

SOCCER: Cougars place third in NWAACC

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A chill breeze and dark clouds rolled in momentarily, but the clouds passed and sun peeked back out. All-Star Claudia Florez attacked with a goal attempt that went over. The action flowed back towards the Cougars' goal, Dija Kirkland took a hard fall while defending and a foul was called on Edmonds. Kirkland landed face-first outside the line and was down for a moment.

"She, like, kicked my ankle and I slid on the turf and twisted my ankle," said Kirkland.

After the resulting free kick, Edmonds brought the attack back again, but Mecca Krutsinger tenaciously defended and deflected the ball. Then a corner kick by Edmonds brought a shot on goal, which Trumbull saved by smacking the ball away with both hands. Edmonds received another corner kick.

Edmonds sought another attack on goal and Trumbull showed how scrappy and resourceful she can be. With the pressure all on her, she saved multiple back-to-back, point-blank shots on goal. The Cougars used excellent teamwork and defense to stifle the attack. Trumbull was fired up. She yelled in triumph and pride for her team's performance.

The Cougars picked up some momentum and started getting the better of the headers, defending and attacking. Towards the end of the first half, Marci Haynes showed solid defense as Edmonds attacked again. Then Edmonds shot, but it went over the goal.

The clouds returned and the sun was gone, dropping the temperature



All-Star Forward Claudia Flores precisely maneuvers the ball through oncoming attackers.

Brittany Horne The Clackamas Print

at 42 minutes on the scoreboard. As the first half neared its end, Tori Roberts took a great long shot that was just wide. It was 0-0 at halftime.

The second half began with an offside call against Clackamas. The play moved back toward Clackamas' goal and a defensive slide tackle that looked like it hit the ball cleanly at first, was declared a foul, right outside the penalty box. Edmonds took an indirect free kick and managed to put together the first goal of the game. Clackamas was down 0-1.

Trumbull had a couple of really nice saves towards the beginning of the second half. The second attempt was a long shot that was set up by Edmonds, quickly driving up-line. On the offensive, Clackamas'

Marci Haynes intercepted and deflected an Edmonds' pass and almost scored, but it went just wide. At 67:38 on the scoreboard, Haynes caught an assist from Roberts and scored after great teamwork and passing up-field. The score was tied 1-1.

"Tori crossed it and Marci shot and scored," said Krutsinger.

Trumbull showed more moxie and bravely challenged an attack by Edmonds, defending well. Then at 71 minutes on the scoreboard, Trumbull deftly saved a straight shot at goal. In an unfortunate turn of events, Carly Turner fouled while defending inside the Cougars' penalty box. A direct penalty kick was awarded to Edmonds. Hannah Shouse took the kick and made it past Trumbull for her team's second

goal. Clackamas was behind 1-2.

"Defense was such a good effort, but when we messed up is when the goals happened," said Krutsinger.

Shortly after Edmonds fouled just outside their penalty box at 75:16 on the board. Butler took the free kick straight towards goal. But Edmonds' goalkeeper, Alecia Longsine, saved it. Tani Harr took another long shot later that was also saved. The Cougars were still battling, trying to attack and keep good defense. At 88:50 on the board, Kirkland showed more solid defense in front of the goal. A corner kick by Edmonds shortly after, turned into a shot on goal that was saved by Trumbull. Trumbull grabbed 11 saves throughout the game.

"I think it was really strong,"

Flores said. "We fought all the way to the end, just couldn't get a goal in, we couldn't finish. We were fighting hard equally."

The Cougars felt the sting of defeat as the match came to a close. Clackamas 1. Edmonds 2. Clackamas took third place. Edmonds lost to Peninsula Sunday and got second place.

"I thought we did good," said Kirkland. "If we had done as good as we did against Spokane, we would have won. We tried."

The Cougars played a strong game and had an inspiring run this season that brought them to the semifinals. Overall, they grew as a team and helped each other improve individually. Here's to another great season turned in by the Clackamas Cougars women's soccer team.

Cougars secure play off spot

Larissa Harper
The Clackamas Print

The crowd yelled and screamed as the Cougars volleyball team stepped onto the court to conquer Linn-Benton on Wednesday, Nov. 13 — the last home volleyball game of the 2013 season. It was also the last game on CCC's court for the two sophomores, Skylar Fate and Kiki Stonebraker.

"This was actually my first year playing here," said Fate. "I transferred from California. It is [on a] different level here but I am proud to be a part of the team. I love these girls."

The first set started out with numerous amazing plays. Stonebraker set up the ball a couple of times for a spike and slid across the floor to save the ball. No. 14, Courtney Lofton, spiked the ball to perfection and earned a point. Sierra VeraCruz, No. 7, the defender and libero of the team, continuously saved the ball and avoided the loss of points by digging. The ladies worked very hard to win the first set with a score of 25-21.

