

# When the Cougars come marching in

**Nathaniel Klein**  
The Clackamas Print

On Feb. 19, the Cougars men's basketball team defeated the Mt. Hood Saints men's basketball team. The Saints head coach Geoff Gibor knew the game would be a competitive one.

"Clackamas is a tough team and there's been a rivalry here for years," said Gibor. "You've got two historically good programs going at it tonight."

That statement proved prophetic, as the game went into overtime and was only won because Clackamas gained a rebound point in the last couple of seconds. Before the game began, there was a small ceremony to honor the sophomore players.

Mt. Hood scored the first point in the first 10 seconds, followed by the second point as well. However, despite Mt. Hood's early success, the ball was in the Cougars' hands as much as the Saints'. Freshman forward Brandon Halter scored the first point for Clackamas, followed quickly by Tim Lott.

Both teams fought for the ball, and four minutes into the game it was 4-5. Lott scored

another basket, bringing the score to 6-5. Spencer Bankofier scored the Cougars' next shot, bringing the score to 8-5.

Both sides were in possession of the ball and were all over the court trying to score. Halter scored for Clackamas, the score went to 11-5. That was followed quickly by Mt. Hood scoring, which brought the score to 11-8. Halter nearly made a point, but fell short. A foul shot for Clackamas brought the score to 12-8.

Mt. Hood scored the next two points, bringing the score to 12-12. Halter scored the next point, with a beautiful nothing-but-net shot, quickly followed by a dunk by Lott. This was followed by a timeout.

When the game resumed, both teams struggled to regain the momentum they had before the timeout. Mt. Hood scored first, 17-14. Lott then scored twice in rapid succession, bringing the score to 21-17. Lott scored again after a few moments of both teams trying to get a point, bringing the score to 23-17.

Clackamas continued on a hot streak of points, bringing the score to 29-17 before a foul shot for Mt. Hood brought the score to 29-18. Then there were another two scores for Mt.

Hood, 29-24. Late into the first half, the Saints had picked up some steam and were quickly gaining on the Cougars.

At the start of the second half, both teams went wild trying to get the first point. Clackamas forward Moe Keita scored the first point, followed by Halter, bringing the score to 33-24. Mt. Hood scored next, bringing the score to 33-26.

Neither team was showing signs of fatigue. Clackamas sophomore Grant Sitton scored next, bringing the score to 36-26. Mt. Hood scored three times in a row, bringing the score to 36-32. This was followed by a free shot and another score, 36-35. Then Mt. Hood caught-up and took the lead with another free shot and score, 36-38.

The Cougars had fallen behind, and the Saints were holding on to their advantage, trying to build on it. Penalty shot for Mt. Hood, 36-38. Clackamas picked up some steam, and scored two times in a row, followed by two penalty shots, 43-38. Mt. Hood scored and got another free shot as well, bringing the score to 43-42.

The Cougars scored twice, working to hold on to their miniscule lead, bringing the score to 48-42. By this point, both teams were looking like they were getting tired. By the time the buzzer was about to signal the end of the game, the score was 64-64. Everything rested on the last ten seconds. Both teams managed to score, taking the game into overtime, 66-66.

Both teams were looking clearly fatigued and were slowing down. The coaches called more time-outs in overtime than in the rest of the game combined, all in an attempt to stretch the time out as much as possible. Both teams stayed neck and neck the whole time.

It was the end of overtime, and the score was 72-74. It looked like the Cougars were going to go into double overtime, or lose. But, in an incred-

ible show of teamwork, Lott scored, and Halter caught the rebound and scored again, 76-74.

