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2003 Women's Basketball: Season is one for record books

With a relentless defense and a 'never say die' attitude, the Titans captured fourth place in this year's NWAACC Championships.

Roland Ford
Sports Editor

In early November, Women's Head Basketball Coach Greg Sheley admitted he was a little concerned about the level of expectation surrounding the women's 2003 basketball campaign. Because of the success his team experienced last season, Sheley felt that perhaps the bar had been set too high for this year.

Sheley took the women's coaching job in 1999, hoping to revitalize the struggling program, which had always been "mediocre at best," he said. In just his third year at Lane, he led the '02 Titan women to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Basketball Championships; the team's first post-season berth since the '92-'93 season. Lane finished the year with

their highest NWAACC ranking in team history (seventh), and set a new team record for wins in a season with 24.

The 2003 Titans had a tough act to follow. And with just two players returning from a year ago, Sheley elected to keep his own expectations fairly low.

"We have some great athletes this year, but we lack experience," he said. "I'm just hoping to finish in the top four somewhere."

"I figured that with only two sophomores and a lot of inexperienced freshman, that this season would be more of a building block for next year," he said.

"It wasn't until a few weeks into league play that I realized this team was good enough to make a run," he continued. "But I still would not have guessed that we would finish as well as we did."

By the end of the season, the 2003 Titan women had established themselves as one of the toughest teams around. They finished the year with a win over Walla Walla CC, and the best overall season in team history. Lane shared in its first ever Southern Division title, while setting a new record in wins with 25. They also set a new standard by going 3-1 in the 2003 NWAACC Basketball Championships in Kennewick, Wash. on March 8 and 9. The Titans finished No. 4 overall, also a



Photo by Sean Hoffman

The Titans gathered for a quick cheer before starting the second half of their game against Everett CC last Sunday at the NWAACC Championships. An 84-63 victory for Lane advanced them to a trophy game against Walla Walla the following night.

new team record.

The women's only loss of the tournament came on Saturday, March 8, when they played the defending NWAACC Champions, Big Bend CC. This was likely the toughest second round draw of the tournament. Lane had control early on but the Vikings

defended better in the second half and walked away with a 72-63 win.

Big Bend had a chance to defend its title on Monday, but Chemeketa CC defeated them in the tournament final.

The Titans say they are happy with the fourth place finish, but the players

SEE **WOMEN** PAGE 2

Boutin bows out as Titans drop ball in championship tournament play

Coach Boutin ends his coaching career with 1,035 wins.

Jonathan Smith
Staff Writer

Mt. Hood knocked the Titan men out of the NWAACC championship tournament play in the third round on March 9 in Pasco, Wash.

Overall, the team finished the season at 21-8, while head coach Jim Boutin, who remains the second winningest coach in LCC Basketball history and the third winningest coach in Oregon basketball history, closed out his Titan ledger with 638 wins and 357 defeats.

In his 35-year collegiate coaching career, Boutin has collected 1,035 wins against only 610 losses.

**EDMONDS CC 82
LANE 80**

The Lane Titans received an early wake up call on March 7 in first round action at the NWAACC Championships.

Rather than being ready to go, the

Titans looked like they were ready for another hour of sleep, falling behind early to the Edmonds Tritons before storming back only to lose in overtime, 82-80.

The Tritons took a 13-4 advantage in the first eight minutes before LCG woke up and grabbed the lead at 19-18 on a jumper by Matt Hein.

However, Edmonds immediately responded with a three point shot by guard Craig Roosendaal, igniting a 10-2 run that ended in a 32-23 half-time lead.

Three minutes into the second half, Lane decided to show up at Tri-Cities Coliseum and play basketball, narrowing the gap to three points.

The Titans kept the score close the rest of the way, forcing their first extra session of the year. But they couldn't hit the big shots down the stretch. Caleb Upchurch missed a three with six seconds left in over time, sending Lane into the consolation bracket. Roosendaal led all scorers with 32 points. Jered Alsop paced the Titans with 25.

**LANE 80
WENATCHEE VALLEY 73**

The Titans "wised" up in the March 8

consolation quarterfinal with the Wenatchee Valley Knights. Freshman guard Dave Weise scored a career high 26 points leading Lane to an 80-73 win.

Yet the Knights came out strong, outscoring the Titans 13-4 in the early going and staking their largest lead of nine points at 30-21.

But Jered Alsop and Paul Miller brought the Titans back with their strong post play, tying the score at 40-all after one half of play.

The second half belonged to Weise, who scored nine of the Titans' first 12 points in the second half and Lane was up 54-42.

Still, Wenatchee Valley wasn't quite through, with a 12-0 run over the next three minutes to even the score.

But Weise, Alsop and Miller proved to be too much for the Knights.

