

Worst season in soccer program history ends

BY JACOB THOMPSON
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A depleted bench and a quiet head coach watched as the final seconds of the worst season in Clackamas Community College soccer history ended Wednesday, Oct. 24, with a 1-0 loss to Clark College at Pioneer Memorial Stadium in Oregon City. The Cougars finished with an overall record of 1-10-4 under first year head coach Miriam Coto.

The Cougars focused on defense more than offense and it showed statistically as Clackamas finished the season only allowing 28 goals, but the offense struggled to put points on the scoreboard finishing with four goals in the entire season, with two of the four goals coming in the Sept. 14 win versus Chemeketa Community College. Clackamas averaged 9.6 shots on goal per game, but averaged less than a goal per game with a goals for average of 0.27.

"[Creatively] we definitely kind of struggled especially in the offensive end," sophomore midfielder Lauren Rock said.

Clackamas started the season 0-2-2 and according to sophomore midfielder Eileen Reyna, it took the Cougars a little time to gel as a team.

"We didn't know how to play with each other, we



Kim Jordan evades Clark College at Pioneer Memorial Stadium, Oct. 24.

couldn't click," Reyna said. "The chemistry wasn't there at first, and it ended up coming at the very end."

Another struggle Clackamas faced was injuries.

According to Rock, sometimes the Cougars were so riddled with injuries they couldn't field 11 players on the field.

"We never really gave up," Rock said. "We were down players for a lot of the season playing with one or two subs or even with less than 11 people on the field, but we played really hard every single game and never gave up."

Out of the 10 losses, Clackamas held opponents to one goal in six of the losses and in the final game of the season, the Cougars showed that even if the wins were still eluding them, they had improved. Holding Clark to one goal in the final game was a far cry from the eight goals they conceded in the first meeting of the two squads.

"It was kind of a building year for us," sophomore defender Kelsey Houston said. "We had a lot of people go and we had new coaching, so I think next year will be better."

Looking forward to next season Clackamas is hopeful that the communication and team chemistry they worked so hard on this year will carry over to the next season.

Wrestlers ready to return to the mat

STORY AND PHOTO BY JACOB THOMPSON
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After finishing the 2017-18 season as the No. 2 NJCAA wrestling team in the nation, the Clackamas Community College mat men are back in action and as always, expectations are high.

"I'm feeling good, I'm coming in confident, I'm looking to win a national championship," 141-pound sophomore Elijah Ozuna said. "I don't expect anything less."

After a summer of intense training, the Cougars are hungry to prove their selves as cream of the crop.

"I trained and trained like an animal," Ozuna said. "I wrestled a lot, I ran a lot and I lifted a lot. I just kept working."

October 26 was the first chance to see the Cougars in action as they competed in the annual Scarlet and Navy inner-squad exhibition.

"I always have mixed reaction at inter-squad because we see each other so much," Head Coach Josh Rhoden said. "You don't know how much of it is 'we need to do better' and how much of it is 'we know each other so well.'"

One of the matches that surprised Rhoden was the 133-pound bout that pinned true freshman Jason Shaner against Nate Johnson. Johnson was an honorable mention for All-American accolades in 2016-17, but Shaner was able to best him 13-4 in their exhibition match.

"In the third round, I took him down and got four points for a near fall," Shaner said. "It was a good hard match."

Shaner has big goals of his own wanting to gain All-American accolades and hoping for a national

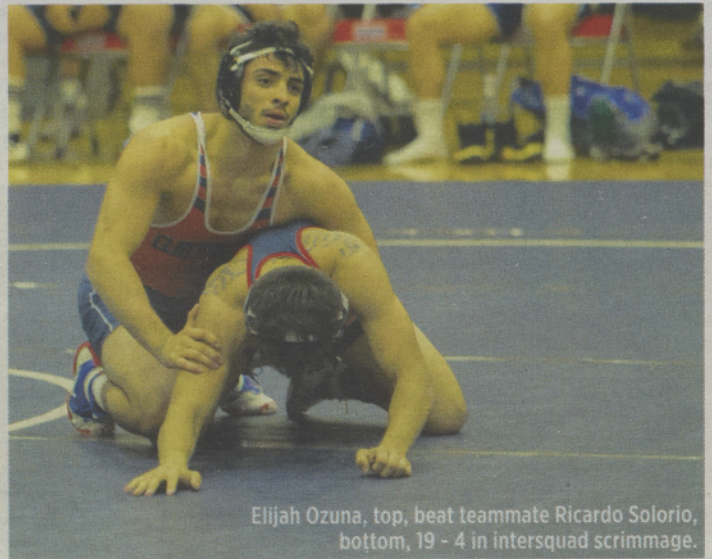
championship for him and the program.

Clackamas is a little banged up for the opener according to Josh Rhoden, but he is confident that the next man up will be ready for the opportunity.

"We've been hurt a lot recently. A lot of our scholarship guys are out right now," Rhoden said. "We're going to have a lot of guys who came here looking for an opportunity and their going to get one next week."

Rhoden is excited to see how good his group is, but admits that winning a championship at all costs isn't worth it.

"Obviously we want to be able to say we can compete for a national championship. Do we want to win one? Yes, but at all cost no, because we've fallen into that trap before," Rhoden said. "If we can say we're competing for a national championship at the end of the year it makes it way more fun at the end of the year. Some years you just get beat and that's



Elijah Ozuna, top, beat teammate Ricardo Solorio, bottom, 19 - 4 in intersquad scrimmage.

sports and we have to acknowledge we're playing a game. Hopefully they'll buy into the Kool-Aid we're selling." The Cougars open up the season 713 miles away from campus as they look to take down Western Wyoming Community College on Friday before traveling to Laramie, to compete in the Cowboy Open at Wyoming University on Sunday.