

CCC volleyball team digs deep

David Beasley
Sports Editor

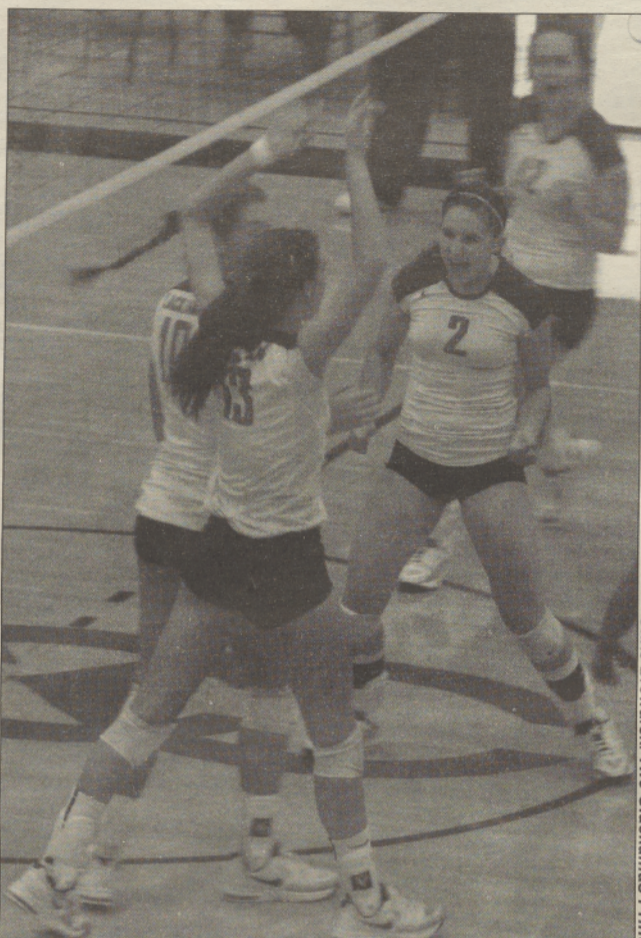
Wednesday vs. New Hope

The stars seemed to align over Randall gymnasium last Wednesday evening, when CCC's volleyball team defeated the New Hope Christian College Beacons in a non-league match.

The Cougars came out strong from the start. Early in the first set, No. 11 Kiki Stonebraker, drove down a powerful spike to put the team at a 3-0 lead. Stonebraker is one of only two sophomores out of the 12 team members.

"I'm the only returner, it's brought a completely new chemistry and it's refreshing," said Stonebraker.

The game was fast paced and the Cougars commanded the lead. No. 14 Courtney Lofton scored with a nice spike and brought the score to 8-6. With another highlight, No. 3 Megan Minke launched a well-placed spike earning 12-8 over the Beacons. The Cougars won the first set 25-13.



Chris Browanski/The Clackamas Print

The Cougars celebrate one of many points leading to a victorious Wednesday evening. From left, No. 10 Hannah Olson, No. 13 Bre Gibbons, No. 2 Taylor Balkan, No. 12 Skylar Fate. More photos on p. 8.

“I feel like we improve every day. Practices are intense, it's really important for a championship NWAACC team. We have a solid group of girls who work really well together.”

Taylor Balkan
No. 2 Freshman Setter

In set two, the Cougars started strong again and kept the lead, using great communication and teamwork. The Beacons hit quite a few outs and the Cougars used

good judgment letting the ball go out. The Cougars dominated 25-10 in the second set.

"I feel like we improve every day. Practices are intense, it's really important for a championship NWAACC team. We have a solid group of girls who work really well together," said No. 2 Taylor Balkan.

Set three started more even and the Beacons stepped it up. But the Cougars picked up more steam and grasped the lead. It was a very close set. A hard-won Cougar spike after a long volley brought the score to 11-9.

The match became more competitive in the third and the Cougars took their first three time-outs. The score read 19-16 at the last TO. The Beacons fought hard but the Cougars finished 25-19 in set three and won the match.

"It was fun, we're really thrilled with the season so far," said head coach Kathie Woods.

The Chemeketa Tournament in August was a rude awakening for the Cougar volleyball team as they endured a 1-4 in the competition. The team has been very active since their first games. They have had ample time to figure out how

to fight as a team.

"We had a slow start but now we are 21-7, 3-1 in league," said Woods.

The Cougars squad gained momentum in their second tournament of the season, taking home four wins to one loss at the Spokane Falls Tournament. They went on to remain undefeated throughout September.

"For me, the highlight of the season was the Spokane tournament," said Balkan. "We learned to play together; it was a fun learning experience for everyone."

The Cougars' only loss since the Spokane Falls Tournament came Oct. 2 against Linn-Benton. Wednesday night's win gave Clackamas confidence for their next game, a league match against top regional rival Mount Hood Community College.

"It's really awesome; we're on fire this year," said Stonebraker. "We had a 15 game winning streak until Linn-Benton, but we're back on track and ready for Hood on Friday. It's gonna be a good game."

Friday vs. Mt. Hood

In association with cancer awareness month, Friday marked the annual Diggin' Pink event. The fund raiser and proceeds from the game benefited pets with cancer, diabetes and other illnesses.

"Diggin' Pink is huge for us," said Woods. "We raised \$2,300 last year. We're over \$1,000 as of today [Oct. 11] and we are raising money all of October. Go to the athletic office to donate."

