



# Cougars continue march toward playoffs

**Zak Laster**  
Ad Manager

Following up one of their worst losses at home this season against Chemeketa, the Clackamas Cougars men's basketball team may finally start to be hitting their stride. They won three in a row, beating Umpqua Community College and Mt. Hood Community College on the road before taking down Linn-Benton at home, 74-60 on Jan. 25.

"I feel like we're starting to come together," said Tim Lott, sophomore wing. "We're a young team, we just have to persevere through the losses and learn from our mistakes."

Playing Linn-Benton the coaches hoped to turn the game into a slow tempo, grinder-style game and for the most part it was. Linn-Benton was held to 23 points in the first half. With Linn-Benton struggling to score against the zone towards the end of the first half, the Cougars came out in the second half running the same defense.

Linn-Benton was unable to score for the first five min-

utes of the second half, and the Cougars were able to put together a 17-2 scoring run to give themselves a comfortable lead for most of the second half. Still though, the coaches felt there was room for improvement.

"Nineteen turnovers, that's a pretty ugly stat there, but we did have 21 assists so we're trying to do the right thing, sharing the ball," said Coach Cliff Wegner. "A lot of times it was the right idea. It was just a terrible pass."

In the second half, when Linn-Benton made a push to cut the lead, the Cougars were able to use a series of hustle plays, led by Grant Sitton and Lott. Sitton finished the game with 21 points and six rebounds, making nine of his 13 shots, including three big three-point shots to help extend their lead back to a comfortable margin.

"It felt good to hit shots," said Sitton. "I like the home games better than the away games. I know the hoops better."

Helping Sitton on one of his three-point shots was Lott. On a loose ball rolling down the baseline, Lott was able to come

from the opposite free throw line and chase the ball down before it rolled out of bounds, flipped it over to Sitton, who was anxiously waiting to knock down his third three pointer of the second half.

"That was a great hustle play," Wegner said.

This Cougar team had their share of struggles earlier in the season but there are signs that this team has begun to gel.

"We have a lot of freshman, and freshman got to make mistakes to learn and become sophomores, the little things take time," Lott said after the game. "We're learning from our losses."

With their three-game winning streak the Cougars are in a good spot as their march towards the playoffs continues. The Cougars currently sit two games out of first place with seven games remaining.

"We're pretty confident now, we feel like we can win every game," Wegner said. "We just have to focus one game at a time."

The next opportunity to see the Cougars play at home is Feb. 5 at Randall Hall against Portland Community College.



**“**  
*I feel like we're starting to come together. We're a young team, we just have to persevere through the losses and learn from our mistakes.*  
**”**

Tim Lott  
Cougars Basketball

## Campus blood drive wants your veins

**Patty Salazar**  
Editor-in-Chief

No, vampires are not attacking campus, but there are people wanting your precious blood lurking behind the walls of Gregory Forum.

The American Red Cross and Clackamas Community College Associated Student Government are working together this week to host the quarterly blood drive, and they're encouraging all students, instructors, staffers and community members to participate.

For every person who donates blood, three people are helped.

If you are one of the many people who cannot stand the thought of needles, rest assured that there is someone who is willing to sit with you and calm your nerves.

He goes by Dean Wright, an officer of ASG's public affairs division.

"I am not going to sugar coat it," Wright said. "It hurts in the beginning. I will personally stand by you and talk to you and be best friends."

Ali Miller, a CCC nursing stu-

dent, has always wanted to donate blood, she said. But she has never been able to meet the weight requirement of 110 pounds for women.

"There are so many medical instances where people would need blood transfusions," Miller said. "It is a matter of life and death."

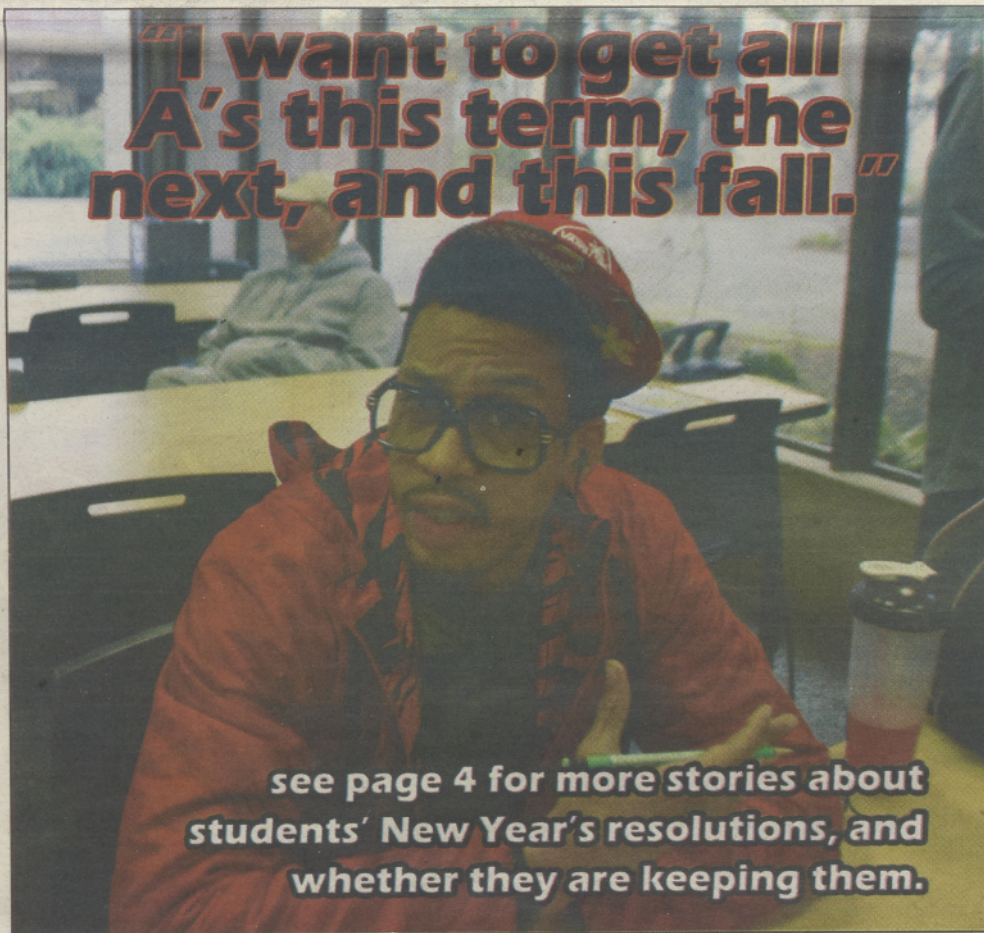
The blood drive will take place in the Gregory Forum from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. Although the ASG office is taking appointments for those wanting to donate, walk-ins are welcomed too.

ASG will be offering students snacks while donors rest. The Red Cross will also be offering free T-shirts to all who donate.

The commitment is small and the pay off is enormous: potentially saving three lives.

Daphne Mattew, director of communication for the Red Cross, said blood supplies will go to local hospitals first than to where ever the demand is needed.

"Almost always people tell me," said Mattew. "If I would have known it was that easy I would have started a long time ago."



see page 4 for more stories about students' New Year's resolutions, and whether they are keeping them.



Natural beauty on page 5