

Cougars crush Cardinals



Contributed by Tracy Swisher

Sophomore guard MaKesha Bizon reaches in the cookie jar after scoring all of her three point attempts in the first half against Skagit Valley Community College.

By John William Howard
Sports Editor

**Clackamas 74
Bellevue 65**

Clackamas Community College won three of four games at the NWAACC tournament, taking fifth place with a win over Skagit Valley College yesterday. Clackamas' only loss was to Columbia Basin College, who advanced to the championship game last night.

Clackamas and Bellevue College matched up to start of the NWAACC women's basketball championships, tipping things off first thing Saturday morning. Clackamas came away with the 74-65 win, and advanced to the second round to take on Columbia Basin.

For the first several minutes, the two teams kept things close. After four

minutes, Clackamas led 7-5 on a Jenny Johnson three-pointer before committing three consecutive turnovers, giving up their lead as they saw Bellevue score four in a row. Clackamas led 37-35 at halftime behind Johnson's monster first half. Johnson put up 19 points in the first 20 minutes.

Clackamas scored first to start the second half, but Bellevue answered right back. Just over three minutes into the half, Clackamas' lead was still just two at 43-41. That's when Clackamas let loose their most potent weapon: the three point shot. Things seemed lost for Bellevue, who found themselves down 68-61 with just one minute remaining after Clackamas' Johnson hit a pair of free throws. Then Bellevue ran down the floor and netted a three pointer from guard Kelsey Sparks to get to within four. A steal and a made free throw by Brittany Barrington cut the deficit to just three at 68-65, but Clackamas hit six consecutive free throw attempts to ice the game 74-65.

**Columbia Basin 64
Clackamas 55**

Clackamas and Columbia Basin, two teams that both spent time at the top of the coaches poll all season, matched up in the second round and presented the fans with one of the most exciting finishes the women's tournament yet. Columbia Basin used a run early in the first half to take the game 64-55 and move on to the NWAACC semi finals.

Columbia Basin took a seven point lead after five minutes of play on a shot from Lacey Young, but Clackamas reeled off seven points of their own to tie the game at eleven points apiece. Clackamas broke the tie a few possessions later with a shot from Sam McCloud, and the teams traded baskets, neither gaining an advantage bigger than four. Clackamas led 25-23 at halftime.

Columbia Basin took a brief lead early in the second half, but Clackamas fought back, draining consecutive three pointers from MaKesha Bizon and Johnson to go up four at 31-27. Columbia Basin then went on a 9-2 run to take a 38-33 lead when Jennifer Noon hit for two of her game high 20 points. A few minutes later, Young made it a ten point lead for Columbia Basin.

Clackamas scored four in a row to cut the lead to 48-42

on a pair of free throws by Johnson, but Columbia Basin held strong, stopping the run and pushing the lead back out to nine. With just over a minute remaining in the game, Lindsay Kanalz hit a pair of free throws to bring it to 56-51. Columbia Basin answered with a jumper from Young and forced Johnson to travel with the basketball, giving Columbia Basin possession with a seven point lead. Columbia Basin would swish their next six free throw attempts, icing the victory and sending Clackamas to the losers bracket of the double-elimination tournament by a final score of 64-55.

**Clackamas 85
Blue Mountain 65**

Blue Mountain Community College hung around in a tight first half, but eventually fell behind in the second, trailing by as many as 23 points before losing 85-65 to Clackamas to put an end to their first NWAACC tournament appearance.

Blue Mountain led early, with Nadia Telles hitting a two pointer to put the Timberwolves up 8-3 after the first two minutes. Clackamas quickly made up the ground with a pair of three pointers from Ashleigh Anderson and McCloud to take a one point lead. Clackamas went on a run, hitting four consecutive treys to go up by five at 28-23. Clackamas led 36-35 at halftime.

Blue Mountain started the second half slowly and Clackamas took advantage, slowly building their lead until Bizon hit from downtown to put the Cougars up 53-43. The lead grew to 16 points when Jordin Feldman hit a layup in the paint with just over eight minutes remaining in the game.

Blue Mountain climbed to within eleven at 66-55, but Clackamas buried the Timberwolves with a 15-3 run to go up by 23 at 81-58 with just over two minutes left in the contest. At that point, Clackamas emptied their bench, cruising to an 85-64 victory.

Clackamas was led by the near triple double of McCloud, who finished with 19 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists, and five steals. Johnson also finished with 19 points on five of nine shooting from three point range. Clackamas moved on to play Skagit Valley for fifth place on Monday at 2 p.m.

**Clackamas 101
Skagit Valley 88**

Bizon was perfect from three point range in the first half and ended shooting 10 of 14 from distance for 32 points to lead Clackamas to a fifth place finish over Skagit Valley 101-88.

Clackamas jumped out to a 10-5 lead when Bizon swished her first three pointer with 16:29 left in the first half. Skagit Valley pulled to within two points, but another pair of three pointers from Bizon and Johnson hit two more three pointers to put Clackamas out by six.

Skagit Valley tied the game at 29, but Johnson answered from distance with another three to put the Cougars back on top. Clackamas went on a huge run to finish the half, hitting three more three-pointers and getting a three point play from Kanalz to take a ten point lead. Clackamas led 55-47 at halftime, as Bizon was perfect from three point range with six made three point field goals in the half.

Clackamas started off the second period where they left off in the first, going up by 20 after five minutes of play at 76-56. Several minutes later, Skagit Valley made a run to cut the deficit to 13 points on a steal and fast break field goal from Jessica Denmon. The Cardinals got within 10 points on a pair of occasions, but with Clackamas up 11 with less than a minute to go, it was too little too late. The Cougars emptied their bench and time ran out, giving Clackamas the 101-88 victory.

Clackamas got 32 points from Bizon and 29 from Johnson to take fifth place overall in the NWAACC tournament. Anderson, who's first game back from surgery was the first regular season game for Clackamas, said that the four games in four days were difficult on her knees, but that it was good to finish the season with a win.

"I'm especially happy to see [Bizon] go out like that in her last game," said Anderson.

Bizon was as nonchalant as ever about her performance, which put her in third place all-time at Clackamas for made three pointers in one season.

"It's just a good way to end the season," said Bizon.

John William Howard also covered the championships for the NWAACC.

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at Bellevue CC, 2 p.m.
Saturday, April 2.