Lane sped away with the win, eliminating Wenatchee Valley from the tourney and setting up a consolation semifinal showdown a familiar foe, Mt. Hood.

Alsop and Miller added 19 and 13 points respectively in the win. Sophomore post Matt Bueler turned in a double-double with 16 points and 11 boards.

SEE **MEN** PAGE 3



Photo by Sean Hoffman

Legendary coach Jim Boutin gives Jered Alsop an ear full after a heartbreaking loss sent the Titans home early. Lane's last minute melt-down handed Mt. Hood a 62-61 victory on day three of tournament play.



WOMEN FROM PAGE 1

coaches, and fans all know that Lane was good enough to play in the title game.

"Sure, It would have been nice to play for a championship, but I don't feel any disappointment at all," said Sheley. "We still came here and accomplished things that we've never done before."

"I am so proud of our girls, and I certainly feel good about our season,"

Sally Moore, Lane's defensive super-star, said, "We had to reset our goals after the loss to Big Bend. Instead of getting down, we decided that we were going to strive for fourth. That was our goal and we accomplished it. We are really proud of that."

The Titans struggled to find an offensive rhythm, and had to rely on their tremendous defense, which finished sixth in the NWAACC, allowing an average of 57.4 points per contest.

"Defense was our greatest strength all year," said Sheley. "When we defended like we were capable of, we were as good as anybody out there. When we didn't defend so well, that's when we struggled."

"I do think that we defended well enough to beat Big Bend though, we just couldn't get our offense going in that game."

Looking back on the season Moore said she had a tremendous experience. However, she also remembers a few bumps along the road. "Luckily we were able to put some personal issues behind us and really grow together as a team," she said.

Rath says that she can recall some ups and downs too. She, like Sheley, had some concerns early on. "With all of the new girls this year, I wasn't so sure that we could match the kind of season we had a year ago," she said. "But then we all decided that we were going to work real hard and win, and that's what we did."

Rath led the Titans in three statistical categories this year. She averaged team highs in steals (4.2), assists (5.8), and rebounds (6.3), and she finished second in scoring (12.1). Admire led the Titans with 13.9 points per contest.

The conference named Rath and Admire to the 2003 All-NWAACC Southern Division First Team. Rath, who received the same honors last season, said, "It always feels good to be rewarded when you work real hard."

Sheley added the he was proud of them and said, "The recognition is great for our program."

"Rath was also honored with a Second Team All-Tournament selection. She played well throughout the tournament scoring 13.5 points per contest while averaging four assists, 5.25 rebounds, and 1.5 steals."

Assistant coach, Karen Bauer is excited about the teams record setting season but she says that the thing she enjoyed the most about this year was watching the girls grow together as a team. "It's special to see everyone mature and improve, both as players and as people," she said.

Sheley, who loves to compete, had a different notion. "The highlight of the year, for me, is the fact that we set the school record for wins last year, then we turned around and did it again," he said.

Perhaps this year's team will cause expectations to grow even higher. Sounds like the 2004 Titans will have to bring home a championship! They should be in good shape with all but two players coming back. But Rath says, "They will have to bring in a new point, someone, who plays smart and can be a leader. If they do that, they'll be fine."



Photo by Sean Hoffman

With fourth place on the line, Kristine "Idaho" Hilt made her presence felt in the Titans' final game of the year. Her 12 points and 6 rebounds helped the Titans to a 57-52 victory over Walla Walla.

Photo by Sean Hoffman

Sally Moore played inspired defense for the Titans throughout the year. She finished the season in the same fashion, helping to force the Vikings into 21 turnovers.



Photo by Sean Hoffman

#32 Kailee Short struggles for a loose ball late in the game against Walla Walla. The Titans controlled the game throughout, but a late surge by the Warriors made the game close. Lane held on for the 57-52 victory.

COACH BOUTIN



Nearly 40 years ago, a young Jim, former All-American, decided to. After 35 years as a collegiate level hang-up his sports jacket and grab a basketball team, Boutin took his team, earning himself Coach of the Year.



Photo by Sean Hoffman

Danielle Rouhler slips past an Everett defender to score two of her 17 points.



BOUTIN ENDS SUCCESSFUL CAREER AT LANE



Photo by Sean Hoffman

Young Jim Boutin decided to pursue a coaching career rather than playing professional basketball. The decided to share his amazing knowledge of the game rather than keeping it to himself. Illegiate level coach, Dr. Boutin has decided that he's had enough. It's time for this coaching legend to ket and grab his golf clubs. In twelve seasons as Head Coach of the Lane Community College Men's basok his teams to the NWAACC Tournament seven times. In 1991 he led Lane to its first NWAACC Title, of the Year honors.