Friday night was for fighting as the Cougars and Hood battled it out for regional supremacy. It was a rose-tinted evening as both teams sported pink jerseys in honor of cancer awareness. The Cougars even had pink shoelaces and spotted animal-print shorts.

"We call them Cougar shorts; they went well with the theme of tonight," said No. 10 Hanna Olson.

While the Cougars were behind for much of the game, they had some nice plays and remained

competitive. The Randall bleachers were full, the crowd was big. The team played well together often. One of the individual successes was Olson's great block towards the end of set one, putting 16-20 on the scoreboard.

The Cougars suffered a hard-fought loss as set one ended in a close 21-25. They came back stronger in the second set. They gave Hood a run for their money, but even with the loud cheers and support from the Clackamas fans, Hood was able to steal the win for set two. The Cougars looked like they had a chance to win it after a great serve by Stonebraker, making it 22-24. They had great momentum, getting closer at 23-24, but were edged out 23-25.

After the second set of the Diggin' Pink match, 2012 CCC volleyball alumna Annie Cook read a tribute in memory of coach Woods' beloved pet dog Cougie and told the crowd about the fundraiser for animal cancer support and cancer awareness. The Cougars were down but not out; they still had desire to win. The third set was by far the most exciting and intense.

"It's a big match for us, so we had to give it our all," said Olson.

And they did. They managed to slide ahead on the scoreboard taking a 7-6 lead. There was a back and forth battle, with Hood getting the better of an epically long volley for 7-8. The Cougars later gained an 11-9 lead.

"I thought we played well, but inconsistent, we fought hard," said No. 13 Bre Gibbons.

The fighting continued as Hood came back with a vicious five point lead in the remainder of set three. The game ended in a clear win for Hood at 19-25 of the third. The Cougars are now 3-2 in NWAACC league, but also an impressive 21-8 season total.

There is much to come from the championship-minded CCC team and the next home game is a league match against Chemeketa. The Cougars defeated Chemeketa before their match against New Hope and look to repeat that performance.

Cougars produce new legends of the fall season

David Beasley
Sports Editor

Amidst the busy bustle of autumn, new beginnings have given shape to CCC's 2013 fall sports season. With so many new recruits added to each of the Cougars' fall sports teams, this season promises a fresh experience.

Volleyball

The Volleyball team acquired 11 new players for the season. The team has a record of 3-2 in NWAACC league and 21-8 this season. They are ranked third in south region.

Cross Country

Cougar cross country picked up seven new men and seven new women this season. The team competed in a few recent events. Sept. 7 was the Clark XC Classic NWAACC Preview in Battleground. CCC competed against Spokane, Clark, Everett, Highline, Lane, Mt. Hood, Olympic and SW Oregon. Two Clackamas runners finished the men's 8000 meters ahead of the rest. Jorge Gil-Juarez was first with a time of 26:03 and Jackson Baker came in second at 26:04.

Clackamas competed against Mt. Hood on Sept. 21 at the Oak Knoll Loop in Independence, Ore. Jorge Gil-Juarez finished the 8000 meters first out of all NWAACC competitors with a time of 25:06.15.

CCC hosted the annual Mike Hodges Invitational this past Saturday. The Cougars placed four men in the top five of the

8000 meter race against Spokane, Clark, Highline, Mt. Hood and SW Oregon. Pake Benthin finished first at 26:19.54, Jackson Baker was second with 26:19.77, Jorge Gil-Juarez came in third at 26:19.97 and shortly behind was Scott Schmitt in fifth at 26:28.03. CCC men placed first as a team and the women placed fourth.

Soccer

CCC women's soccer gained eight new recruits this fall. The soccer team is 8-1-1 in NWAACC league and 8-3-1 this season. They are the top team in the south region and are second in league points, tied with Walla Walla.

"We've had a few good games, the girls are doing really well," said Miriam Coto, assistant coach. "Pretty much half the team is returners, we've got a good freshman class too."

Non-Fall Sports

CCC's winter and spring sports teams have also been gearing up for their respective seasons.

Wrestling

The wrestling team has been active as they ready for their first scheduled events. Navy & Scarlet, an exhibition, will be at home on Thursday Oct. 24 starting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday Oct. 26 CCC will host their 30th annual Takedown Tournament which is open to the public. All ages and weight classes are eligible. Registration begins at 8 a.m., a takedown clinic will be offered between 9:30-10:30 a.m. and the competition starts at 11 a.m.

Basketball

The women's and men's basketball teams have been hard at work preparing as well.

"We worked out two to three days a week during the summer," said the men's head coach Cliff Wegner. "This is our first official week of practice."

Softball and Baseball

Both CCC's softball and baseball teams have been keeping busy, practicing and playing non-league games. The baseball team was proud to have some star players shine last month at Lower Columbia in Longview, Wash.

"Seven of our guys were selected for the sophomore showcase All-Star game for NWAACC," said Robin Robinson, head baseball coach. "Four of them have been heavily recruited since."

The Cougar baseball team will play seven weeks of fall ball.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Sports CALENDAR October 18-22</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY - 4/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer: 1 p.m. Oregon City HS Stadium 	<p>FRIDAY - 4/18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer: 1 p.m. Oregon City HS Stadium • Volleyball: TBA Belleview CC 	