

CLACKAMAS PLAYER EARNS TOP HONORS

JO PAINE WINS NW ATHLETIC CONFERENCE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

BY EDGARD VALENCIA

Hard work and leadership paid off for sophomore guard Johanna "Jo" Paine, as she was named NWAC basketball player of the year last month, ending her magical season with a cherry on top.

Paine had a monster season for the Cougars, finishing in the NWAC top three in points, rebounds and assists. In 30 games she averaged 23.13 points per game, 12.27 rebounds per game and 5.2 assists per game.

She was named Sothern Region MVP also as she led the Cougars to a 20-10 season which came to an end with a tough loss to Bellevue 76-81 in the regional playoffs.

She says farewell to Clackamas and leaves her mark in the college's record books. Her 694 total points and 368 total rebounds for the season leave her as second of all time in each category for any lady Cougar player.

The Clackamas Print: Were you in any way expecting this award?

Jo Paine: I honestly didn't even know there was such thing. So, yeah, it was a surprise.

TCP: How did you find out about it?

JP: I found out through Twitter. Someone tagged me in a photo saying I was player of the year.

TCP: How would you describe the season?

JP: I am pretty happy about it. Of course I would have liked to have done better; who

wouldn't want to add up their stats some? Individually, I became a better player this year. I was able to work on my game and really focus on things that needed improvement. Being in the top three in three different categories is pretty rad.

TCP: What is next for you?

JP: I am transferring back to a four-year university. Not sure which one yet, but that is my plan.

TCP: After having played for a DI school, how would you describe your one season as a Cougar?

JP: I have loved it. I wish we would have gone further in the tournament, but the experience and the friendships I have made have been more than I could ever imagine. It's more than just basketball here. Not only do you gain better knowledge about the game, but you also gain a family here. Winning is great, don't get me wrong. But it's so much more than that. My experience here at CCC has been life changing.

TCP: Is there anybody you would like to thank for this award?

JP: I wouldn't be the player or the person I am today if it wasn't for my head coach Jim Martineau. He believed in me when not a lot of people did. He gave me a second chance to get my life back on track. Playing for him has been an experience like no other. Not only is he my coach, but he also is family to me.

photo by Austin Boltz



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