

Gender equality no easy task



By John William Howard
Sports Editor

I've always wondered why Clackamas Community College doesn't have a men's soccer team. It would seem, what with the immediate and recent success of the women's program and the overall dominance of the athletic department, that such a team wouldn't even be in question.

However, during the fall sports season, options for men are cross country ... and that's it. Unless I've been doing my math wrong, that means there are six sports for women and only five for the men. Isn't there something off about that?

As it so happens, there isn't. Title IX was legislation passed in the early '70s intended to force equal opportunities for both men and women. And not just in collegiate athletics, but in all institutions that receive public funds. That includes access to things like higher education and employment.

The basic idea is that the number of athletes should mirror the ratio of students at the school. If 59 percent of the students are women, then 59 percent of the ath-

letic program should be made up of female athletes.

Here's where things get a little messy: that's about as clear as Title IX gets. It's interpreted in a myriad of ways and because of that, there are several different solutions to complying with Title IX legislation, according to self-proclaimed Title IX advocate Paul Fiskum, the assistant coach of the men's basketball team.

One path is to provide an equal number of sports for each gender. For instance, volleyball will be offered to offset football and baseball will be offered to offset softball. The numbers are clear, simple and easy to keep that way.

Another path, one that CCC takes, is to offer the same or close to the same amount of scholarships for both male and female athletes. This too is messy because the sizes of teams vary greatly from sport to sport. The basketball teams are always going to be the same size, sure, but you don't ever see the softball team with 15 players on their pitching staff like you do on a baseball team.

That creates another problem. If you try to have an equal number of men's and women's sports, you won't end up with the same amount of scholarship athletes for both genders. The way around that is to offer an imbalanced amount of sports. For instance, the wrestling team is currently carrying 34 wrestlers, making it larger than the soccer (15 players) and

volleyball (12 players) teams combined. That makes offering men's soccer impossible, unless another men's sport were cut.

But think about it. Which stellar program of ours would you cut to make way for a fledgling men's soccer team? You can't cut any. That means that we have to keep things the way they are in order to be sure that men and women are on an equal playing field.

The thing is, just having equal scholarships doesn't cut it. The point is that both men and women would have an equal and fighting chance to play sports and that includes uniforms, travel, facilities and any other amenities.

Fiskum coached softball for 20 years at CCC and said that there were plenty of times where he saw a huge disparity between the nice, new baseball stadium and the softball 'stadium', which would be nothing more than a backstop with a few benches.

"The softball team will get thrown out in the north pasture on a hunk of weeds," said Fiskum. "That's not right."

And it's not. That's why we've seen such a rise in female participation in athletics. People have begun to understand that you have to treat everyone equally, no matter who or what they are, or where they come from. If that means that we don't have a men's soccer team, then that's alright. I'm fine with that.

Upcoming Events



Volleyball	Time/date
Clackamas vs. Multnomah	7 p.m. Oct. 19
Clackamas @ SW Oregon	6 p.m. Oct. 21
Clackamas @ Umpqua	1 p.m. Oct. 22

Women's Soccer	Time/date
Clackamas vs. Chemeketa	1 p.m. Oct. 19
Clackamas @ Clark	1 p.m. Oct. 22

WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE **wip**

A new possibility changes everything.

WARNERPACIFIC.EDU
PORTLAND, OR

CROSS COUNTRY: Men take first, women second among NWAACC competition

Continued from Page 1

The men meandered around once they finished, but the talk wasn't about the gopher hole just past mile three, or even about how each runner did. Everybody was talking about when they passed the confused biker face down on the ground and finished the race without him.

Despite the slight detour and the face plant, both the men and the women felt good about their races, with the CCC men's team finishing second behind Willamette University and the women's team finishing fifth, but only trailing the NWAACC defending champion Clark College by

four points.

Highlighting the women's race was the tenth place finish of freshman Teresa Lawson. Before Clackamas, Lawson had never been a cross country runner, but has quickly vaulted to the near top of the league, already winning the NWAACC Cross Country Female Athlete of the Week the week of Sept. 24, prompting Mantalas to say that she was "setting herself up to be a contender for the conference title."

Lawson was just two seconds off her personal record in Friday's race, which was only her fourth cross country meet of her life.

"I started out kinda [in the] front of the pack, which was my goal: to stick with the Oregon State girls, which I did for most of the race and I beat a couple of them," said Lawson.

"It's really intimidating at first because you see [the universities] roll up and they just look awesome," said Lawson, who finished second out of all NWAACC affiliated athletes. "Because they're four-year schools, a lot of them are older than us. We come in at 19, so it's intimidating, but we just show 'em up out on the course."

On the men's side, Clackamas had three runners finish in the top ten, with Brad Prettyman taking second, Mark Medgin taking sixth and Jorge Gil-Jaurez taking eighth, leading the pack for the Cougars. The biggest story, though, was the last 300 meters for freshman Austin Collins.

"I was thinking about it the last three miles. I seen the people in front of me and I finally caught the one guy that I was trying to stick with and I knew there was a huge pack in front of me with a mile to go," said Collins, who was running in just his second race on the home course. On the last stretch, Collins kicked it in to high gear, passing runner after runner en route to finishing fourteenth.

"It's pretty painful. You just think 'don't die, don't die' and then when it's over you feel good."

Over all, Mantalas was pleased with the performance of both teams, but said that their main goal was to do better than the year before.

"We're ready to achieve a little bit more and the dedication is there a little bit more," said Mantalas, who



All photos by John William Howard
Theresa Lawson covers the last few hundred meters in just her fourth cross country meet of her life. Lawson finished tenth, and first for Clackamas.

is in his second year as associate head coach. "If we just continue to get a little bit better, then that's all we can ask for. We show up and have a good race on NWAACCs, and where the chips fall, they fall."



Jorge Gil-Jaurez' effort yields an eighth place finish, one of three in the top ten for Clackamas men. The meet was the second at home for the Cougars.

Cross Country

Next Up: Home-Southern Region Championships 3 p.m. Saturday Oct. 29