



*“Play hard and live up to the Clackamas tradition” - Jessica Buel*

Photo by Austin Boltz

Clackamas Community College sophomore Taylor Balfour makes contact with the ball, helping the Cougars in their win against Corban University on Sunday, Feb. 28.

## 3-1 START TO SOFTBALL SEASON LEAVES COUGARS WITH HIGH HOPES

BY TRAVIS WHITTAKER

Last season the Clackamas Community College women's softball team came in as the No. 2 overall seed in the NWAC conference championships with an overall record of 35-10. They made it to the semi-finals before losing to Spokane CC and arch rival Mt. Hood CC in the consolation semi-finals to finish 3rd place in the tournament.

This season, they look to improve on where they finished last season. They see themselves being in the conversation for the NWAC Conference Championships once again this season. With 13 new players on the roster, head coach Jessica Buel still feels that they have what it takes to be able to contend for the championship.

“Our expectations are always the same, to be playing for a championship,” said Buel. “Play hard and live up to the Clackamas tradition and show everyone our hard work and how it will eventually pay off in the end.”

After this year, sophomore infielder Kylie Gonzales will be playing for the University of Great Falls in Montana. Gonzales shared about how the team has prepared for the season.

Story continued online at [TheClackamasPrint.com](http://TheClackamasPrint.com)

# SPRING TIME SEASON OPENERS

## YOUNG TEAM FACES ROCKY ROAD WITH ONLY FOUR RETURNING STARTERS

BY TOM BOGGESS

It's time for a new season for the Clackamas Community College baseball team. The less than successful 14-26 season of last year has long since passed.

Even though last season wasn't positive, the team won eight more games than the previous year.

Jim Hoppel is beginning his second year as the baseball team's head coach.

“We lost our No. 1 and No. 2 pitchers from last year, so the biggest thing for me this year was to recruit some good pitchers,” said Hoppel. “This year we only have four returning starts from last year's team. We have a starting pitcher, a first baseman, a DH, [designated hitter] and a left fielder.”

“We have one player from Japan coming back who is a shortstop that did not see much playing time last year but is expected to be a starter this year,” Hoppel said. “We have a young team this year, but our starting defensive team will be alright.”

Right now the Cougar team roster has 35 players with 23 freshmen on that list. There are four freshman catchers. A freshman will probably start at second base and third base if they can handle the hot corner. The right fielder and center fielder will probably also be freshman.

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Starting pitcher Jacob Brugman walked eight players before heading to the dugout in the third inning.



photo by Victoria Trinker