

Strife ensues at Starfire Stadium



Left: Sophomore defender No. 1 Amanda Coulimore shuts down the Spokane offense Saturday in Tukwila at Starfire Stadium. Right: Freshman forward No. 23 Tayler Ficek battles tenacious Spokane for the ball.



Photos by Britany Bell The Clackamas Print

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Roaring past Starfire Stadium Saturday morning in Tukwila, Wash., a train overshadowed a pugilistic battle of strategy and athleticism going on below. In the train's shadow the women of Clackamas Community College were engaged in a battle of attrition against a strong, well-balanced Spokane team.

The hard fought game ended in bitter disappointment for the Cougars with the Sasquatch ladies winning 1-0. With the

victory, Spokane entered the NWAACC Championship to face the Peninsula Pirates, losing 3-2 on penalty kicks on Nov. 18.

"It's a hard way to go out," said sophomore forward Courtney Johnson. "I think we had to deal with the ref all game. Sometimes they're just not on your side."

The game was close and Clackamas had a good opportunity to win, but after the 90th minute mark had passed, their efforts were stifled not by the opposing team, but by a belligerent official call, on a negligible foul by Spokane.

While Clackamas was advancing the ball up field in amazingly

dexterous coordination of teamwork, the referee decided to halt their progress by making them take a free kick over fifty yards behind the advancing ball.

Clackamas was defending well the whole game, and made consistent valiant attempts at scoring which could have eventually lead to frustrating their opponents and created a winning attack. The following result of the free kick was one of Spokane's players standing close in front of the free kick to deflect it with a header aimed towards the Cougars side. The ball found a Spokane teammate who took advantage of the poor refereeing to score on surprised cougar defense signaling the end

of the game and Clackamas' run at the champion title.

"They did really good. I'm proud of my sister," said Jordan Hollamon, sister of Kenzie Hollamon. "The ref call was just unlucky."

Clackamas displayed a tank strength clinic of defense in the first half, frustrating the offensive attacks of Spokane.

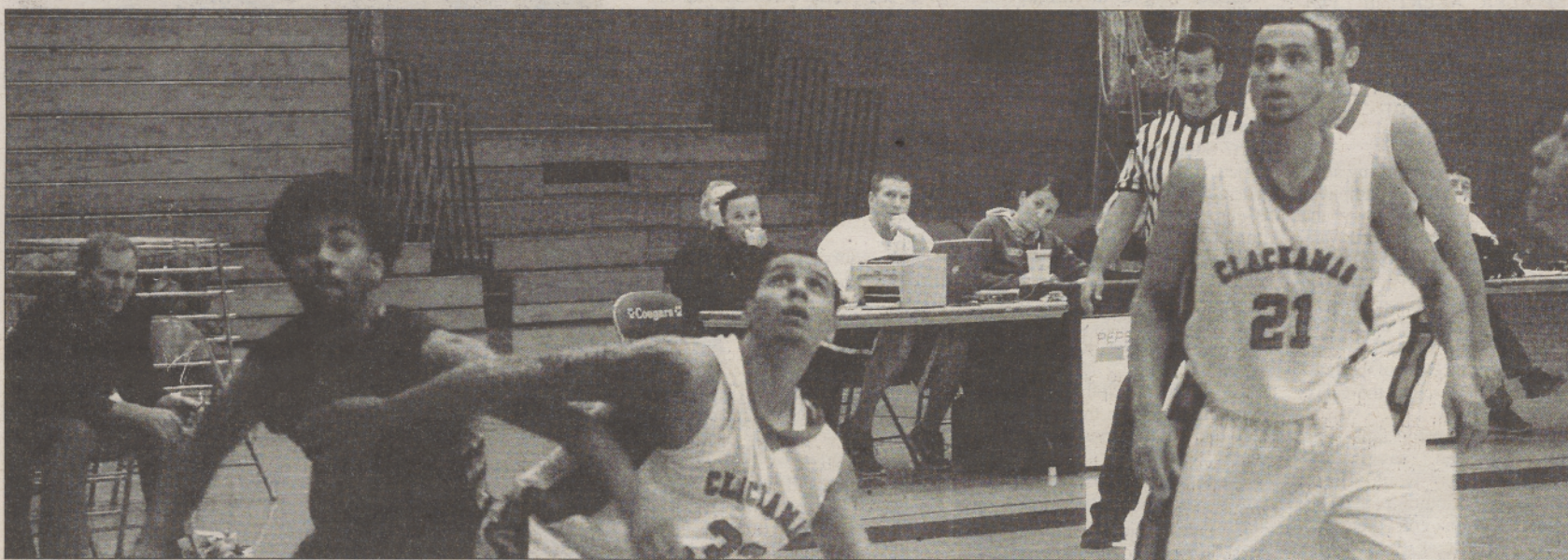
At halftime the teams took cover escaping the rain under trees and tents. The scoreboard reflected the even 0-0 score. Clackamas kicked off for the second half and as the wind picked up, it seemed the Sasquatch offensive did too. With six corner kicks acquired through the

