

# Clark Makes Run at Title



The Clark College volleyball team celebrates its second place finish in the 2015 season.

The Clark Volleyball team started the NWAC Championship tournament with a No. 3 South Region seed and an opening match loss on Thursday to Walla Walla in five sets. After that, the Penguins went on a roll and won their next six matches on Friday and Saturday to make it to the Championship game on Sunday.

Head coach Mark Dunn said he kept telling the team to take things one match at a time. And after a big win over South Region rival Chemeketa, it was about authenticating that win. "After we defeated Chemeketa on Friday, we felt like we had to validate that on Saturday," Dunn said. "And the ladies came through with four in a row."

Their run at the NWAC Championship came to a halt Sunday afternoon at the Tacoma Convention Center. Three-time defending champ Blue Mountain (42-9) of Pendleton, Oregon, added a fourth straight title with a 3-1 win over the Penguins. The Penguins opened the match with a back-and-forth battle and won 25-23. The next three sets and the title went

to the Timberwolves. Scores for the match were 23-25, 25-17, 25-22, and 25-20.

Clark's Janessa Mast had 14 kills and 16 digs, Livia Strandberg had 12 kills and 10 digs, Meghan Turner had 26 digs, Gauleighyan Eastman had 22 assists and 10 digs, and Kinsey Pease had 22 assists. For a complete box score of the championship:

<http://www.nwacsports.org/volleyball/gameinfo.php?id=5620>

It was the first time since 1979 that a Clark team had played for an NWAC Volleyball title. Clark finished the year with a 26-16 record and as runners-up in the Championship. In addition to taking the second-place trophy, Clark had three players named to the All-Tournament team. Those three were sophomores Meghan Turner and Janessa Mast, and freshman Melisa Ljuca. The all-star libero, Meghan Turner, was also named "Most Inspirational Player" of the tournament.

## **2015 Clark Volleyball (26-15)**

### **26 NWAC Tournament Appearances**

#### **2 top 4 finishes**

#### **Road to the Championship**

#3 Seed out of the South, 7-5 Region Record

Saturday – Clark def Linn-Benton (14-25,25-20,15-13)

Saturday – Clark def Tacoma (25-21,16-25,15-13)

Saturday – Clark def Walla Walla (25-13,25-17)

Saturday – Clark def Bellevue (22-25,25-22,15-6)

Friday – Clark def Chemeketa (21-25,25-23,17-15)

Thursday – Clark def Pierce (25-17,25-13)

Thursday – Walla Walla def Clark  
(22-25,12-25,25-19,25-20,20-18)

#### **Team Tournament Stats**

##### **Hitting Percentage**

Clark – .195, 4th ranked in the tournament

Blue Mountain – .194, 5th ranked in the tournament

##### **Opponent Hitting Percentage**

Clark – .109, 1st ranked in the tournament

Blue Mountain – .144, 3rd ranked in the tournament

#### Assists

Blue Mountain -11.33/set, 3rd ranked in the tournament

Clark – 11.10, 6th ranked in the tournament

#### Kills

Blue Mountain – 12.39/set, 3rd ranked in the tournament

Clark – 11.71, 7th ranked in the tournament

#### Blocks

Clark – 2.43/set, 2nd ranked in the tournament

Blue Mountain – 1.78/set, 6th ranked in the tournament

#### Service Aces

Blue Mountain – 1.78/set, 3rd ranked in the tournament

Clark – 1.14/set, 13th ranked in the tournament

*Photo by Tracy Swisher, NWAC Sports Information Director*

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## **Penguins Enter Hall of Fame**



On Saturday, February 28, the Penguin Athletic Club, in conjunction with the Athletics Department at Clark College, will hold the annual Clark College Athletic Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony at 5 p.m. in the Penguin Union Building. The banquet and ceremony will take place after the women's and men's basketball games that day, which start at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. respectively. The inductees will be honored during halftime of the men's game.

This year's honorees include:



**Lisa Boe** (Women's Basketball) helped lead her team to 55 wins during her two seasons at Clark College. In 1989 the Penguins won the NWAACC (now NWAC) Championship; in 1990, they finished second. Boe was First Team All-NWAACC both years and MVP of the league one year. She was selected to the All-Tournament team both years, and was MVP of tourney one year. Boe, who went on to play at the University of Central Missouri, and is currently a Portland police officer.



**Coach George Fullerton** (Track & Field) coached Track at Clark for 24 years (1958-1989), guiding his student athletes to the 1960 NWAACC Track & Field Championship, as well as numerous

regional championships during the course of his career. Fullerton lives in Vancouver.



**Denny Huston** received his Associate of Arts degree from Clark, where he was student athlete (1959-1961), coach (1965-1969), and Athletic Director (2008-2011). He also coached basketball at Camas High School and had many coaching stints at the college level from 1963 to 1992.

The **1989 Women's Basketball Team** won Clark's first NWACC basketball championship, finishing the season 27-6. (*pictured at top*)

For more information on this event, please access the Hall of Fame link at <http://www.clarkpenguins.com/hof.aspx>. Individuals can also register online by February 21 at [www.cvent.com/d/krq8gg](http://www.cvent.com/d/krq8gg). Tickets are \$25.00 per person.

If you need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event, you should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP), or visit Penguin Union Building room 013 as soon as possible.

