

Athletics Notebook: Richardson signs with NW Christian, basketball picks up pair of wins

Volleyball

Cougar volleyball had both a hello and a goodbye this week as star sophomore Taylor Richardson signed with Northwest Christian University and newcomer Zoey Martin committed to play at Clackamas next fall. Richardson, who celebrated her 20th birthday on Jan. 31, led the NWAACC in total kills (290) her sophomore season and led by a wide margin in the southern region. Named a regional second team all-star as a freshman, Richardson came back the following year and made the southern region's first team and was named a National Volleyball Coaches Association All American for her efforts.

"Everything has just fallen into place and that's the greatest feeling," said Richardson after her signing. "Around middle school I realized that I wanted to play as long as I possibly could, so it's pretty cool to get something that you've been waiting for for 10 years."

Martin hails from Santiam Christian High School where she played both outside hitter and setter. She was a second team all-league player in her junior and senior seasons, and has played on two state championship teams.

"I'm just ready to train and play volleyball," said Martin. "It's my passion."



Zoey Martin, second from left, signed with Clackamas to play next fall, while Taylor Richardson, center right, signed with Northwest Christian University. Also pictured are Kathie Woods and Mike Gaffaney, NW Christian head coach.

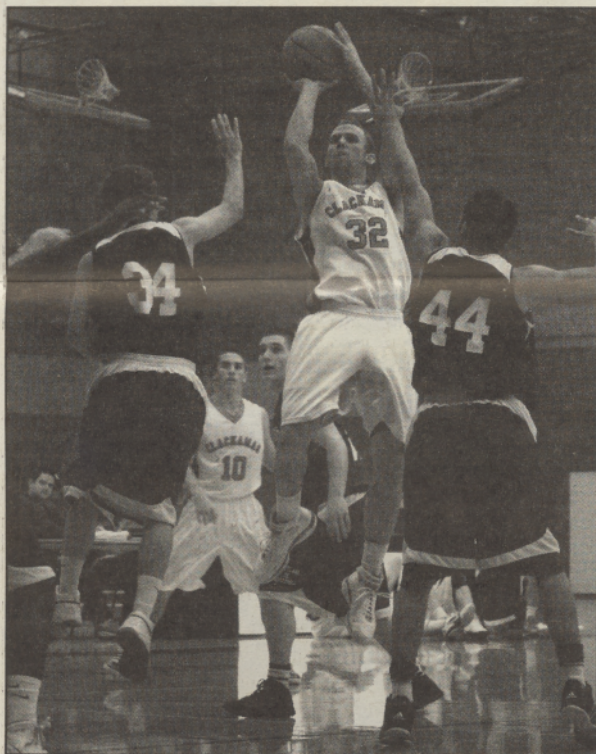
All photos by John William Howard *The Clackamas Print*

Men's Basketball

Matched up against arguably the worst team in the NWAACC, Clackamas easily dispatched the winless Portland Community College Panthers 73-34 in a contest that set an opponent low for points this season. Sophomore Paul Walter led the home team with 16 points and seven rebounds and sophomore Taylor Dunn added 15 points and five steals. Sophomores Brett Ball and Alex Loul rounded out the four Cougars that were in double figures with Ball

narrowly missing a double-double (11 points, nine rebounds) and Loul hitting for 10 points on the night.

Clackamas picked up another win on Saturday over Umpqua winning 76-60 for their third consecutive victory. Dunn led all scorers in the game with 21 points and Ball registered a double-double with 12 points and 13 boards. The win keeps Clackamas (10-9, 4-3 South) a half game behind SW Oregon (12-7, 4-2 South) for the fourth and final playoff spot in the southern region.



Sophomore wing Paul Walter (32) shoots over the defense in the 73-34 victory over Portland Community College.