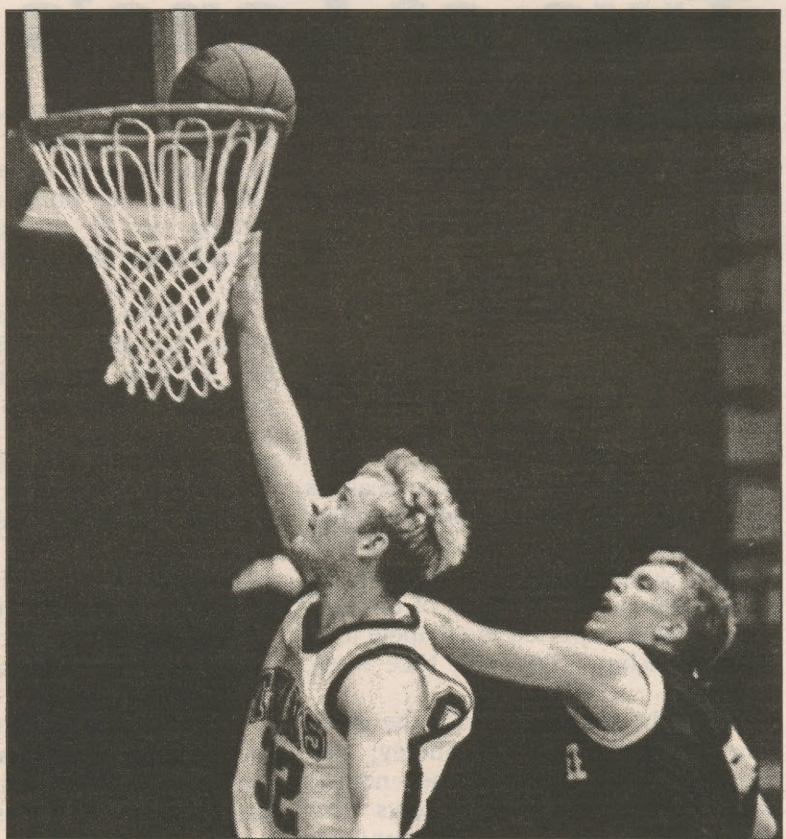


Photo by Sean Hoffman

Dave Weise shot over 50 percent from the field and scored 26 to lead the Titans in their battle with the Wenatchee Valley Knights.



Photo by Sean Hoffman

Scott Calhoun feels the sting of the one point loss against Mt. Hood CC in the NWAACC Championships in Pasco, Wash.



Photo by Sean Hoffman

Everett defender

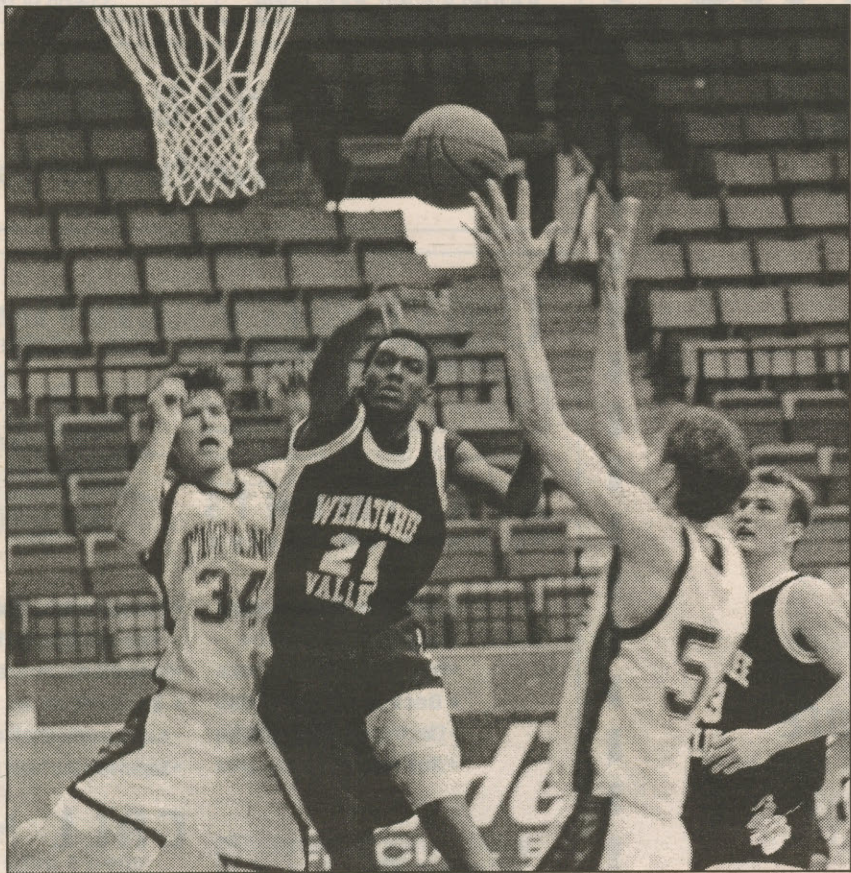


Photo by Sean Hoffman

Matt Bueler goes up for a dunk for two of his 16 points against Wenatchee Valley Knights. The Titan men defeated the Knights 80-73.

