

Men walk fine line to stay alive

Andrew Millbrooke
Sports Editor

The Clackamas men's basketball team won two close games last week to stay alive in an ever tightening Southern Division playoff race. The Cougars (14-12, 6-6) have turned their season around, winning five of six games after starting league play by losing five of the first six.

On Saturday the Cougars defeated Lane CC, 73-69. It was a game that the Cougars had to win, as any loss would severely damage any postseason hopes. The Cougars now sit all alone in fifth place, one game behind Portland CC and Lane. The top four teams qualify for the NWAACC tournament.

The men face rival Portland CC tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Randall gym. It is a great chance to gain ground in the playoff race and another must win for the Cougars.

"Basically we've tried to play every game like a tournament game, a must-win situation," said head coach Cliff Wegner. "We know what the stakes are. We're just trying to

focus on one play at a time and have fun while we're doing it. The kids have done a good job so far."

Wegner, in his 15th season at Clackamas, is confident that if they qualify for the NWAACC tournament, they will make some noise. "I feel like if we can get there, I don't think anybody wants to play Clackamas," said Wegner. "We've been there before and we know how to prepare our kids. I've coached more tournament games than any coach in the NWAACC."

Wegner coached the Cougars to NWAACC titles in three of the past six seasons (2007, 2009, and 2010). Also, Clackamas has finished in the top three of the Southern Division in each of the past 13 seasons to qualify for the NWAACC tournament.

Clackamas 73, Lane 69
The Cougars got a must win in Eugene as they jumped ahead by 10 points at halftime and then held off a late Titans run to defeat Lane, 73-69. Michone Hopkins led the Cougars with 18 points and Kirby Hawkins added 13 points. Brock Lutes continued his excellent all-around play with 10 points and game-highs of 12 rebounds and four assists. Jake Dewitt added 12 points for Clackamas.

The Cougars held Lane to 37 percent shooting and grabbed a rebounding edge of 43-36. Clackamas also

made 11 of 29 3-pointers, while Lane hit just four of 19.

Clackamas 80, Mt. Hood 72
A fired up crowd was on hand in Randall gym to watch the Cougar men go on a late 12-2 run to turn a one point deficit into a nine point lead and then make nine of 10 foul shots in the final minute to defeat Mt. Hood 80-72. The win earned the Cougars a tie with the Saints in the standings and kept their playoff hopes alive.

A big crowd of Saints fans came out to Oregon City, but an even bigger section of Cougar fans left home happy and serenaded the leaving Mt. Hood fans with chants of "drive home safely!"

Seven Cougars scored in double figures, led by Hawkins with 14 points off the bench. Lutes and Jordan Barber each had 11 points and combined for 17 rebounds. Matt Bryant, Grant Sitton, Hopkins and Dewitt all finished with 10 points. Sitton drained a running 30-footer just before the halftime buzzer to give the Cougars a 36-34 lead.

The Cougars shot 48 percent from the field for the game, while holding the Saints to 34 percent. This offset a huge 48-35 rebounding edge for the Saints. Clackamas won the hustle categories, getting seven blocked shots and nine steals, while the Saints had no blocks and only four steals.



Andrew Millbrooke The Clackamas Print

Clackamas' Michone Hopkins elevates for a 3-pointer in a game against Chemeketa earlier this season. Hopkins leads the Cougars on the season in scoring (14.3), assists (3.5) and steals (1.76) per game.

Women suffer first loss in 69 days

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Sports Editor

The Clackamas women's 16-game winning streak came to a screeching halt in Eugene on Saturday as Lane beat the Cougars for the second time this season, pulling out a 66-63 win. Clackamas (11-1, 21-4), with only one league loss, is still in control for the Southern Division title as the Titans have two league losses.

You could look at any number of reasons why the Cougars lost to the Titans. Clackamas shot a woeful 29 percent from the field for the game. They committed 20 turnovers and had only seven assists. One of their main strengths during the winning streak has been 3-point shooting. Against Lane, the Cougars made just six of 21.

The only bright spot was making 21 of 24 foul shots. That and the fact that they only lost by three points while shooting so horrendously gives hope for a future meeting with Lane. The loss might end up being a good thing, as it puts the big winning streak behind them before postseason play. Only time will tell.

Jenny Johnson led the Cougars with a game-high 20 points, but made just five of 19 field goals. Ashleigh Anderson added 13 points and 10 rebounds while Megan Feldman got a double-

double as well with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Sade Elliott was one Cougar that continued her hot shooting, making three of five 3-pointers to finish with 11 points.

Clackamas 108, Mt. Hood 65
Sticking to form, the women's team was dominant against the rival Saints from the get go, gunning out to a 54-23 halftime lead on Lacy Effenberger's shot at the buzzer before running away for a 108-65 victory. Elliott led the charge in the second half, drilling three 3-pointers during a 17-4 run that sealed the game. The win was the 16th straight dating back to a four point loss to Lane on Dec. 9.

"I think we did a great job of sharing the ball, getting the open shots and not forcing anything," said Elliott. "We have really good chemistry. It took us a while to get there, but now we're really focused on getting to NWAACCs and winning the championship."

Elliott led seven Cougars who scored in double figures with 19 points, finishing five of 10 from behind the arc. Selin Belin had 16 points and Tori Wilkinson and Johnson had 13 apiece. Johnson added a team-high seven assists. Feldman added 12 points and a team-high 10 rebounds and Alex Howe had 12 points.

Effenberger was the final player in double figures with 10 points as nine players all played between 19 and 27 minutes in very balanced action.

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Sports
CALENDAR
February 20-26

WEDNESDAY - 2/20
• **CCC Basketball:** vs Portland CC
Women at 5:30 p.m.
Men at 7:30 p.m.
• **MLS:** FC Dallas at Potland, 7:30 p.m. KXTG (750)

THURSDAY - 2/21
• **Intramural Volleyball:** Noon-1 p.m. in Randall Gym
• **CBK:** California at Oregon, 6 p.m., ESPN, KXTG(750) Stanford at OSU 8 p.m., ESPN, KEX

FRIDAY - 2/22
• **CCC Wrestling:** at NJCAA Championships in Des Moines, IA Friday - Saturday
• **NBA:** Portland at L.A. Lakers 7:30 p.m. CSN, KEX(1190)

SATURDAY - 2/23
• **CCC Basketball:** at Umpqua CC Women at 2 p.m. Men at 4 p.m.
• **WHL:** Portland at Prince George, 7 p.m., KPAM (860)

SUNDAY - 2/24
• **NBA:** Boston at Portland, 6 p.m. KGW, KEX(1190)
• **CBF:** Utah Valley at U. of Portland 1 p.m.

MONDAY - 2/25
• **Randall Fitness Center:** 8:30-10 a.m. and 1-6 p.m. downstairs in Randall Hall

TUESDAY - 2/26
• **Intramural Basketball:** Noon-1 p.m. in Randall gym
• **Randall Fitness Center:** 12-8 p.m. downstairs in Randall Hall