



Cougars stifle Saints, finish regular season with a win-streak

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The Clackamas Print

Having already clinched an NWAACC playoff birth, Clackamas didn't even need to win Wednesday night. Regardless, the women capped off the season with a huge win over the winless Mt. Hood Saints. The Cougars lead the game end to end in the 88-40 blowout.

The home team looked excited and energized and played a fast up-tempo offense while putting on defensive pressure on the other end. The Clackamas women had the edge in every statistical category by the end of the

game, most notably a shooting percentage of 52 that doubled the Saints' 24 percent. Rebounding and assists were also big advantages on Clackamas' end as the women pulled down 53 boards and dished out 16 assists respectively.

Sophomore Laci Effenberger was having a good time in her final Clackamas home game and played with a smile. She offered fans a show, knocking down a trio of three-pointers on her 23 point night. Effenberger showed off with some no-look passes including one from near half court to Emily Pengelly who was fouled on the shot. Effenberger lead the team in assists with six and even pulled down six rebounds despite being one of the shorter women

on the court at 5 foot 7 inches tall.

"It was a fun year," said Effenberger. "We had some rough patches in the middle but in the last three games we came together as a team. It's fun to bring each other's confidence up. We got to keep a nobody-can-stop-us attitude."

The game capped off a streak of three big wins to close out the season that started after a tough loss to Chemeketa. Also confident in the team's momentum was Cassidy Edwards, who was untouchable on offense. She nailed down six three-pointers on her 24-point night. Edwards also grabbed five rebounds and two steals in her huge night.

"We played the past three games well and got our mojo

back," said Edwards. "If we can play like this, nothing can stop us."

Tori Wilkinson was a monster in the post, collecting 10 rebounds and blocking four shots. Lauren Lindley also played aggressive defense with four blocked shots of her own. Jasmine Gibbs-Brown had sticky fingers stealing the ball away from the saints four times while putting up 12 points.

Coach Jim Martineau was happy with the performance. He felt it was the team's goal to hold Mt. Hood to 40 points. He saw the three-game streak as a good way to finish the season.

"I think there are about eight teams that can win it [NWAACC playoffs] all and we're one of them," said Coach Martineau.

"We've beaten everyone in the top five at least once. We have to go up and play well and we'll have a chance to win."

Clackamas finished the season fourth in the NWAACC South region with an 8-4 division record, going 19-6 overall. Their season will extend into the NWAACC Championship. The Cougars will truly be tested in the first round facing NWAACC West's champion Clark Community College who finished the season with a league best 23-3 record and a six game winning streak. The tournament begins on March first in Kennewick, Wash., but Clackamas fans can watch a stream of all tournament games live on the NWACC website.



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Cougars Basketball

Left: Sophomore Tori Wilkinson zips past the Saints defense, driving to the hoop for a layup.

Bottom: Laci Effenberger scans the court for an open teammate during her 23-point, six-assist effort.



Photos by Chris Browarski The Clackamas Print