

Cougars clinch soccer playoff spot with thrilling win over the Storm

Chris Browarski
The Clackamas Print

The Storm of Chemeketa Community College couldn't rain on Clackamas' parade as the Cougars women's soccer team defeated their division rivals 4-2 this Friday. The sunny 70 degree day at OC's Pioneer Stadium provided a perfect setting for the Cougars offense to shine in a game riddled end to end with scoring.

The Chemeketa defense looked disheveled as midfielder Olivia Thoroughman caught them off guard with a charge at their goal during the opening minute of play. The quick goal foreshadowed a dominating performance as the Cougars held possession of the ball through most of the match and set up many scoring chances.

Chemeketa was able to tie the game up quickly at the eight-minute mark as a shot from Hannah Lopez slipped past Clackamas goalkeeper Melanie Trumbull. The Storm's relief was only temporary as the Cougars once again found the back of their goal via the foot of Stephanie Corea with an assist by Mecca Krutsinger.

Down 2-1 early in the match, Chemeketa coach Art Mota made the adjustment at goalkeeper and pulled Tonya Corral in favor of Cheyenne Myers. The change would prove beneficial for the Storm as Myers was able to get her hands on several shots at goal, earning nine saves for the day. Chemeketa showed frustration after the second goal, picking up a much more aggressive, physical style of play. The referees were lenient to the rough game play showing no cards the whole afternoon, but the Cougars were awarded the majority of the free kicks for the day.

The Cougars maintained their high pace despite the aggressive opposition. Clackamas Coach Janine Szpara's yelling drowned out the Chemeketa coaching staff throughout the game. Szpara mostly yelled short, simple phrases.

"Talk!" Szpara screamed, encouraging constant teamwork when her players made errors due to lack of communication.

"Separate! Press up! Cross it!"



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Tahni Harr (11) makes a play against two Chemeketa defenders. The Cougars beat the Chemeketa Storm 4-2, clinching a NWAAC playoff spot. The Cougars lead the South Division with four regular season games left.

Szpara yelled often. She occasionally issued more direct orders to the team for on-field adjustments.

"Claudia, you're playing too tight! Keep her (Storm player) and the ball in front of you!" Szpara demanded as Claudia Flores was defending a Chemeketa throw-in.

Despite the aggressive nature of their opposition, the Cougars pressed hard, using quick style. Flashy plays throughout the day included passes through opponents' legs by Tori Roberts and Stephanie Corea, both inspired

cheers from the crowd. The home team was clearly outpacing the women from Chemeketa.

"They [Clackamas] are just out-running them all game," said fan Jill Freeders at half time. "I think the other team is getting tired."

The Cougars continued to play hard. Tori Roberts managed to slip two shots into Chemeketa's net. Roberts first scored off an assist from Thoroughman at the 66 minute mark, and then again to put the game out of reach in the 89th.

Chemeketa player Hannah Lopez was able to score after 73 minutes of play, but ultimately Clackamas was the better team that day.

Other than fast offense, the Cougars tough defense was excellent at blocking scoring chances throughout the game. Despite the two goals allowed, Melanie Trumbull collected two saves including a punch clearing the ball to the other side of the field.

There were about 50 Clackamas fans in attendance Friday to cheer on their Cougars. The fans loudly

rooted for their team's exciting play.

"I see NWAAC champ potential here," said Grant Sitton, Cougars supporter and Hope Butler fan. He had a good point as the 10-1-1 Clackamas team clinched a playoff berth and lead the South division in points. The Cougars play the Pierce College Raiders on Oct. 23 in an away game. The Cougars' next and final home game is set for Sunday, Oct. 27, 1 p.m. at OC's Pioneer Stadium.

Heralded new wrestling recruit Adrian Salas adapts to new life at CCC

Sequoia Allen
The Clackamas Print

In a state with over 38 million residents, it's hard to stand out — but being named California's Division I Boys Athlete of the Year in your senior year of high school just about does the trick. Meet Adrian Salas, one of CCC's newest wrestling recruits. He is part of a team of 30 wrestlers that call CCC home and one of about 20 new team members.

In high school, Salas wrestled and played various positions on the football field for Clovis High. Salas won the boys 182-pound California Interscholastic Federation Wrestling State Championship title last March. He was heavily recruited in his senior year, but he eventually set-

led on Clackamas, because CCC has a good wrestling program and because several of his teammates had also come here.

“

He is a good kid, a hard worker and likes to have fun.”

C.J. Palmer
Wrestling teammate

Salas had never been to Oregon before this summer, but while he admits that it is a big change, he expresses satisfaction not only with the wrestling

program at CCC, but also the tree-filled greenness of his new surroundings. The wrestling program is equally happy with him: CCC's wrestling coach Josh Rhoden praised Salas as a super athlete.

"You can't really teach athleticism," said Rhoden. "In those two sports, football and wrestling, he's definitely off the charts."

Salas has joined the Cougars roster in the 184/197 weight divisions. C.J. Palmer, a returning member of the wrestling team, described Salas as strong.

"A lot stronger than most people," said Palmer. "[He is] a good kid, a hard worker and likes to have fun."

Salas began wrestling in fifth grade after his dad told him about the sport.

"[He] told me how physical it was and how you can just drop

someone on [his] head and not get in trouble for it," said Salas smiling good-naturedly, a smile that lit up his whole face. "I started wrestling after that and I just stuck with it."

Now, as a strong, hundred-and-eighty-pound 18-year-old, it is hard to imagine that fifth grader, but the enthusiasm he described is still there. His favorite move is a double-leg takedown.

"[You] take one knee down and you grab both [his] legs with both arms and you just drive right through the guy," said Salas.

The wrestling team often practices eight times a week, but when asked if he liked this demanding schedule, there was no hesitation in Salas' voice as he answered yes. Of course, he can't spend all his time wrestling; he is also busy with his classes. Salas plans to transfer to a four-year university after he finishes up his



SALAS

GED here at CCC and said he's interested in becoming a student adviser. When he transfers, he definitely wants another school with a good wrestling program. For now though, he's a Cougar and, as Palmer described him, a big asset to the team.