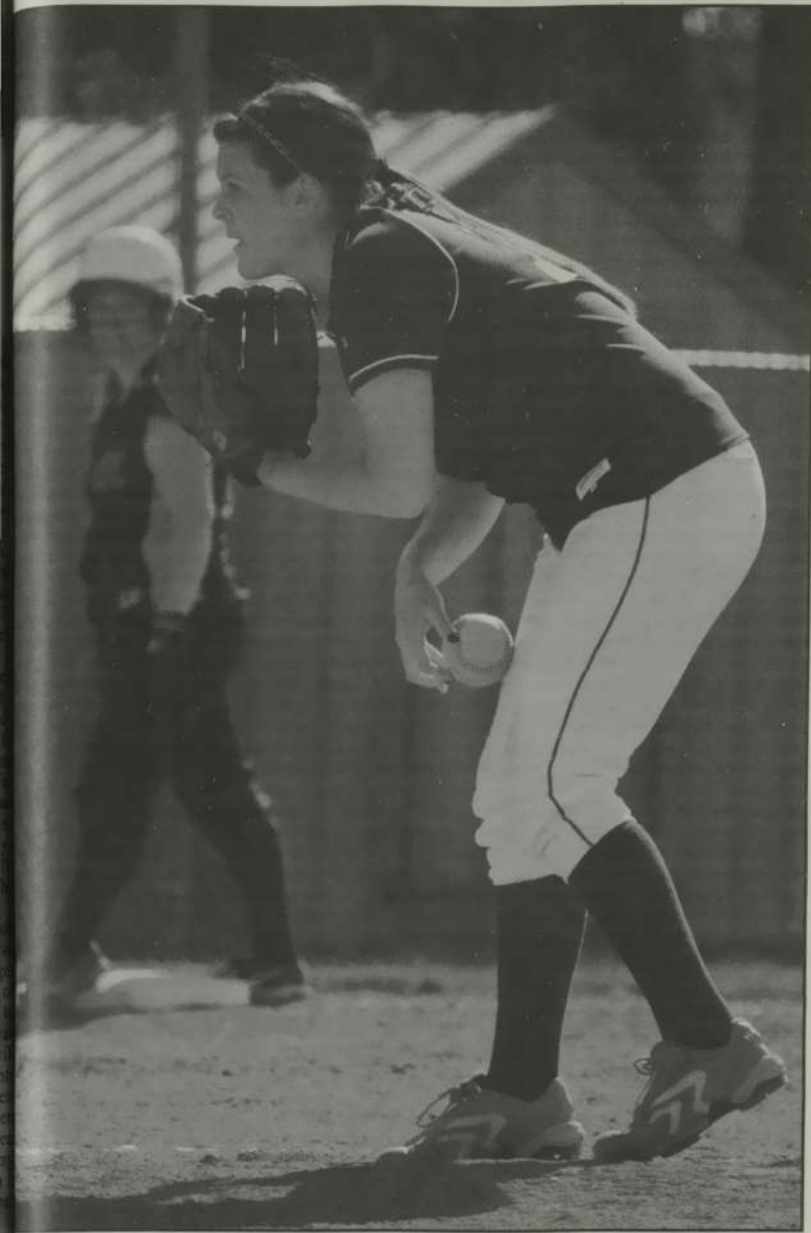
"Our biggest loss was getting swept by Mt. Hood," said Coach Jessica Buel. Buel, who has only been coaching the team half the year, has come on with the team at the right time.

Of course, not all the players agree with Buel on the biggest loss. Both Abbey Tollefson and Kayla Hopkinson think that the team's split against Lower Columbia was the biggest loss.

Improvement is always needed to be able to beat the best and the team showed great improvement all year long. They showed improvement from both the team as a whole and personally.

"I wouldn't say there is just one (most improved player)," said Hopkinson. "I think a lot of us have stepped up and have improved." Hopkinson is a freshman first baseman leading the team in doubles.

The team has a tough road ahead with the possibilities of facing teams they haven't had the chance to face. There is an unknown aspect that could cause the team to underestimate a team.



Brad Heineke Clackamas Print

Ashley Suter gets ready to pitch with a runner on third during a game on May 4 against Clark at Clackamas. The Cougars won 3-0.

## Clackamas student looks to saddle up rodeo team for northwestern region

By Katie Aamatti  
The Clackamas Print

...sports and more sports. You've heard all the news on our softball and baseball teams, as well as track and field. You've read the articles on featured events, much needed repairs and tournament previews. If you're tired of hearing the same old, same old, so something new you haven't heard about: a rodeo team at Clackamas Community College.

...? As in bull riding and saddle broncos, barrel racing and cattle events? As in the places where everyone is wearing faded blue jeans and cowboy hats, jingly spurs and a layer of dust? That's right ladies and gentlemen.

...many community colleges lack the opportunity to compete in equestrian sports, equine enthusiasts have a chance here at Clackamas this fall thanks to the addition of new student Shelbie Sumpter.

...competing in equestrian sports in high school, Sumpter wanted to continue riding and competing at the college level, but was disappointed that Clackamas didn't have an equestrian team," she said. Throughout the northwestern region (Idaho, Washington and Oregon), there are only five rodeo teams, and Clackamas would be the sixth.

...Sumpter realized she couldn't join another team, she took the initiative and decided to start from scratch. "When all this began, I'll admit that I didn't know what I was getting myself into," Sumpter said. "At the end, it will be worth it."

Like any other sports team, the rodeo team has requirements. Whether you're a competitive or non-competitive member of the team, you'll be required to attend mandatory practices, meetings, fundraisers, and rodeo events, all while demonstrating your love for rodeo and horses in general. On the academic side of things, students will be expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Participating on a college sports team is very competitive for some, and may very well be the sole reason they're attending college. "It's also a great way to continue doing what you love at the next level, as well as being part of something and representing your school," said Lindsey Rising, an avid competitor on the open rodeo and gymkhana (a type of motorsport) circuit out of Southern Oregon.

Missy Sisely, who has coached high school equestrian teams in Southern Oregon, agrees with Rising and said, "The farther these kids can go on doing what they love and what they have the talent for, the better."

According to Associated Student Government Clubs Department Senator Travis McDonald, all that Sumpter needs to do now is submit the club start-up paperwork and complete a team constitution. Upon receiving those documents, ASG will move forward with the final decision.

If you're interested in joining the rodeo team as a competitive or non-competitive member, or as an adviser, please contact Shelbie Sumpter at [ssumpter@student.clackamas.edu](mailto:ssumpter@student.clackamas.edu) for more information.

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