



At the beginning of their Writing 121 class, the players listen to Sue Mach talk about their personal narratives on Jan. 27 in the Moda Center. With events going on in the Memorial Coliseum the team had to hold class in a different location.

# JUNIOR COLLEGE FOR JUNIOR PROS

## COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS TRAVEL TO THE ROSE QUARTER TO TEACH THE PORTLAND WINTERHAWKS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATIE ARCHER

Teaching at Clackamas Community College normally means going to one of the three campuses or online. Traveling to Memorial Coliseum to teach the Portland Winterhawks' players is a bit abnormal.

About four years ago, CCC started working with the Portland Winterhawks. The goal is for the players to have options. In case hockey does not work out, they will have college credits.

Instructors from CCC have taught the Winterhawks sport and exercise psychology, personal finance and more.

Courses are also scheduled differently and are not the usual 11-week class. Due to the players' crazy schedules, the Winterhawks organize the classes to fit accordingly. The classes last the length of the season, the end of September to the end of March, and the instructors host their classes at the Memorial Coliseum.

Sue Johnson, the educational adviser for the Winterhawks, said the team feels strongly about having good education available for the players. Johnson looks for classes that are transferable and will also be of interest to young men.

Johnson said, "[It's] just as important for them to be working on their minds as

working out."

The Winterhawks are a part of the Western Hockey League a junior professional league. Johnson said they are the only team that requires its players to take classes.

One of the players, Dominic Turgeon said, "It's helped me a lot, how they make kids go to school here. I feel like it's very important that we do this."

The players' ages range from 16-20. Only the players who are out of high school will take the college classes taught by CCC instructors. The high school aged players will attend classes at a local high school.

None of the boys are local. Many of them come from Canada or other U. S. states and some have even come from Europe.

Learning how to keep control of a bunch of hockey players seemed to be a common challenge for CCC instructors.

The players are currently taking two classes, the history of rock and roll and Writing 121. Sue Mach is teaching Writing 121.

Mach said, "It's a challenge, but it's fun. They're an interesting group of guys."

The players are working on digital stories, which are personal narratives told through voiceover and pictures. Mach's only requirement was for the players to be honest.

"The most important thing as a writer is your voice and telling something that is original as your finger print," said Mach.

At first the players were reluctant and didn't know how to write. As the class has proceeded, the players became more open to writing. Mach said the personal narratives have been outstanding because they were coming from a place that was true to them and hockey was a common thread.

"For a lot of these guys ... hockey was a way to put meaning back into their lives or get their lives back together or focus on something when everything else in their life was going crazy," said Mach.

The players were sharing some very personal stuff about them, from times of depression, to trying to become a better person, to dealing with parents divorcing.

The guys come from different backgrounds and Jack Dougherty said the team isn't going to look down on their teammates for sharing personal stuff. In fact,

they like hearing about it because it helps them get to know each other better.

Keoni Texeira and Skyler McKenzie both said they liked Mach because she puts up with them.

"We kinda get rowdy, once in a while," said Keoni Texeira. "She always arguing back with us, so it's fun."

Dougherty shared similar comments.

"She pushes us," said Dougherty. "It's a tough job to teach a bunch of teenagers who, as much as the league would hate to say it, we aren't here for school. We're here to play hockey and go to school in our off time."

Sport and exercise psychology was taught by Keoni McHone. Being the CCC track coach, he is used to working on keeping control of a group when there is an agenda that he needs to address.

McHone uses an icebreaker early in class that involves tossing tennis balls and using people's names to eventually get two tennis balls passing at a fast speed.

"We're into it for probably ... [the] longest I've ever had a group do it before. And one of the guys drops it. And then he starts running towards the door and a bunch of the guys jump on top of him,"