

Post Season Awards

Most Valuable Player



Paul Walter

17.08 points per game in region
Leads team in 3pt made and attempted
Leads team in blocked shots

Honorable Mention



Taylor Dunn

21.5 points per game
19.41 points per game in region
Leads team in FT made and attempted

Most Improved Player



Brett Ball

One of just five NWAACC players averaging a double double
Leads team in rebounding

Honorable Mention



Jake Dewitt

Made starting point guard mid-way through region play, and has been steady the last half of the season. The team went 10-2 under his leadership.

NWAACC Tournament Preview

Toyota Center
Tri-Cities, Wash.

10 a.m. Saturday, March 3rd
Clackamas vs. Peninsula

8 a.m. Saturday, March 3rd
Clackamas vs. Bellevue

Post Season Awards

Most Valuable Player



Sam McCloud

Southern Region -
Defensive Player of the Year
Sophomore All-Star
Leads NWAACC in steals and assists

Honorable Mention



Jenny Johnson

Leads team in scoring, free throws made and attempted, free throw percentage, second on team in assists and steals.

Biggest Fan Club



Paige Ward

"I guess that's what happens when you come from a small town."

Comeback Player of the Year



Ashleigh Anderson

Second leading scorer after sitting out the entire preseason recovering from knee surgery.

High points

- Won 10 of final 12 games
- 21 point road victory over Mt. Hood
- 87-84 home victory over SW Oregon to move back into playoff position
- Taylor Dunn emerges as one of the league's best scorers
- Brett Ball's 11 double doubles
- No prolonged injuries

Low points

- One point loss to Chemeketa on a scorekeeping error
- Back to back 50 point games vs. Clark and Walla Walla
- 1-5 stretch in late November through early December
- 0-2 start to region play

Championships

Both the men's and the women's basketball programs hold the distinction of being the only programs to have attended every NWAACC tournament since the league switched to the 16 team format.

Women's Basketball

11 Southern Region Championships

1985, 1987, 1990, 1996, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2011

2004 NWAACC Champions

Men's Basketball

Nine Southern Region Championships

1990, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011

Five NWAACC Championships

1987, 1994, 2007, 2009, 2010

High points

- First in NWAACC in scoring and steals
- 22-4 record, 7-1 at home, 11-0 start
- Return of freshman Jenny Anderson from surgery
- Two leading scorers, Johnson and Anderson are both freshman
- Sophomore Sam McCloud leads league in assists and steals

Low points

- Loss of freshman Alex Howe for the season (torn ACL)
- Loss of sophomore Lindsay Kanalz for 10 games (broken hand)
- 19 point home loss to Yakima Valley
- 28 point road loss to Chemeketa
- Regular season swept by Lane

Cougars firing on all cylinders as they enter post season play

The Cougars' late season run has earned them a spot in the first round of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges tournament, which begins on March 3 in Tri-Cities, Wash.

By John William Howard
Sports Editor

Walking out of the gym at Mt. Hood Community College, men's basketball head coach Cliff Wegner made a bold proclamation.

"We really think that we're the best team in the south," said Wegner, "and we really wanted to show that."

Coming into the game, making good on such a statement looked like a tall order. Mt. Hood was leading the southern region, was undefeated on their home floor and had already beaten Clackamas at home on Jan. 18.

Clackamas answered that challenge with a 67-46 victory, dominating Mt. Hood in nearly every facet of the game including rebounding, assists, field goal percentage and three-point field goal percentage. Anybody who hadn't already woken up to the Cougars at that point was jolted awake.

In truth, the tear on which Clackamas finished the season (won 10 of final 12 games) started back in the middle of January when they went on the road to visit Lane Community College. In that

game, freshman Jake Dewitt got the start over Josh Lokeno, who had incurred the wrath of Wegner due to an "undisclosed violation of team rules." Dewitt has had the starting position and a lion's share of the minutes ever since, and the play of the team has dramatically improved.

"Jake hasn't been as flashy [as Lokeno], but he's been more steady," said Wegner. "He's been doing a good job of running the offense. He's been hitting shots, playing good defense, not turning it over."

Following Dewitt's appointment, Clackamas made huge strides, coming home with a 13 point victory over Lane to embarrass Portland Community College by 39 points. The Cougars went on the road to best Umpqua Community College by 16, and then returned home for what may have been the true tipping point of their season.

The day of the game, both Clackamas and SW Oregon Community College were tied in the southern region standing at fourth place. SW Oregon jumped on Clackamas early and led 37-30 at the break. The second half would belong to the Cougars, who outscored SW Oregon 57-47 to come out on top with a narrow 87-84 victory behind 34 points from Taylor Dunn, who leads the team in scoring. The win moved Clackamas back into the playoff hunt, putting them in sole possession of the fourth and final playoff spot in the southern region.

Following their emotional victory, Clackamas had an equally emotional defeat. After having played Chemeketa Community College down to the wire, the Cougars were tied with only a few sec-

onds left. They gave up a free throw and lost by one point, only to discover that there was a scorekeeping error that gave Chemeketa an extra two points.