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# Athletics greets new leader



Director of Athletics  
Ann Walker

Vice President of Student Affairs William Belden announced today that Clark College has hired Ann Walker as the new Director of Intercollegiate Athletics; her first day will be Tuesday, September 2. Walker comes to Clark from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where she served as the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance and Internal Operations. Overall, Walker has served for 23 years in athletics in roles ranging from administration to coaching.

“We are excited to be able to hire someone with Ann’s depth of experience and commitment to student success in this position at Clark, and I know she will be a great resource and advocate for our student athletes,” Belden said.

Walker served as an assistant basketball coach at Creighton University before being hired to head the women’s program at Minnesota State University. From there, she moved into athletic administration and has held a variety of positions including conference leadership roles. She has a M.A. in Sports Psychology from the University of Iowa, and a B.A. in Elementary Education from Northwestern College in Iowa.

Walker comes to Clark during an athletic upswing. Last year, 10 of 11 sports programs at Clark College made post-season appearances and four coaches won conference Coach of the Year Honors. Clark College’s fall athletic programs begin play on Monday, August 25.

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## **Athletics Roundup**

It’s been an exciting 2013-14 fall and winter for Clark College Athletics. So far this year, all of Clark’s athletic programs have advanced to the NWAACC playoffs—that’s seven for seven! In addition, four coaches were named Coach of the Year and several student athletes were named to All-Academic Sports teams and All-Star teams. There are so many students to be proud of and great sports moments to remember, but here is a quick recap of our mighty Penguins’ accomplishments so far.





## **Men's & Women's Cross Country**

The Penguin cross country teams once again had solid fall season,s with both squads finishing in the top five at the NWAACC Championships, which were hosted by Clark College this year. Sophomores Julian Avalos and Jacob Mason were named to the 2013 All-Academic Sports team, which recognizes student athletes with a cumulative GPA above 3.25 and a minimum of 36 credits earned. Clark College will continue hosting the NWAACC Cross Country Championships at Lewisville Regional Park through Fall 2015.



## Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team, led by 2013 South Region and NWAACC Coach of the Year Biniam Afenigus, put together another exceptional season, finishing with an 19-3-1 overall record. With a 13-1 mark in the South Region, the men captured their second consecutive regional title and advanced to the playoffs for the seventh straight season. The team eventually fell to Peninsula College in the NWAACC championship match, 1-0. Freshman Bernardino Ayala-Jimenez was named South Region MVP and freshmen Juan Ayala-Jimenez, Christian Desir, and Abdiel Morfin and sophomores Bryanth Garcia-Junco, Jonathan Morales, and Langdon Roscoe were named to the Southwest All-Star Team.



## Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team fought through key injuries to finish 10-9-3 overall, with a third-place finish in the South Region. Second-year head coach Rochelle Hearn led the Penguins to consecutive NWAACC playoff appearances before falling to Whatcom on penalty kicks in the first round of the NWAACC playoffs. Coach Hearn was honored with the South Region Coach of the Year award, and sophomore Cristal Ruvalcaba and freshman Krista Campbell were named to the Southwest All-Star Team. Sophomores Emily Ainsworth, Kai Davidson and Alexandra White were named to the 2013 All-Academic Sports Team, which recognizes student athletes with a cumulative GPA above 3.25 and a minimum of 36 credits earned.



## Volleyball

After a one-year hiatus, the women's volleyball squad returned to the NWAACC playoffs under the direction of first-year head coach Mark Dunn. The Penguins were a force to be reckoned with down the stretch of regular-season play and beat the odds by winning three of four matches to advance to post-season play. In the first round, the Penguins were defeated in three sets by eventual NWAACC champion Blue Mountain; afterward, they defeated Shoreline in an elimination match to advance to Day Two of the tournament for the first time in four years. Sophomore middle blocker Karissa Paltridge was named First Team West Region All-Star. Sophomores Shawntel Kalliainen and Amanda Curtis were named to the 2013 All-Academic Sports Team, which recognizes student athletes with a cumulative GPA above 3.25 and a minimum of 36 credits earned.



## Men's Basketball

For the first time in 17 years, the Clark men's basketball program placed at the NWAACC basketball championships, going 3-1 for a fifth-place finish. The 2013-14 edition of the Penguins gave fans a thrill as the men won the West Region crown and finished 27-2. The record-breaking performance also included a 23-game winning streak, undefeated in West Region (16-0) play, and best overall record for a season. Clark became just the fourth team in NWAACC history to go undefeated in league play. Clark held the coaches poll No. 1 ranking for the majority of the season and finished ranked No. 1 in the final coaches poll. Second-year head coach Alex Kirk was named West Region Coach of the Year, sophomore Collin Spickerman was named West Region MVP, and sophomore Sean Price was named First-Team West Region. Sophomore Max Livingston was named Second-Team West Region. Spickerman and Price were also named to the All-Defensive Team.



## Women's Basketball

For the first time in 14 years, the Clark women's basketball program won the West Region title and placed at the NWAACC basketball championships for the second straight season, going 3-1 for a fifth-place finish. The team was Ranked No. 2 in final coaches poll and posted a 15-game win streak during their impressive season. Second-year head coach Al Aldridge was named West Region Coach of the Year, sophomore Brooke Bowen was named West Region MVP, and sophomores Nicolette Bond and Haley Grossman were named First-Team West Region. Freshman Shantell Jackson was named Freshman of the Year and Second-Team West Region. Freshman Taylor Howlett was named to the All-Defensive Team.

So far, the year has provided us with plenty of exciting sports moments and lots to cheer about. Visit Clark Athletics to find out about our spring sports, including baseball,

softball, and track and field.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*