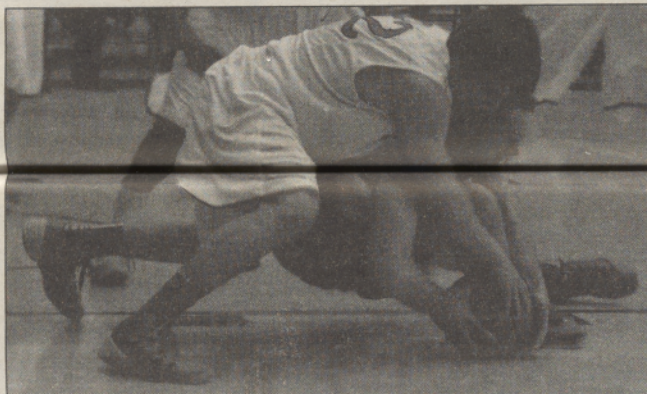
The Cougars won by the skin of their teeth, barely stopping the Saints from beating them on their home turf. When the ending bell buzzed, just seconds after the double score, the stadium erupted into a deafening cheer that rattled the teeth and shook the stands.

The Clackamas men's basketball team traveled to Albany on Saturday to face the Linn-Benton Roadrunners. The Cougars really hit the road as they defeated Linn-Benton in another close game. Clackamas won 72-71, outscoring Linn-Benton by three points in the first half and only

falling short two in the second.

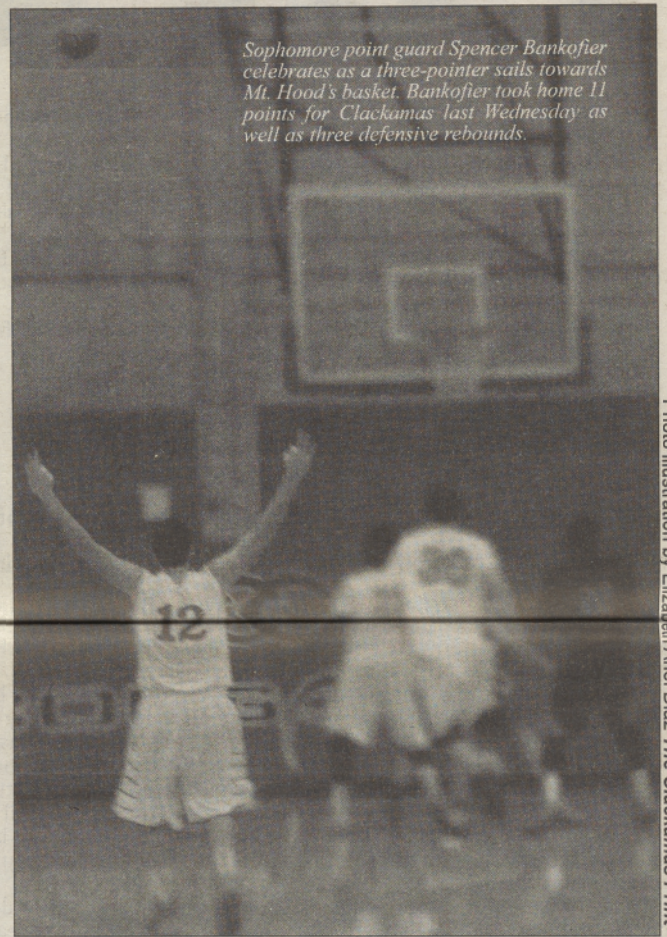
Clackamas point guard Spencer Bankofier hit six three-pointers and racked-up an amazing 22 points total. He was followed closely in points by Sitton, who scored 21. Lott led the team in rebounds with seven total. Forward Ezikiel Martin also had an impressive performance against Linn-Benton. Martin secured 11 points and took advantage of three offensive rebounds in his five total rebounds.

The Cougars' next game will be in the NWAACC Championship Tournament in Kennewick, Wash. The tournament is set for March 1-4 and will be broadcast online.



Elizabeth Aniel Diaz The Clackamas Print

Freshman forward Brandon Halter takes a page from the wrestling team as he attempts to grapple the ball from a Saints player. Halter scored 10 points for Clackamas last Wednesday and stole five total rebounds.



Sophomore point guard Spencer Bankofier celebrates as a three-pointer sails towards Mt. Hood's basket. Bankofier took home 11 points for Clackamas last Wednesday as well as three defensive rebounds.

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