

a highly competitive or even cutthroat environment at the UO on the football field.

"I think the difference is that he isn't worried about making the choice between football and baseball, choosing which school to go to. Now he seems relaxed, like he's just having fun playing the game," said Gillett. "He commented to me that he didn't realize how much he loved baseball until he left it."

After playing at the championship level of college athletics, Brett now knows what to expect in the future as he continues his baseball career.

"It made me realize this is the world of athletics, not everybody there has got your back, you really have to watch out for yourself," said Brett. "I don't think I was ready for the day in and day out mental grind. It's not only physical, it's a mental grind, and that's one thing I forgot about once I got there."

Out of high-school, Brett was eligible to enter the MLB draft and was projected

to be picked as high as the tenth round. He had teams like Arizona and Tampa Bay ready to put him in their farm league systems. Now that he is back to baseball the draft is once again his ultimate goal.

"The reason I play is because one day I want to get to the highest level and compete at the highest level," said Brett. "I dream of waking up every day and going out there and competing against the best guys because I think of myself as one of the best ball players, so I wake up every morning with that thought on my mind. This is definitely a stepping stone to that opportunity."

Happy to be back to baseball, the 6'2, 220-pound center fielder will help Clackamas on the diamond while pursuing his own dreams and aspirations in the sport. As grey skies and wet days turn to warm sunshine, Bafaro will welcome in spring, knowing that his first season as a collegiate baseball player is upon him.

Photo contributed by The Oregonian/OregonLive



Brett Bafaro is with his family as he signs his letter of intent with UO at Liberty High School.

Photo by Austin Boltz



Tierrany Marshall-McBride takes a free throw shot at Clark College.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Clackamas women's basketball team battled through a rocky start to league play, injuries and even facing teams with twice as many players on their roster; but they still made the most of their season.

The Cougars finished the regular season with an overall record of 17-11, with a 9-7 league record that earned them a third-place finish in the Northwest Athletic Conference Southern Region.

Their third-place finish qualified them for the NWAC tournament where they faced Walla Walla Community College for the second time this season. In the prior meeting, back in December, CCC's women defeated Walla Walla 65-59 in overtime.

During the first-round game, Walla Walla jumped out to an early lead of 16-7 at the end of the first quarter and did not look back. Clackamas kept the game within reach through its entirety, being down by only five at the half. The second half had more of the same for the lady Cougars, and they could not quite catch the Warriors.

Clackamas's season came to an end with a 74-65 loss in the first round of the NWAC tourney at the hands of Warriors of Walla Walla on Saturday, March 11.

— Doug Fry

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

As the regular season comes to an end, so does the Clackamas men's basketball playoff hopes.

For the first time in 17 years, the men's team failed to qualify for the 16-team Northwest Athletic Conference Tournament.

The Cougars finished their season with an 8-8 record in the Southern Region and a 15-13 record overall record, holding onto a winning season. The CCC hoopers ended their season with three straight losses, all in closely fought games: 99-96 to Umpqua in double overtime and 69-64 to Clark College. But they still had hope with one game remaining against Portland Community College.

Going into their final game against PCC, Clackamas was in a 5-team tie for third. In a back and forth game, Clackamas lost a heartbreaker with a score of 74-72, ending their season.

— Doug Fry