



Clackamas Takedown Tournament shows strong potential



Clackamas Community College held its 28th annual Takedown Tournament and Clinic

By Robert Morrison
The Clackamas Print

On Nov. 19, wrestlers met for Clackamas Community College's 28th annual Clackamas Takedown Tournament and Clinic, sponsored by the CCC wrestling team and athletics department.

The event, packed with wrestlers of all ages, was very busy, starting bright and early at 9 a.m. with the wrestling clinic that focused mainly on techniques that would help within the Takedown Tournament.

"It was important to have the clinic so that these wrestlers get to know the program, our coaches [and] the wrestlers and to get our faces out there in the community. I think also these kids look up to these guys so it helps the kids and [shows] them that their coaches are saying the same thing we are," said Bret Born, assistant coach for Cougars wrestling, who ran this year's hour long clinic before the start of the tournament. "Overall the turnout was great this year. If we keep the kids around this type of program we will have more Clackamas wrestlers."

The tournament consisted of three divisions: elementary, high school and open. Each division cost \$20 to enter and each of the had

different rules and weight classes. Elementary and high school divisions are made up of kids still in those levels of school while the open division was open to anyone who wanted to wrestle. For the elementary division, each single elimination match was made up of three 30 second rounds with 30 second breaks in between each round. In the open and high school divisions, there were three one-minute rounds with 30 second breaks. Both of the upper divisions were double elimination.

The CCC wrestling team was there to help set up, tear down, keep time and even wrestle. One of the Cougar wrestlers that entered in the open division was Clinton McAlester (141).

"The toughest challenge today was tying up and getting to the legs of much older, stronger guys," said McAlester. "It's pretty fun. It helps get everyone back into wrestling and gets us ready for the long haul."

The event was also a great way for the CCC wrestling coaches to get a good look at those players about to come out of high school and make the connection with the community.

"I think my favorite part was that we get to do the clinic. We get to give our guys a chance to coach the kids and help try to give back to the

wrestling community. That's the big impact in this event. Not like it's a high stakes tournament. Everybody loves it because they get to see our guys wrestle and get to learn some good wrestling," said Head Coach Josh Rhoden. "There were several guys we talked to that have either been in our camp or at this event that we will be recruiting and talking to. We talked to a couple guys today. It's a nice way to talk to kids

that we want to have at Clackamas."

The tournament went off without a hitch, crowds gathered around each mat and cheered for the wrestlers. Good sportsmanship showed with each wrestler shaking hands before and after their matches, as well as with the opposite coaches. The event showed the high level of community support and CCC looks forward to hosting the 29th annual tournament next year.



CCC students Clinton McAlester and Andrew Isensce wrestle each other in the open division during the Takedown Tournament last Saturday, Nov. 19.

VOLLEYBALL: Cougars upset No. 2 Spokane, take fifth in tournament

Continued from Page 1

The second set began where the first set left off. Spokane's lead grew and grew despite several time-outs called by Head Coach Kathie Woods in attempts to regroup. About half way into the second set with Spokane leading 22-12, Clackamas made a run. In a matter of minutes it was Spokane that was frustrated. The Cougars had climbed to within four points and were threatening to tie up the match.

The rally fell just short and Spokane won the second set 25-18. However Clackamas carried their newfound momentum in to the third set despite being down 2-0 and facing a crushing loss. Their hitting percentage was still steadily climbing as Spokane's fell and Clackamas raced out to win the third set 25-21, holding the Sasquatch to their lowest number of kills and lowest hitting percentage of the match.

By the time the fourth set had ended Clackamas had finally out hit Spokane, a team with one of the highest hitting percentage differentials in the league, normally out hitting opponents .222 to .109. Not only had the Cougars out-hit Spokane, but they had also tied up the match and pushed Spokane to the brink with a 25-22 win.

The fifth and final set began with a bang. The crowded bleachers were flanked by idle teams, come to support their respective regions. Walla Walla, Yakima Valley and Linn-Benton CC's had filled the sidelines and shouted at one another, adding to the growing din as the upset grew nearer.

