

TRACK: Cougars compete well in Eugene

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The biggest difference between this meet and most others is the sheer number of people. While many track meets might draw a few hundred on a good day, the Oregon Relays has thousands in attendance, and they aren't shy about making themselves heard.

"The atmosphere is definitely different from most meets," said Brandon Sherier, who ran a personal best in the 800 meter run, and finished second just behind teammate Badane Sultessa. "Most meets it's just your parents there or a few people in the stands and here, it's full of people that all love track."

The roar of the crowd may have contributed to several highlight performances by

Clackamas athletes, including the one-two finish by Sultessa and Sherier and a win in the 1500 meter run by Sultessa. The Cougars also saw huge improvement in the long jump by AJ Dickson, who jumped 22-07 for the second best mark in the NWAACC.

"Our men's 4x100, I think one of them said they ran almost a full second faster than they have all year," said Mantalas. "They ran really, really well and competed really, really well. They were in the hunt at least going into the last exchange and were in the hunt with some pretty damn good teams."

Cougar Open

The Oregon Relays weren't the only track and field event

happening on Saturday. Clackamas also hosted a meet of their own, one that according to head coach Keoni McHone, is one of the few destinations for athletes other than the meet in Eugene, and provides a good event for those not attending the Relays. Because of the number of Clackamas athletes down south, Clackamas didn't have much of a presence at the Cougar Open, which is held at Oregon City High School's Pioneer Stadium.

Much of the meet was dominated by Warner Pacific College, Concordia University and Corban University. Warner Pacific had an outstanding show in the men's high jump with Treavone Bowie taking first place with a height of 1.90 meters, followed by Connor Hart of Warner Pacific with a height of

1.85.

The men's shot put and hammer throw are where Concordia really shined, and they took both first and second in both of those events.

Jacob Ybarra of Corban took first in the men's triple jump with a jump of 13.20 meters and Jordan Hatfield took second with a jump of 13.02.

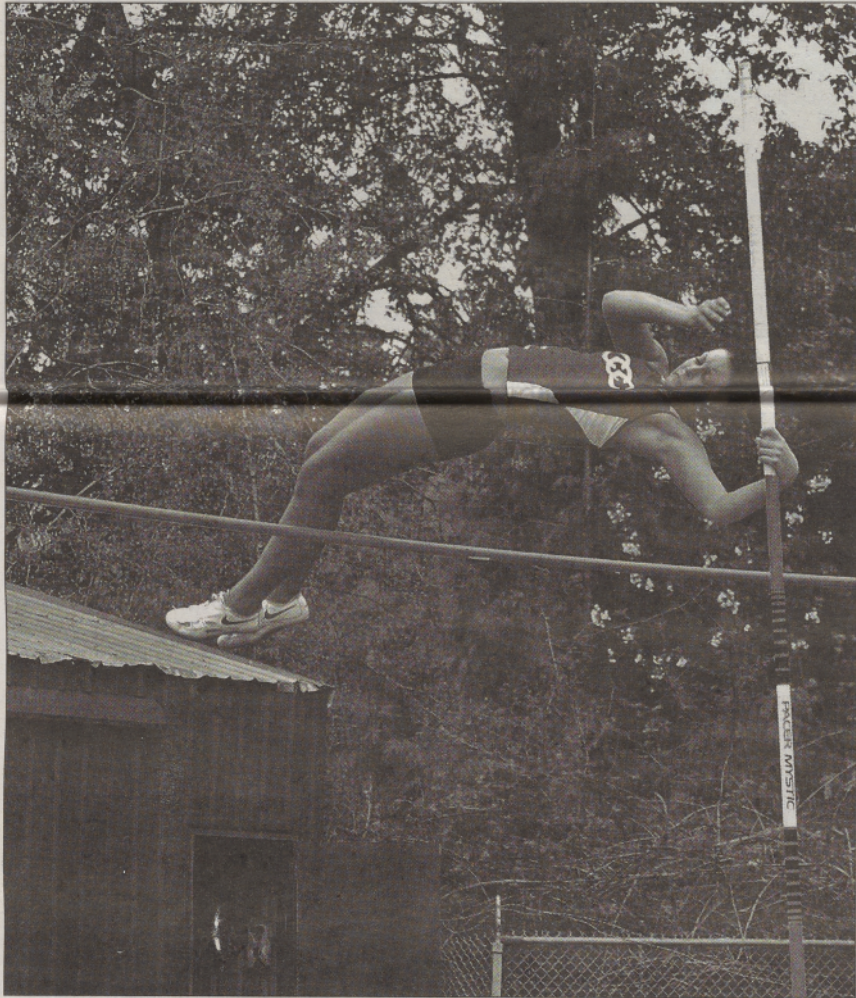
Other than a few strong showings by Concordia and Corban, Warner Pacific was the team to beat as they took first place finishes in a majority of the other events.

