

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger

BASEBALL COACH SURVIVES HEART SCARE AND RETURNS FEELING BETTER THAN EVER

STORY AND PHOTO BY JACOB THOMPSON
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Sometimes in life things just happen. Without warning signs or reason, it just happens. That is how it was for Clackamas Community College's baseball Head Coach Jim Hoppel.

On June 5, Hoppel woke up with tenderness in his left arm and two hours later was suffering from heartburn. Four hours later he was at a hospital finding out he had a heart attack.

At first Hoppel didn't believe anything was wrong and chalked up the sore arm to throwing during practice and the chest pain to heartburn, but his nurse daughter thought differently; she thought it was weird her father was taking Tums, which he never does.

She inquired about what else her father was feeling. When Hoppel told his daughter he felt a tingling in his left arm, she informed her dad that he was having a heart attack.

"I said, 'No, I'm not,'" Hoppel said. "I felt 100 percent fine. I didn't feel my heart beat racing. I wasn't sweating, nothing like a regular heart attack."

Hoppel continued to get ready for a Portland Pickles game he was going to coach that night. As Hoppel was driving to the game he was talking to his wife and she asked him to go to the hospital, but Hoppel still felt like there was no reason over such little pain. Eventually

Hoppel's wife convinced him to go to convenient care just to get some tests done.

"They did some tests and my heart rate was pretty fast and my blood pressure was pretty high," Hoppel said. "So they wanted to send me to Providence."

After running some tests at the hospital, the doctors had a diagnosis, Hoppel's coronary artery, nicknamed "the widow maker," was 99 percent clogged.

"The weird thing is every year I have to take a physical for my insurance and I've never had high cholesterol, never had high blood pressure, never had any issues that led up to this thing," Hoppel said.

On June 6 around noon, Hoppel had surgery to clear the clogged artery, and by June 8 he was back coaching baseball. Hoppel was glad to get back with the Pickles and restore some normalcy to his summer.

"I was trying to keep it down and not let everyone know what was going on," Hoppel said.

But when he returned word had gotten out and his players were glad to have their coach back.

"After everything we kinda just sat there and joked around," former Clackamas Catcher, Cody Gleason said. "It was good to see him on the field."

Now, Hoppel is feeling even better than before the heart attack and says he feels way less lethargic than he

had been before. For the players like sophomore Tyler Jewett, it's great to have their coach back.

"[Hoppel] will be here for a long time," Jewett said. "I think everybody likes him, he's a good coach, and he knows what he's talking about. He means a lot to the team."

The coach is watching what he eats, losing some weight and mostly excited for the upcoming season with his Cougars.



Hoppel

They said it...

Photo by Jonathan Villagomez



"It was just a huge win and definitely a league upset, which put us in a three-way tie for third and only the top four teams go to playoffs, so it was definitely a huge win for us."

-Olivia Tyson on Clackamas' win over Lane on Oct. 19

"I know that I was really serious throughout the season, and all that melted when we had the final out. This was a great team to play with."

-John Ginsburg on the Triple C's championship

Photo by Jacob Thompson



The Thizzle Bean Crisis

By Eric Carlson