The second set went just as the team wanted. They dominated in plays and continually racked up points. Again, Fate played the front row well and spiked the ball, which made the opposition cringe and dive. But they couldn't recover. Then she simply tipped the ball over the net and it fell to the floor.

No. 13, Bre Gibbons, spiked the ball as well after a great set up

and earned a point. Alexa Toth, No. 9, saw the ball was heading for the floor and threw herself after it, making the save and ending with a somersault. There was a spike, a block and another dig; CCC got the point. Lots of volleying of the ball was done in this match and they pulled through. CCC won set No. 2 with a score of 25-14.

Set No. 3 included a serve that stunned the opposition and went straight to the floor as the Cougars cheered. No. 2, Taylor Balkan, set up the ball for

Stonebraker to spike and earn a point. One more tip over the net earned one last point. The match ended with CCC winning 25-22.

"We played amazing," said Fate.

VeraCruz agreed. "We reached the point we are capable of," she said. "We played a great game. We were very aggressive."

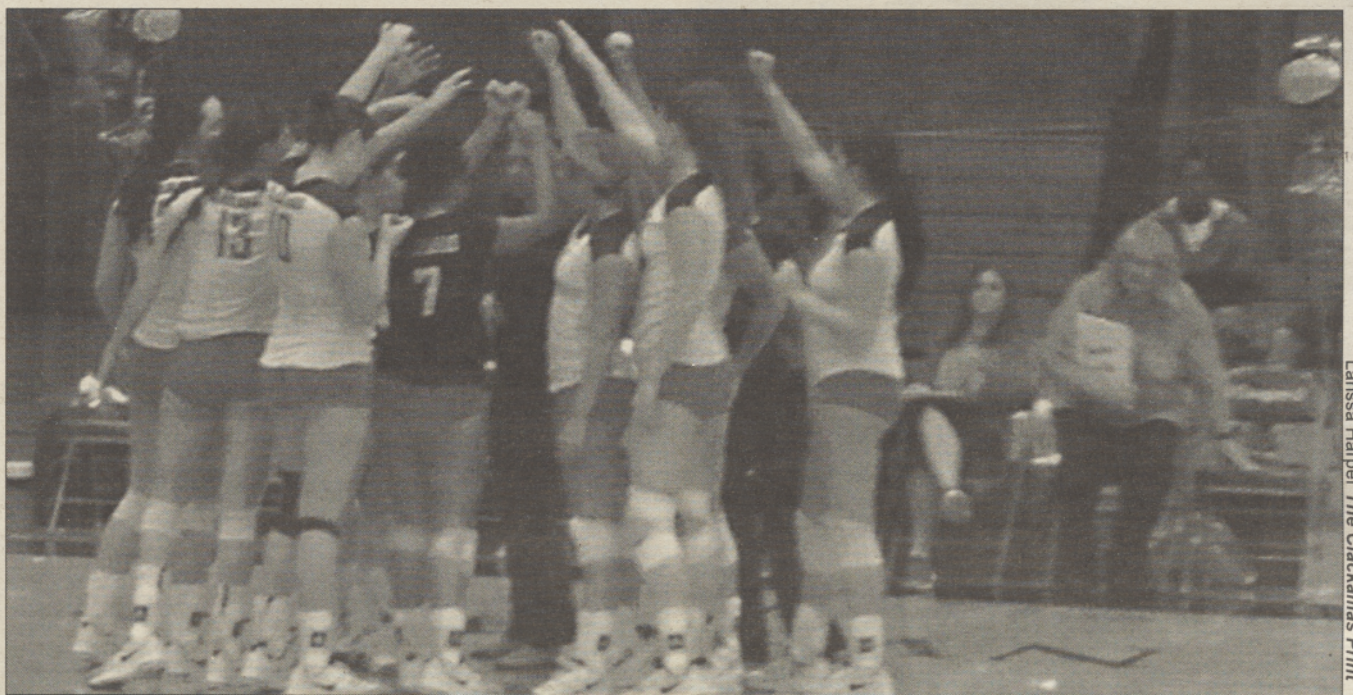
As Coach Woods said, this win was important to the whole team in regards to finalizing the Southern Region league play. The results of the final game determined who was going to be

number two and three in league standings. If the team had lost the match, they would have been third. If they won, they would be tied for second with Linn-Benton. The win against Linn-Benton in three sets was necessary in order to obtain the second seed for the NWAACC Tournament (post season play). They did just that and earned the spot. Clackamas and Linn-Benton ended Southern Region play tied for second. The team will now play their first match of the NWAACC Conference

Championships on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. against the No. 3 seed team, Shoreline CC from the Northern Region.

"I couldn't be more proud," said Woods. "We've worked so hard, we came together well."

Coach Woods, assistant coaches, the team and CCC Cougar fans should be very proud of the team and all their hard work this season. Congratulations as well on being ranked sixth out of 29 teams in their league as they head into Tournament Championship play.



The Cougars gathered during a timeout to pump themselves up for the remainder of the set. They shut out the Linn-Benton Roadrunners.

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