The most exciting event of the day was watching Ahrlin Bauman of Bowerman Athletic Club and Cesar Perez, unattached, compete in the men's 1500 meter run. Bauman had the lead for the most of the

race until the last stretch. That's where Perez caught him and managed to take the lead for the win.

For Clackamas, the highlights came in the women's 1500 meter run and the women's hammer throw. Caitlyn Lewis won the women's 1500 with a seasonal best time of 5:15.67, and sophomore Katie Higgins won the women's hammer throw with a mark just shy of her seasonal best at 46.62 meters.

Up next for Clackamas is the Pacific Twilight, which will be hosted at Pacific University on April 27-28. For full times and stats of both the Oregon Relays and the Cougar open, visit www.TheClackamasPrint.com.



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Top: Kyle Vuksich participates in the 400 meter run with his flowing locks. His 2012 season best is 49.95 seconds, which was achieved at the Oregon Relays in Eugene.

Left: Ingrid Bergmann shows her pole vaulting skills, placing third with a height of 2.45 meters at the Cougar Open. She tied her personal record.

Softball wins three of four at NWAACC crossover

By John William Howard
Sports Editor

Fourth-ranked Clackamas Community College softball continued their success this season, winning three straight games at the NWAACC crossover tournament in Yakima, Wash. before falling to Walla Walla Community College on Sunday afternoon. Clackamas (20-8, 8-1 south) now sits atop the southern region standings.

On Saturday, their first match was against Pierce College. Things started out slow for both teams, as neither team scored until Kimmie Courneya hit a home run to put Pierce on the

board. From there, Clackamas starting pitcher McKenzie Marshall pitched a shut out, only giving up two more hits, and striking out seven batters. The Clackamas bats came alive in the bottom of the fourth inning, getting five runs to give the Cougars a 5-1 edge. Two innings later, Clackamas put the game away with six runs in the inning, capped by a home run by Tasha Silvius for a final score of 11-1.

The hurried tournament schedule didn't give much time to celebrate, as Columbia Basin College was ready and waiting to start the next game. This game was much tighter,

with Clackamas a close contest behind another highlight performance from Silvius, who batted in two runs and scored another of her own to give the Cougars the 3-0 victory.

From there, the pressure turned up as Clackamas moved on to face fifth ranked Bellevue College in their last game of the evening. Things got even tenser as the offensive numbers continued to dip and the pitching improved for both sides. Clackamas managed only one run, but it was enough to dispatch Bellevue 1-0 to stay perfect in the tournament.

Sunday didn't fare so well for the Cougars, as their next oppo-

nent was Walla Walla, a team that has gone 27-5 so far this season and sits above Clackamas in the poll at third. Walla Walla buried Clackamas early, scoring three runs in the first and six runs in the second to make it a 9-1 lead for the Warriors. At that point, to many it might have seemed like things were lost. However, the Cougars didn't get their heads down.

"We kept a positive attitude knowing that we had a lot of game left," stated freshman Delaney Johnson. "We weren't going to give up because we wanted to play to the best of our ability."

Clackamas made a push in

the fifth inning when Marshall hit a home run to bring in three scores, but Walla Walla added another run in the top of the seventh inning to end the Cougars' unbeaten streak at nine games by handing them a 10-4 loss.

While the loss drops them to 20-8, they have still only lost to a team ranked below them just once, and that was the second game of the preseason. They've won 14 of the last 16 games, and twelve times so far this season have outscored their opponents by at least eight points. They will next play on April 25 vs. Chemeketa Community College.