campaign, the ladies of Spokane proved that they were there for a fight and wanted to score.

The Cougars had an impressive run at the NWAACC tournament, rivaled by few in the 2012 season. This season showed the consistency and dedication of the hard working women of Clackamas. With such a strong performance this year, Clackamas is sure to be even stronger in the years to come, with 13 potential returnees.

"I think they played a great season," said Tyler Trumbull, father of goalkeeper Melanie Trumbull. "They improved and coach Janine Szpara helped a lot."

Basketball: Cougars light up scoreboard in win



Freshman guard No. 33 Michone Hopkins gets in position for a rebound during a 115-105 win over Northwest Indian College on Friday night at Clackamas' Randall Hall.

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Midway through the second half during a tie game, Clackamas' freshman guard Anthony Lianzo committed a hard foul while going for the ball on Eagle Mike Schang, who took exception to the play as the players went face to face before being separated by the referees.

Lianzo was given a technical for the flagrant foul, and a double technical was issued against both players, so Lianzo headed to the locker room, ejected with two technical fouls. After that play, the Eagles got a basket and made five of six free throws to build its largest lead, 79-72.

"They have a lot of fight in them," said freshman Michone Hopkins on the Eagles. "We had them pretty much in the dirt and they kept coming back."

The Cougars settled down after falling behind, as sophomores Nate Keilholtz and Brock Lutes completed consecutive three-point plays to pull within 79-78 with less than 10 minutes to go.

The game went back and forth from there, featuring 10 lead changes and four ties as neither team went ahead by more than three points for the next six minutes. The Cougars finally got a cushion, pushing ahead on baskets by Jordan Barber, Lutes and Kirby Hawkins while set-

ting down on defense and getting defensive rebounds to deny the Eagles second chance opportunities.

The Cougars finished with a 56-39 edge on the boards, including a 20-12 advantage on offensive rebounds.

"At the end of the game we did a good job of getting the ball down low to Barber," said Wegner. "He had a good game." The 6-foot-9 Barber nailed all six of his foul shots in the final two minutes.

As a team, Clackamas made eight of nine foul shots in the final three minutes as they held the Eagles to just two made baskets and five points over that stretch.

Hopkins led the Cougars with

27 points, pouring in 20 in the first half by making eight of 10 field goals. Hopkins also added 11 rebounds and made five of eight three-pointers, including four in the first half.

"The defense was giving me the shot, so I took it," said Hopkins. "I felt on fire."

Barber added 24 points and a team-high 12 rebounds and two blocks in a great night of work. Brock Lutes added 22 points, six rebounds, and three assists in a good all-around effort.

"Brock seemed to get stronger as the game went along," said Wegner. Clackamas shot 50 percent (41/82) from the field for the game.

Josh Nelson led Northwest

Indian College with game-highs of 33 points and 14 rebounds.

"Nelson is a really good basketball player," said Wegner. "He is a load and hard to guard."

Doug Williams added 20 points, while guards Schang and Randy Evans combined for 20 points, seven rebounds, six assists, and six steals for the scrappy Eagles.

"Schang is a really good guard," added Wegner. Mahle was impressed with what he saw out of the Cougars.

"I think they'll be fine," said Mahle. "They got a good group of guys and they'll do well in the NWAACC and overall be a good team."

Andrew Millbrooke The Clackamas Print