

Wrestling starts season with win

BY KATIE ARCHER

In the last nine consecutive years, Clackamas Community College has beaten Simon Fraser University. On Saturday, Nov. 7, the Cougars defeated Simon Fraser again but in a close 20-17 victory.

The next day, Nov. 8, at the Mike Clock Open at Pacific University, CCC discovered Simon Fraser is better this year than in the years past.

Wrestling head coach Josh Rhoden said, "They're a better team than we thought, which was nice to not feel like we underperformed, but gave us some things to, you know, evaluate and coach up a little bit as we go forward."

The Mike Clock Open had some big name schools like Oregon State University and a top NAIA program, Southern Oregon University.

The Cougars had five wrestlers produce top four finishes at the Mike Clock Open.

Chris Garcia placed third in the 149

weight class.

Brandon Davidson placed second in the 157 weight class.

Tommy Brewster placed third in the 165 weight class.

Haszell West placed fourth in the 184 weight class.

John Morin placed second in the 197 weight class.

Rhoden said walk-on Blake McNall wrestled fantastically over the weekend even though he didn't place.

"That's always exciting when you see guys like Blake and some of those younger guys that are really working hard and seeing the results," said Rhoden. "It's tough sometimes when you see guys put in a ton, a ton of work and not get the results yet. It's encouraging to get to see those guys do that."

After the back-to-backs, Monday was used as a day off for the team to get treatment and ice baths. Injuries have been affecting the team. Some guys

are waiting to hear back on their MRI results and another is getting an X-ray.

On Saturday, the team will be in Redding competing against some of the top schools in California.

Davidson is excited to wrestle other teams but he thinks it's more important that the team focuses on recover-

ing and playing it smart on the short week to get ready for the upcoming competition.

Morin said, "I think it's exciting we get to travel as a team for the first time, as a new squad. I'm sure it will be a good bonding experience, and usually we do pretty well."

photo by Merari Calderon Ruiz



Student athletes perform in class

STORY AND PHOTO BY KATIE ARCHER

This award isn't earned on the playing fields but in the classroom. The victory walk isn't up a podium to receive a medal but across a stage to receive a diploma.

Clackamas Community College has been awarded the NWAC President's Cup.

The NWAC's President's Cup is a new award that was started three years ago to recognize student athlete success in the classroom through GPA and students receiving a diploma or certificate when leaving CCC. The award is broken up between large and small schools in the NWAC based on the number of sports available; less than 7 or more than 8.

Last spring, 63 percent of the sophomores graduated with a degree. Out of 170 active roster athletes, 120 had a 2.75 or higher and 70 had a 3.25 or higher.

In the past two years, the college has finished second and fourth.

The President's Cup was presented in the Randall lobby to Joanne Truesdell on Nov. 10, before the home volleyball game.

Athletic Director Jim Martineau said the lobby was chosen because the student athletes spend time

doing their homework and meet with their coaches, mentors and advisers in the lobby.

Truesdell said in an email, "I thank the hard work of all our instructors and coaches here at Clackamas Community College. Their dedication to student success is how CCC fosters student personal growth and academic excellence."

Athlete academic adviser PJ Martineau spends 15 hours a week helping athletes stay on track for graduation.

"We have a great group of coaches who care about their athletes in their sport but more importantly in the classroom," said PJ Martineau. "It's a good team effort."

CCC helps student athletes succeed with grade checks, advising and college success classes along with meeting individual academic needs of athletes.

Being a recipient of the NWAC President's Cup shows, "The things we try to do well, we actually do," said Jim Martineau.

"I'd also like to recognize and congratulate all our student athletes," said Truesdell.

