

Cougar matmen 3rd in the nation

Fortune bags a national title at heavyweight

The Clackamas Review, Mar 4, 2009

ROCHESTER, Minn. – **Clackamas Community College's wrestling team** lived up to their No. 3 in the nation ranking, earning the third place team trophy in Division I of the National Junior College Athletic Association Wrestling Championships, held here over the weekend.

It was the third highest placing in school history and the best finish by a CCC wrestling team since 1989, when the Cougars were national runners-up. Clackamas won the national team title in 1971.

The Cougars nearly finished second. They tallied 87 team points, just 2-1/2 fewer than the national runner-up team from North Idaho (89-1/2). Iowa Central ran away with the team title, scoring 161-1/2.

Clackamas had a national champion in Tyrell Fortune (285), and four other Cougars earned All-American honors. Kyle Wirkuty (141) placed third, Kris Spencer (165) and Caleb Kociemba (184) both placed fifth, and Brett Sanchez (197) finished seventh.

Fortune was dominant, winning all five of his matches by fall. He becomes Clackamas' first national champion since Glenn Garrison finished on top at 142 in 1997.

Fortune earned the Bruce Traphagen Award, which distinguishes the wrestler with the most falls in the least amount of time.

Fortune's biggest win came in Saturday's finals with Northwest Wyoming's Landon Harris, who was the third-ranked junior college heavyweight. It was an even match until 5:49, when Fortune earned his fall.

In other matches, Fortune pinned Tony Culp of Thaddeus Stevens in 2:21, pinned Dondricus Anderson of Spartanburg in 39 seconds, pinned Bojan Djukic of Ellsworth in 1:43, and pinned Ben Hohensee of Labette in 2:00.