Women's Basketball

Playing free and loose the Clackamas women fully flexed their offensive muscle and broke the 100 point barrier for the first time this season in their 107-59 victory over Portland Community College on Jan. 25. The Cougars forced Portland into a dismal 42 turnovers in the contest scoring 55 points off those turnovers. Sam McCloud broke out of a recent slump and led Clackamas with 22 points, 15 rebounds, five assists and six steals while only committing four turnovers. Five other double figure scorers contributed to the blowout, which took place without one of their key sophomores Lindsay Kanalz, who has been sporting a bright pink cast ever since she broke her wrist during the Mt. Hood game on Jan. 18. Kanalz says that she will be

out six weeks, which puts her return after the championship tournament March 3-6 in Tri-Cities.

Clackamas again emerged victorious over Umpqua on Saturday with an 84-64 road victory in Roseburg. First year guard Jenny Johnson played all but two and a half minutes of the contest and led all scorers with 22 points and nine assists. Freshman Ashleigh Anderson continued to improve as she was 6-11 from the three point line for 18 points. Sophomore sharp shooter MaKeshia Bizon added 17 points in the victory, which moves the Cougars to 17-2 on the season, which is tied for the best overall record in the NWAACC. Also in the win, Clackamas lost guard Alex Howe to a torn ACL.

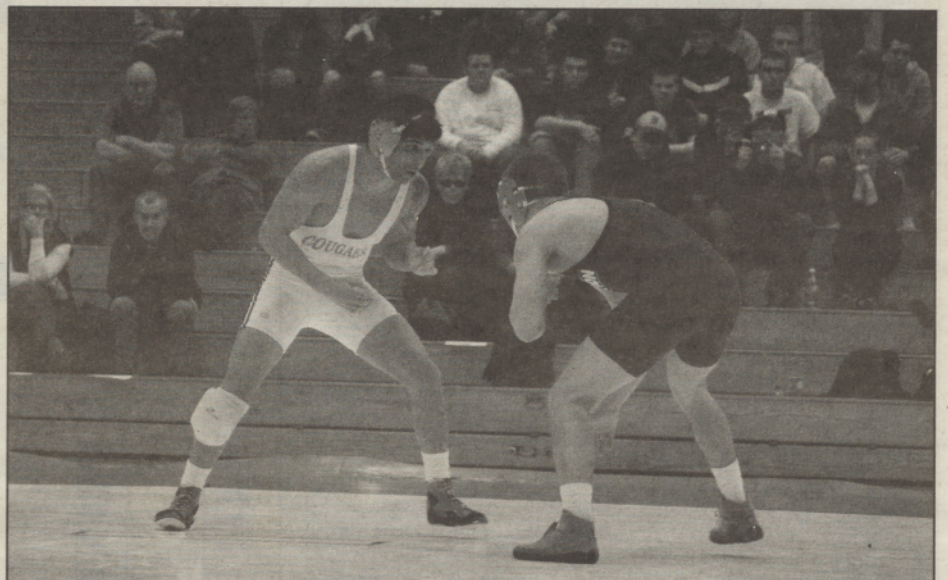
Wrestling

Sophomore Eric Luna, ranked No. 7 in the nation at the NJCAA level has recently been dismissed from the team.

"Unfortunately we just couldn't get Eric to commit to what the goal was here at Clackamas," said head coach Josh Rhoden. "We attempted several times to try and give him an opportunity to get on board. Unfortunately it didn't work out. We have always been in the frame of mind that no one's bigger than this program. In this case it hurts a bunch because you have a person ready to finish very high nationals, but in the long run a program is probably better for it."

Starting in his place is freshman Clinton McAlister who redshirted during last year's national championship run.

Clackamas split a pair of meetings with four year universities on Saturday, winning 28-15 over Simon Fraser University (BC) and falling 25-12 to Southern Oregon University. The Cougars will finish up their season against Pacific University at home on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.



No. 2 Martin Gonzalez positions himself for the take down during his match last Friday. Gonzales got the 4-3 decision against SW Oregon's Johnny Campbell in the 133 lb division, adding to Clackamas' 42-6 victory.

-Compiled by John William Howard