

# Men's basketball's big three moving on

BY JACOB THOMPSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

If you caught a Clackamas Community College men's basketball game this last season, you're probably pretty familiar with the names Briggs Young, Isaiah Gentry and Nygil Carr. The trio combined to average of 46.8 points per game, 11.2 assists per game and averaged 31.8 minutes per game; Carr led the team in scoring, averaging 20.8 ppg, Gentry led the team in rebounding, averaging 6.9 rebounds per game, and Young led the team in assists, averaging 4.4 apg. With their two years of eligibility at CCC, the trio will split up as they move on to new universities to continue their basketball careers.

Carr is heading to Central Washington University, a Division-II program in Ellensburg, Washington. The Wildcats compete in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, which is the same league Western Oregon University and Concordia University compete in. CWU finished the 2017-18 season with an overall record of 15-13.

Carr leaves Clackamas holding the single game scoring record which he set on Nov. 18 when he scored 51 points against Faith Christian Basketball club. Carr finished his career with 1,114 points and was selected for NWAC All-League honors both of his years at Clackamas.

"Nygil Carr was an electrifying point guard who is always making exciting place on the floor," Head Coach Cliff Wegner

said. "He had a sensational freshman season but struggled to repeat that in his sophomore year when so many teams were geared up specifically to stop him."

Looking ahead, Carr has already set his goals for the coming years at CWU such as maintaining a high GPA and making the D-II basketball tournament, adding that the key to accomplishing his goals will be hard work.

"I'll go in with the same mindset like I always do," Carr said. "Just work and compete."

Young will be moving on to Multnomah University. The Lions had a rough 2017-18 season finishing 9-21 overall, but Young hopes he can help restore the roar at MU and put the Lions back in the postseason.

Young was the Southern Region Player of the Year in 2018, was selected to the NWAC All-Academic team and was chosen as the NWAC Male Scholar Athlete of the year this year. Finishing his career with 452 points and 195 assists, Young led the team in minutes in 2017-18 averaging 32.4 mpg.

Young's academic goals at MU are to maintain a GPA higher than 3.75, which he did at Clackamas with a 3.8 GPA.

"All it has been for me is my pure determination to do well for myself and to destroy the stereotype that has been commonly misinterpreted by many people in the world

about student athletes," Young said. "No matter how much help a person has, they need to want to be successful on their own and that's what it comes down to."

Young said that his favorite thing about playing for the Cougars is the bonds he created with teammates.

"Years down the road I won't remember every game or the stats," Young said, "but I will always be able to check up on the players I played with and see what everyone is doing with their life which will be the greatest thing for me."

Gentry will be attending Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school.

He finished 17-14 overall last year with 838 points, 348 rebounds, was elected to the NWAC first team all-league in 2018 and finished one vote shy of being the Southern Region player of the year.

"Isaiah was a great player to coach and seldom made excuses," Wegner said. "He always tried to do what the coaches asked him to do and always tried to play a role on the team as best he could to help us with the best chance of winning. I think Isaiah will go to Vanguard and perhaps have a sensational career. Possibly an All-American kind of career. If he does what he should do I could see that happening."

Gentry could not be reached for comment.

## Marine in the outfield

PHOTO AND STORY BY JACOB THOMPSON  
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Sophomore outfielder Tyler Parker was one of the best high school baseball players in Oregon. Playing at Liberty High School, Parker was called up to the varsity team as a freshman and stayed at that level for the rest of his career, but he didn't just thrive, making the Oregon Conference's team three times, All-State team in 2015 was NWOC and player of the

With all of in high school, Parker been a very sought for colleges, but the beginning of his school when Parker Marine Corps.

"I didn't want to

Tyler Parker serves in the United States Marine Corps.

Inspired by his father, who Parker said regretted

take the normal route of graduating high school and just going to college," Parker said. "I wanted to be a part of something bigger. I could probably be a senior at a big school right now, but that's not the plan God had in store for me."

Inspired by his father, who Parker said regretted

not serving when he could have, Parker shipped off to basic training in San Diego, California which lasted 89 very very long days as Parker puts it. Boot camp was the hardest thing he's ever done, saying the mental and physical toughness it took was no joke; Parker credits the training with maturing him, but always had his mind on returning to baseball.

"I knew with my contract, barring a deployment, that I'd be able to come back and continue playing," Parker said.

Parker isn't ignorant to the possibility of a deployment. "My attitude towards a deployment was if I had to go, then I'm ready for it," Parker said. "I knew if baseball didn't work out for me then I'd fight and sacrifice for the millions of kids like me with a dream to play baseball."

"I'm fortunate enough to be born in America and have been provided so many opportunities to be successful in baseball and that's not the case everywhere," Parker said. "So every day I get to play, I treat it as a privilege, because I know that I could be halfway across the world in 48 hours."

Parker's transition back to baseball went smoothly, as the right-handed slugger quickly found success at Clackamas Community College, leading the team in home runs, six, and runs batted in, 24, in 2017.

"[Parker] has been a great asset to our team the past two years, one of the best hitters in the NWAC, with a ton of power, and it showed with his nine home runs this year," Head Coach Jim Hoppel said. "He was one of our captains the past two years and his leadership in the weight room, classroom and the field had an impact with the team."

This season Parker once again led the team in batting average (.301), HRs with nine, which was the most by a Clackamas

player since at least 2006, and RBIs with 31, but it's the lack of success in the win column that really got under his skin while playing for the Cougars.

"I can't even describe to you how frustrating it was," Parker said. "I'm used to winning and not just winning, but winning by 20. For Liberty and the Portland Barbers (Parker's summer league team,) we went out every day and expected to absolutely hammer teams."

Parker said he felt things were just different at Clackamas. "We had to play the game a different way to manufacture runs," Parker said. "Unfortunately we just couldn't get it done often enough and it sucks."

Parker was hoping that the team could put the program back into the NWAC playoffs, but even falling short, Parker was reminded of his love for the game.

"It was a grind," Parker said. "There were a lot of ups and downs and it's frustrating to put in so much work and not have anything to show for it in the postseason, but being here for two years really reminded me of my love for baseball and why I play the game."

Parker made an impact on players in the freshman class, who really took a notice to his work ethic.

"[Parker] was the best teammate," freshman third baseman Nate Loranger said. "He was always pushing guys to work harder."

Parker is now transitioning into what's next for him as a baseball player as he considers offers from Division-1 and D-2 programs in Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona, Texas and North Carolina. As far as which way he's leaning, Parker just hinted that he wants to head South.