

Cougars fail to retain NWAAC championship

Andrew Millbrooke
Sports Editor

There would not be another miracle run through the loser's bracket this year as the Clackamas Community College women's softball team couldn't defend its championship in the NWAACC Tournament last weekend at Delta Park. The Cougars rolled through its first two games on Friday, but the rain came down on Saturday and washed away Clackamas' offensive firepower as they were first knocked into the losers bracket by Mt. Hood 3-0 and then out of the tournament by Bellevue, 4-1.

The Cougars fell behind Bellevue 1-0 early in their elimination game, only to see the game get suspended due to rain in the top of the third inning until Sunday morning. Unfortunately, the Cougars left all of their runs at home the following morning and despite six different players getting hits, Clackamas could only manage one run.

Bellevue chipped away at the Cougars with two more runs in the third and another in the fifth to push ahead 4-0. Clackamas was held in check by Bulldogs pitcher Brielle Bray for most of the game, and then Hannah Sauget came in and closed the door by getting the last five Cougars out.

No. 2 overall seed Wenatchee Valley cruised through the tournament without a loss, winning all five games to win the 2013 NWAACC Championship. The Knights defeated upstart Douglas 6-5 in the final game on Monday. Douglas played great to get into the championship game by also winning five games during the tournament, but Wenatchee Valley proved to be too much in the end, defeating the Royals twice in two games.

Game 1:

Clackamas 4, Everett 2 — Pitchers Alyson Boytz and Lucy Baldovino combined to shut down Everett, scattering three hits while giving up two unearned runs, to win the first game of the 2013 NWAACC Tournament, 4-2. Catcher Kiara Vasquez hit a two-run home run and right-fielder Taylor Gould added two RBIs in the win over the Trojans. Gould and first-baseman Tasha Silvius had two hits apiece.

Game 2:

Clackamas 9, Southwestern Oregon 0 — Baldovino came right back and pitched five solid innings in game two, striking out five, while giving up three hits and not allowing a run to get the win in the Cougars 9-0 victory over the Lakers. Gould stayed hot and hit a three run home run and Sam Owirka added a two-

run shot to power the Cougars to victory. Rashaun Sells went 2 for 2 at the plate with one run scored and one run batted in, raising her team leading average to .487 on the season.

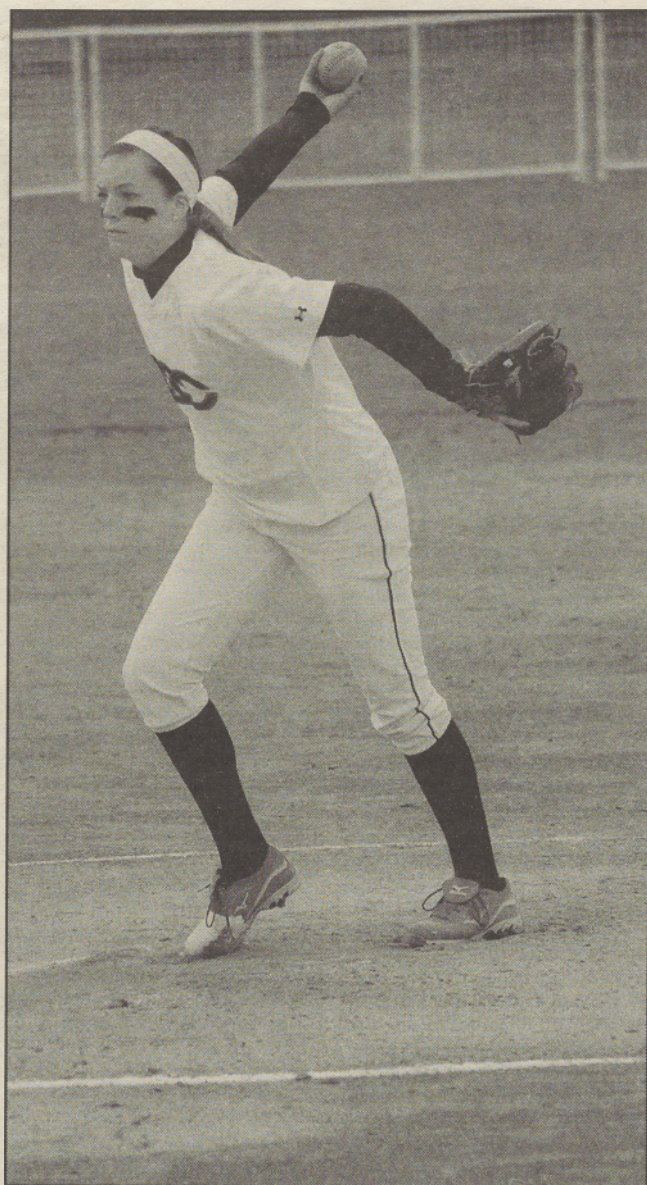
Game 3:

Mt. Hood 3, Clackamas 0 — Clackamas couldn't figure out the pitching of Saints ace, Ann-Marie Guischer, a freshman from The Dalles, in getting shut out of their first game in the loser's bracket. Guischer allowed only two hits, both by Nicole Lehman, while striking out seven Cougars on her way to the complete game victory.

Mt. Hood scored two runs in the first inning off of Cougar starter Alyson Boytz, giving the Saints the cushion they needed to turn the game over to Guischer. The Saints' Lola Ciu crushed a home run in the sixth inning for the final 3-0 score.

Post-Season Honors:

Several Cougars earned recognition for their All-Star performances this season. Tasha Silvius and Rashaun Sells earned NFCA (National Fastpitch Coaches Association) All-American honors. Silvius, Sells, Megan Malvick and Alyson Boytz made the South Region All-Star first team. Sam Owirka, Nicole Lehman and Rachel Ray made the second team.



Photos by Andrew Millbrooke The Clackamas Print

Alyson Boytz throws a pitch in the game against Everett. She and Lucy Baldovino maneuvered their talents and helped Clackamas win the first game of the season.



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