

BASEBALL LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR NEXT SEASON

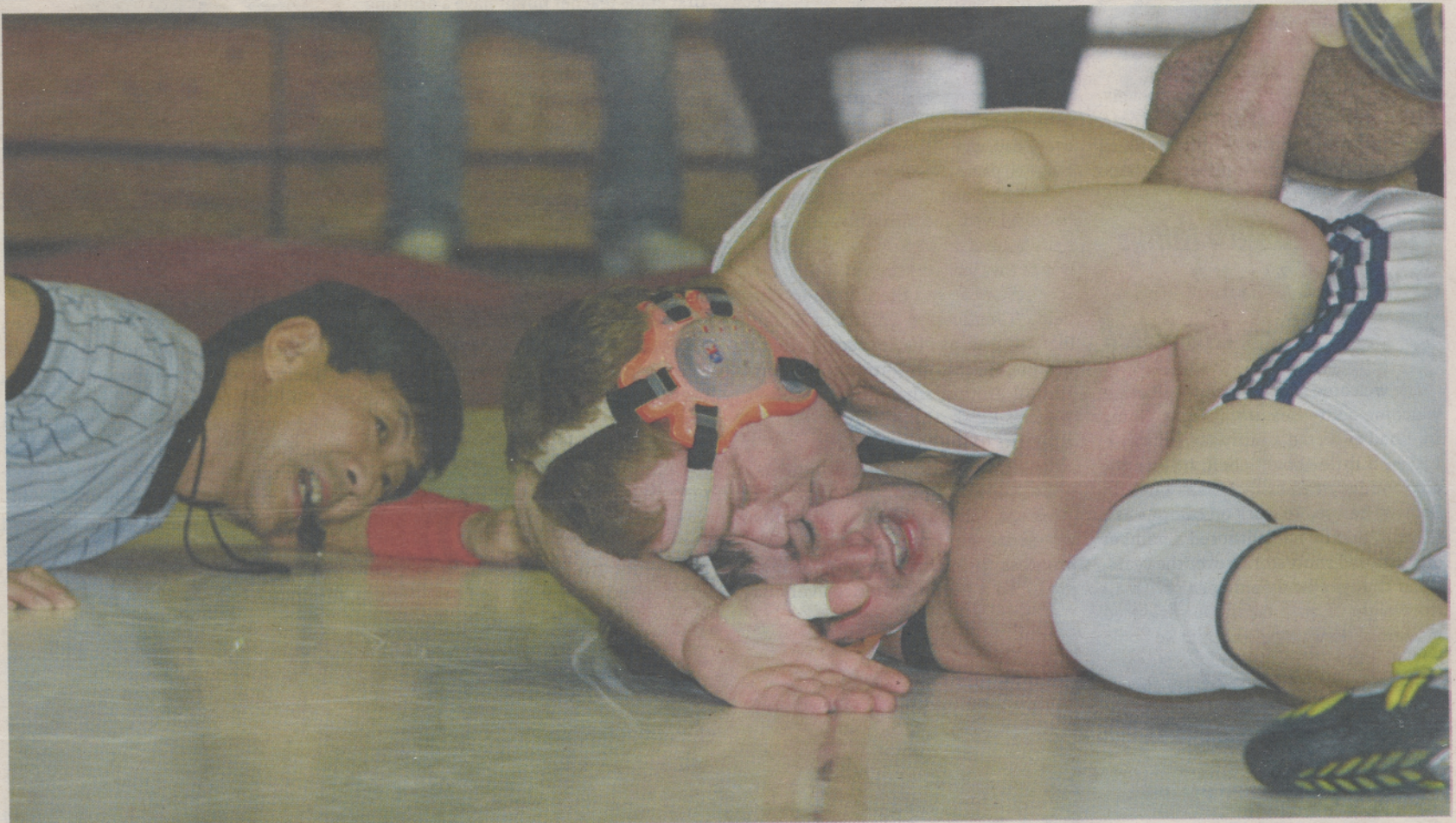
BY DOUG FRY

The spring baseball season has come to an end for the Cougars. Clackamas Community College finished with a league record of 7-17 and an overall record of 14-27. The team had high hopes for the season, but in the end it seems that they struggled to overcome the problems a young roster brings, with Clackamas' 30-man roster, 17 were freshman.

Although Clackamas finished last place in the Southern Region, it was a season to build on. The Cougars were able to more than double their wins in league from the previous year and more than triple their total wins. Also, this season, Clackamas was able to improve hitting. In 2016, the Cougars only had 2 HRs in the year, while putting 16 over the fence this season.

Seven of the 14 pitchers on the roster are sophomores, meaning Clackamas will have the task of replenishing their pitching staff. Returning pitchers that threw in 10 games or more this season include Grayson Fenwick, Renner Stecki and Cody Anderson. Clackamas' baseball team already has five letters of intent from players that plan on joining the roster next season.

The Cougars will look to the upcoming months to find ways to improve on this season. With a young roster, and expecting many of the freshman to return Clackamas, baseball can look forward to the possibility of finding success next season.



Jensen (top) pins his opponent during his career at CCC. Jensen made the team at age 36.

for that full two years. I knew that it would be a life changing experience for me.”

Jensen went on to have a winning season in his second year at CCC and was seeded second in the Regional Tournament. By this time, he was engulfed in the spotlight. All of the local papers, news teams and even ESPN had been following Jensen at this time. He took second place and qualified for nationals.

“As a coach I would say he simply continues to defy the odds in his life,” said

Rhoden. “I’d say his regional and National Championship run was remarkable.”

In his first match at nationals, Jensen won by fall. His next two matches did not go as planned, losing both and being eliminated from the tournament. After his final match, Jensen sat in the center of the mat to take in his storybook season.

ESPN’s documentary was aired in 2009 and the impact was felt across the country. Jensen began speaking to kids about the troubles of addiction and

sharing his story. “Be a Champion in Life” was born, an organization that Jensen has been able to start up now reaches nearly 30,000 kids a year.

Jensen continued his wrestling career on the national level and has competed with team USA around the world. Jensen is a 5-time All-American and was the Folkstyle National Champion in the Men’s Veteran Division in 2016. Jensen has since decided to take time to reach out and share his story with as many people as he can

through his organization

From the outside looking in you may never recognize the pain Jensen has endured. He now owns an automotive repair shop, Affordable Car Doctor, and spends time salmon and steelhead fishing. After 14 years of sobriety, he is able to dedicate his time to be a champion in life and helping others overcome their addictions. Jensen lives the life of a champion.