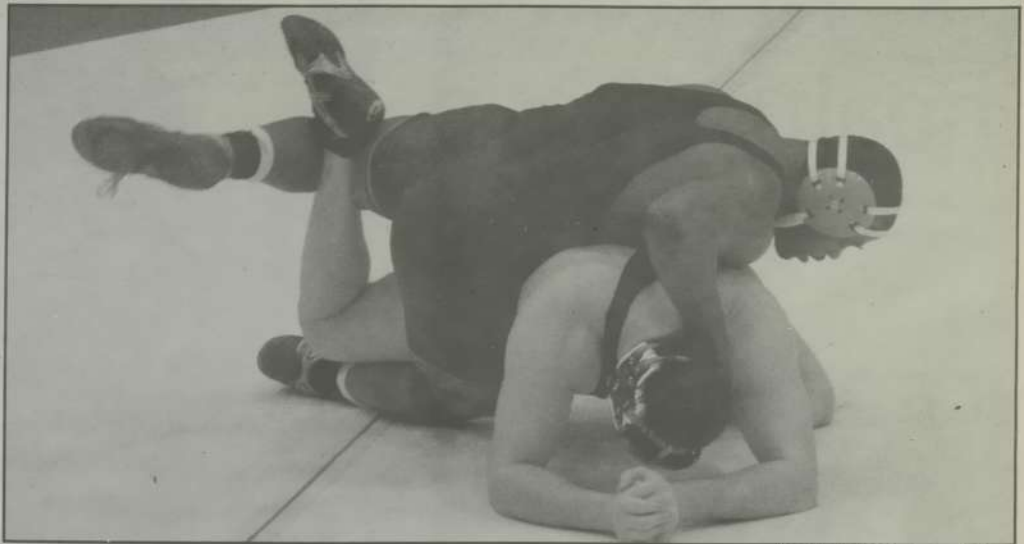


# Cougar stars sign at Division I schools



John William Howard Clackamas Print

Shayla Ball (middle) shoots over two Lane Community College defenders on Feb 25. Ball took her team to a Southern Region Championship and won the MVP.



Brad Heineke Clackamas Print

Tyrell Fortune takes down his opponent during a tournament earlier this year. Fortune won his second NJCAA title in the 285 lb. division and signed with Oregon State University this winter.

By John William Howard  
Associate Sports Editor

You've seen it; you've heard it; you've probably borne plenty of it yourself. "Oh, you go to Clackamas? Try going to a real college!"

Scholars aren't the only ones that have to deal with such skepticism. The upturned nose is turned even further from athletics at the community college level, and for good reason. Oftentimes the athletic programs at junior colleges are underfunded and lack talent. That, however, is not the case at Clackamas Community College.

Since Clackamas joined the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges in 1984, the Cougars have taken home 49 NWAACC titles and were the runners-up 25 times in all sports combined. This includes the back-to-back championships in men's basketball in 2009 and 2010, seven softball championships between 1989 and 1997 and national wrestling titles in 1971 and 2011.

Out of these programs sprang countless talented athletes. Some have ended their athletic careers at

Clackamas, but many have moved on and competed at the university level. A few stars, including Lisa Martin, who won a silver medal at the 1988 Olympic Games, and Matt Lindland, who wrestled his way to an Olympic silver medal in 2000, have reached the highest level that athletes can hope to attain.

According to wrestling coach Josh Rhoden, there may be another athlete headed to the Olympic stage. That athlete is none other than two-time heavyweight national champion Tyrell Fortune, who has signed to wrestle at Oregon State University. Tyrell was a back-to-back state champion in high school, winning his junior and senior years and coming in second his sophomore year.

"Tyrell is super gifted and he is going to be successful because of his outlook and his mindset," said Rhoden. "Clackamas was a great first step because we were able to help develop him as a wrestler and as a student here."

Rhoden mentioned that Fortune had put a lot of energy into his academics, something that is a goal for the whole team: the effort in

practice should match the effort in the classroom. Success begins with pen and paper and translates to the mat. Rhoden also shed a little light on his high hopes for the star wrestler.

"He is attempting to make the World Team and hopefully get an invite to next year's Olympic Trials as well," said Rhoden. "I would not be surprised at all to see him in one of the next two Olympic cycles at the Olympic Games."

Fortune isn't the only Cougar star that has been fought over by Division I competition. Freshman Max Jacobsen recently signed with Northern Arizona University, where he will continue his stellar basketball career and pursue a degree in electrical engineering. In his one year at Clackamas, Jacobsen led the Cougars in points and rebounds, helped to win and was named MVP of the Southern Region.

"He was virtually unstoppable one on one in the low post and effective passer when he was double-teamed," said men's basketball head coach Clif Wegner. "Easily he was the top post player in the NWAACC. He was the Region

MVP, a team captain, a leader and a 3.9 student."

Wegner continued to say that, while they'd miss Jacobsen at Clackamas, he was sure of Jacobsen's success at the next level for a variety of reasons. Wegner touched on Jacobsen's athleticism and skill, but said that his most valuable asset was his brain.

"He will be successful (at Northern Arizona) because he is very smart; one of the most intelligent players I've ever coached," said Wegner, who predicted Jacobsen's MVP award two months before the season had even ended. "He always understood what we need him to do and tried to do it. He has figured out that basketball is all about: getting your opponent off balance and keeping yours."

Yet another Cougar athlete that will be playing at the Division I level next year is sophomore guard Shayla Ball, who, like Jacobsen on the men's side, lead her team to a Southern Region Championship and is an MVP. Ball averaged 21 points and 10 rebounds during the 2010-11 season, good for second and third place in the NWAACC. Earlier this month, Ball signed with the Eagles from Florida Gulf Coast University, a Division I school that offered a full scholarship.

"Shayla's D-I scholarship is a well-deserved result of her hard

work and determination over the last two years," said Associate Athletic Director Kayla Steen, who is also the head women's basketball coach. "She has had an outstanding two seasons at Clackamas and should have great success with the Eagles, able to make an immediate impact."

Fortune, Jacobsen and Ball are only three of the many athletes to join the long list of outstanding names that have moved on and competed at the next level. The extensive list includes talent from every sport in which Clackamas competes.

Guard Miranda Martine will be playing basketball for Regis University in Colorado. Bianca Brambila will continue her soccer career at New Mexico Highlands University. Keisa Monterola, who was a South American junior champion in the pole vault, has signed with Eastern Washington University, and Ashley Suter, Clackamas's star softball pitcher, will be on the field for Concordia University.

So how do you answer that guy that mocks you for attending community college? "We're going places, man. We're going places."

For the full list of athletes that are moving on to a university with the intent to participate in sports, check updates online at [www.the-clackamasprint.net](http://www.the-clackamasprint.net).



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Max Jacobsen (33) charges to the basket on his way to clinching the Southern Region Championship on Feb 25. Jacobsen led the team in scoring and rebounding.