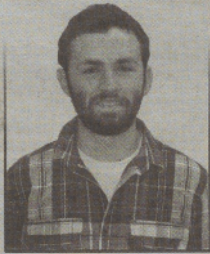


We've been robbed!



Clackamas men's basketball loses a heartbreaker, only to discover that a scorekeeping error kept them from a huge win

By John William Howard
Sports Editor

Men's basketball head coach Clif Wegner left the gym at Chemeketa Community College deflated. His team walked in riding a four-game winning streak, the longest streak they'd had all season. They walked out with a heartbreaking 74-73 loss on a free throw in the final second, halting their momentum and wilting their hopes at moving up in the southern region standings.

I suppose they shouldn't have too big of a reason to feel badly about the loss. After all, Chemeketa is one of the better teams in the NWAACC. They are the second highest team in the league for points per game and they have no losses at home. Of Chemeketa's home wins this season, Clackamas gave them by far the best run for their money, holding out till the very last possession. All in all it was, not much to be embarrassed over.

That is until I heard from Wegner Friday evening.

"Didn't think I could feel much worse about the loss until we reviewed the film and files," said Wegner on his Facebook page. "Turns out the home team was credited for an extra two points. Score-keeping error. Ouch. First game I have ever lost as a coach when our kids actually outscored the other team."

That is the kind of loss that can stick in your craw. It can have a hangover effect, lasting to the next game and beyond. We all saw it happen in Portland last week, when the Blazers lost the game on a bungled goaltending call. They turned around and lost their next game in embarrassing fashion, looking disjointed and dazed throughout much of the contest.

Wegner has to hope that doesn't happen to his team.

They're still in the running for a playoff spot in the south, meaning that they can't take any time to focus on the loss that should have been a win. According to Wegner, the score is final at the site of the game and can't be changed after the fact with no protests allowed, no matter the alleged mistake.

That's a real shame. I realize that it might be opening Pandora's box to fix a rule like this, but it leaves a sick feeling at the pit of the stomach. Moments after Chemeketa's win, Chemeketa's Facebook page and Twitter gleefully announced the narrow victory. Shortly thereafter, the score was posted on the NWAACC website, and it's still there if you look.

Chemeketa def. Clackamas 74-73.

It's a little more than unsettling, it's just wrong. And while some will point out that adding the two points would have changed the way the game was played, knowing that the road team outscored the home team in a big divisional game and still lost simply doesn't sit right.

So far we haven't heard anything from the league acknowledging the mistake, and we may not. This certainly doesn't happen often, as teams usually keep track of their own stats, both to prevent mistakes and for their own records. Rather than this being caught earlier and the game being played out fair and square, it's another disorganized mess for the NWAACC, but as Wegner said, "such is life"

Athletics Notebook

Men's Basketball

Chemeketa 74, Clackamas 73, Wednesday, Feb. 8

Clackamas picked up a win and a heartbreaking loss in basketball on the men's side. The loss came at Chemeketa, where the men had led 46-33 at halftime. As the second half neared its end, Chemeketa whittled down the deficit to nothing. In the final moments, the game was tied with the ball in Chemeketa's hands. Clackamas committed a foul with one second remaining, and home team hit one of two free-throws to ice the 74-73 victory. It was uncovered later that Chemeketa had been credited with an extra two points, but it was too late to change the final score.

Clackamas 72, Linn-Benton 68, Saturday, Feb. 11

Clackamas returned home to face Linn-Benton on Saturday, continuing their fight for playoff positioning. In impressive fashion, sophomore Brett Ball led all scores and rebounders for the game, putting up 26 points and 15 boards in Clackamas' 72-68 victory. The win pushes Clackamas to a tie with Linn-Benton for third place in the south, Clackamas holding the head-to-head tie breaker. Taylor Dunn was the only other player in double figures for Clackamas with 16 points.

Women's Basketball

Chemeketa 79, Clackamas 51, Wednesday, Feb. 8

Freshman Ashleigh Anderson put it best on Twitter shortly after Clackamas' crushing defeat: "Didn't come ready to play. That means we got our asses handed to us." The loss moves Clackamas to 1-3 for games in which they score less than 70 points. The 51 points was their worst offensive outing of the season, and the 28 point final deficit is easily their most lopsided loss since 2008. Clackamas was led by the 13 points of freshman guard Jenny Johnson, and was severely outrebounded 41-24, including a 15-9 offensive rebound disadvantage.

Clackamas 71, Linn-Benton 60, Saturday, Feb. 11

Led by 18 points from sophomore guard MaKasha Bizon, Clackamas bounced back from the trouncing at Chemeketa last Wednesday with a 71-60 victory over the Linn-Benton Roadrunners. Bizon hit a game high four three pointers, adding to the 10 total that Clackamas hit for the game. The win sets up what may be the biggest game of the season next Saturday when Lane comes to visit. The winner of that game will move into first place in the southern region.

Men's Basketball	Division	Percentage	Season
Mt. Hood	9-1	.900	18-6
Clackamas	8-2	.800	16-6
Chemeketa	6-4	.600	12-10
Linn-Benton	6-4	.600	10-11
SW Oregon	5-5	.500	13-10
Lane	4-6	.400	10-12
Umpqua	2-8	.200	7-14
Portland	0-10	.000	0-20

Women's Basketball	Division	Percentage	Season
Lane	9-1	.900	19-4
Clackamas	8-2	.800	19-3
Chemeketa	7-3	.700	15-6
Umpqua	5-5	.500	12-11
Mt. Hood	4-6	.400	8-13
SW Oregon	4-6	.400	10-12
Linn-Benton	3-7	.300	10-13
Portland	0-10	.000	4-17

Earn Your Degree in Bend

Oregon State University - Cascades

Freeman York
Student | Energy Engineering Management

OSU-Cascades is a small university, powered by the resources of Oregon State University. Here, students find the excellence, resources and lifelong advantages of a premier research university, and a personalized, small-campus learning experience.

Transfer your community college credits to one of 15 degree programs, including Business, Tourism and Outdoor Leadership, and Energy Engineering Management.

Application Deadlines

Priority Financial Aid
February 28

Spring application
March 1

OSU-Cascades Scholarship
March 31

Fall application
September 1