Clackamas stunned Spokane early, building an 8-3 lead before the break all the while hitting the best they had the entire match. The Sasquatch would mount a comeback but in the end Clackamas' 12 kills in the final frame were too much and

it was Clackamas that rushed the court to celebrate their biggest win of the season.

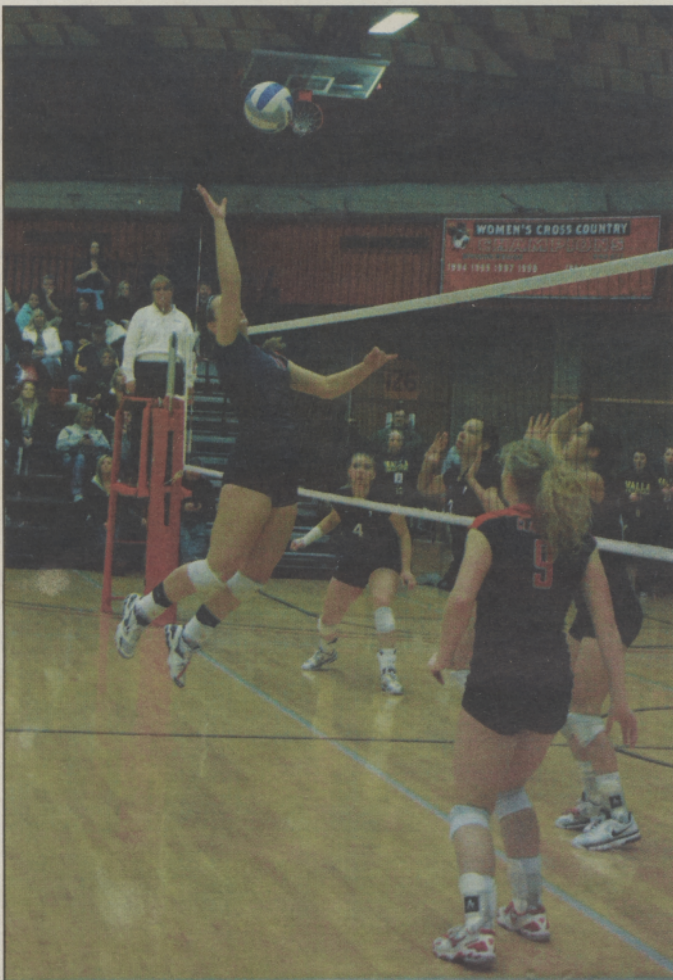
"It feels amazing. It's indescribable to be the underdog and come back and win from two games down," said sophomore Taylor Richardson, who tore up the net with 27 kills, tied for the second highest all weekend. "This is the final step. We're peaking at the exact right time and our six freshmen are now six sophomores."

Clackamas handed Spokane their seventh overall loss of the season and moved on to take on region heavyweight and host No. 1 Mt. Hood later that evening.

The Mt. Hood game didn't end as pretty as Clackamas might have hoped. The teams were tied with one set apiece before the Cougars dropped the third set 25-10. Things seemed to have turned for the better in the fourth set when Clackamas looked as though they were headed to a fifth set, leading 18-12. Then the wheels came off. In a flash Clackamas found themselves caught, tied and then trailing 22-19. The Cougars gave the crowd a slim hope but fell 25-21 for their first loss of the tournament.

Clackamas would return the next day to fall to No. 5 Linn-Benton two sets to one to end their season for good but finished tied for fifth overall, something that hardly anybody but Woods saw coming.

"I knew that was the level this team could really play [at] if they put their minds to it. It didn't surprise me at all. I was just waiting for them to decide and they did," stated Woods via email. "I have had numerous compliments from coaches, officials and fans around the league with how hard this team worked to get to where they needed to be. They improved a lot and I couldn't be more proud. It really sets the tone for the future. I believe Cougar volleyball is back in the race for the future, as it should be."



Kristin Best looks to score last Friday, Nov. 18 against the Sasquatch of Spokane Community College. Clackamas won in five games for the huge upset.