"It's a hard thing to swallow," said Wegner, who mentioned that the incident was under investigation at the NWAACC level. "But, you know, the game is over and we've done a good job saying, 'Hey, it's over' and putting it behind us."

The best tonic for such a disheartening loss, it seems, is to bury it with wins. Clackamas returned from their doosie of a road trip to string together a five game win streak, including the win over Mt. Hood, a close victory to move past Linn-Benton Community College for third place in the standings and a dominant 37 point victory over lowly Portland.

When Clackamas takes the floor on March 3, they won't be seeing their opponent for the first time. They faced Peninsula College in the finals of the Clackamas Holiday Invitational on Dec. 28, a game in which they lost 85-65. Peninsula (23-4, 13-3 North) features one of the league's top scorers in USC commit J.T Terrell and is coming off of an NWAACC championship in 2011. Clackamas and Peninsula will face off at 10 a.m. Saturday morning.

As the players filed into the lobby of Randall Hall after their post game debrief last Saturday, the confidence was thick, mostly due to the fact that Clackamas knows through and through that they are playing as good as any other team in the league.

"If there was ever a time to play your best, it's right now," said Dunn.

Clackamas women to take on Bellevue in first round

Clackamas overcomes a rash of injuries to go 11-3 in the regular season, earning their twelfth consecutive tournament appearance

By John William Howard
Sports Editor

People say that sport is an escape from the real life trials of the world. It offers entertaining action for the fans, and something that they can watch and enjoy from the fringe. There are countless storylines to follow and players to watch.

Drama was certainly offered by this year's women's team. Clackamas Community College (22-4, 11-3 South) finished third in the neck-and-neck southern region race behind Lane Community College and Chemeketa Community College, overcoming mountain after mountain of adversity.

Looking unstoppable throughout most of the preseason, the Cougars blew past their first 11 preseason opponents, outscoring them by an average of 19 points per contest. In those games, Clackamas defeated three of the eventual four region champions in three consecutive games, besting Skagit Valley Community College (north) by five, then Lane (south) by three and Centralia College (west) by seven.

The Cougars finally lost on Dec. 18, when they met Yakima Valley Community College in the championship of the Clackamas Crossover tournament. Things were close for much of the game with Clackamas trailing Yakima Valley by

five or six, but a string of fouls, including co-head coach Jim Martineau's first ejection in 15 seasons, pushed the deficit to double digits, and Clackamas fell 72-53.

The beginning of the regular season saw the team welcoming freshman Ashleigh Anderson to their ranks. Anderson saw 17 minutes of action in the season opener at SW Oregon Community College, her first in over a year since having surgery on her knee. Over the next several games, Anderson improved quickly, becoming much more comfortable on the court and in the offense.

Clackamas jumped out of the starting gates in the southern region regular season, winning their first three, including an embarrassment of SW Oregon by 33 points and a narrow, gutsy victory over Chemeketa at home. It was then that things started to go a little wrong.

Mt. Hood Community College was in town, and the stands were packed as usual. Anderson's personal fan club of former teammates from Oregon City High School filled up several rows in the front, and the home team was easily blowing out their cross town opponents. Starting forward Lindsay Kanalz was leading all scores with 19 points, already a season high. Then, after just over 20 minutes on the court, Kanalz took a fall, breaking her right hand. Clackamas would finish the game with a victory, but they had been dealt a major blow.

Kanalz would miss nine games, returning finally in the road win over Portland Community College on Feb. 22 and playing again in the final home game against Umpqua Community College. The return was a surprise as Kanalz expected to sit out until the NWAACC tournament, but the

coaching staff thought it best for her to get some game time in before the tournament started.

"Defensively she's our captain, she's our leader, she's our vocal person," said Martineau. "It allows us to have one more, big person so if we get in foul trouble we don't have to be quite as careful with the [Feldman] twins."

The injury bug didn't stop with Kanalz. Three games later on Feb. 28, Clackamas made the trip to Roseburg to take on Umpqua and returned having won the game but lost their sixth man Alex Howe to a season ending knee injury. At this point, even with the return of freshman Jasmine Gibbs-Brown, Clackamas was down to just nine healthy players.

After another blowout of SW Oregon, Clackamas traveled down to Salem to face Chemeketa, but simply didn't show up to play. The road team was badly out of shot, hitting 1-12 three pointers in the first half to fall behind 38-22 at halftime before falling 79-51 for their worst loss since the 2008 season.

Clackamas woke up, following their loss with a pair of victories over lowly Linn-Benton Community College and Mt. Hood before returning home to face Lane for a chance at the southern region championship. There they hit another roadblock, falling in a closely contested game to Lane Community College, and dropping into a tie with Chemeketa for second place.

Clackamas finished the season with a pair of wins over a dreadful 4-21 Portland team and Umpqua, and will take on Bellevue College at 8 a.m. on March 3 to open up the NWAACC tournament in Tri-Cities, Wash.