MEN FROM PAGE 1

MT. HOOD 62 LANE 61

Game three of the tournament — the third game with the Mt. Hood Saints — it should be a "charm" for the Titans, right? Well, it was for a half. Lane stormed out of the blocks but failed to convert their free-throws in the end, thus losing 62-61 and bowing out of Boutin's last NWAACC tourney.

The Titans' jumped out to an 8-2 lead only to watch the Saints keep things close. But after a 17-all tie, Lane went on a 10-0 run in a three minute span to take control of the half. The Titans led by 12 at the break, 38-26.

That was the high water mark for Lane, as midway through the second half, the Titans got sloppy with their play. The Titans committed 13 turnovers in the second half alone, leading to 10 Mt. Hood points, enabling the Saints to get back in the game. The Titans combined the sloppy effort on offense with one of their worst performances from the

free-throw line (12-of-23) and the results were devastating.

Trailing by six points with forty-five seconds to play, the Saints hit two clutch three-pointers to forge a tie. Jamal Cooke drained a three-point bomb with 38 seconds left to make it 60-57. Lane had a chance to pad the lead with 32 seconds left but Dave Weise missed two free-throws.

Then on the next possession, the man who has been become a "Titan Killer" this season, Marquese Jingles, dropped in a trifecta to even the score at 60.

Skyler Ashbaugh gave Mt. Hood its first lead, since early in the game, at 62-60 with eight seconds. Moments later, Jered Alsup hit one free-throw, but missed the other, leaving the Titans one point short.

Alsup netted a game high 19 points while teammate Matt Bueler recorded his second straight double, double scoring 15 points and grabbing 11 boards. Alsup finished sixth in the Tournament in scoring at 21 points per game, while Weise was 19th at 15 points per game.

Two of Lane's greatest say goodbye

Rath and Admire walk away with legendary status.

Roland Ford
Sports Editor

For two seasons, Talisha Rath and Lindsay Admire played together as members of the Titan women's basketball team. In those two years, the program experienced its finest seasons ever. The Lady Titans couldn't win five games before the arrival of these basketball saviors, much less compete for a division crown. Now, all of the sudden, Lane is expected to compete for a championship every year. Nice work, ladies.

All right, maybe some of the credit should go to Greg Sheley, the women's head coach. But he's not the one leaving. Besides he knows what I'm talking about. He knows that it has always been tough for Lane to recruit local girls to play basketball. When local girls see Rath, a Springfield High School icon, and Admire, a Willamette High sharpshooter, enjoying mad success at Lane, they might think about trying it too.

Admire is a smart ball player who likes to shoot the rock. Okay, maybe that's an understatement. Lindsay will put up 40 shots in a game if you let her. Trust me, though, you don't want to see her try it. When she gets hot, opposing teams go down quick.

NWAACC teams know what I'm talking about. She's been draining three-pointer balls all over the Northwest for the past two years. Oh, and just to warn you, if she has an off night in the game prior to your meet-

ing, watch out. Last weekend, in the NWAACC tournament, Admire was held scoreless in a loss to Big Bend. She came out firing against Everett, putting up 21 attempts. Sure, she missed some, but you still must respect her.

In Admire's two-year run with the Titans, her game high in points was 36 and on three different occasions she made 10 three-pointers in a game. She ranks fourth on the Titans all-time scoring list with 838, second all-time in steals with 157, and you know it, she is Lane's all-time three-point master with 127.

Admire was a First Team All-NWAACC selection this year and helped lead her team to its best season ever. But she still won't give the reporter an interview.

Talisha Rath is equally dangerous on the court, but in a different way. Rath is what you would call a basketball mastermind. I guess it runs in her family, but don't ever let her brother try and tell you she learned her stuff from him.

Rath was a two-year starter for the Titans who led her teammates on and off the court. She is, without a doubt, the finest ball player to wear a women's Titan jersey. But don't take my word for it, let her stats do the talking.

Rath is third in all-time scoring with 848; she is second in three point field goals with 121, and third all-time in rebounds with 409 (not bad for a 5' 10" point-guard). She is also the school's all-time leader in steals with 275. And of course, don't forget about her specialty, which is dropping sick dimes to open teammates. "Tish the Dish" is the school leader in assists too, with 379, which would probably be about 700 or



Photos by Sean Hoffman

Two-time NWAACC All-Star Talisha Rath (left) scored 15 points against the No. 1 ranked Big Bend CC. Lindsay Admire put up 13 three's and scored 24 on Everett.

so if her teammates could finish.

Rath was a First Team All-NWAACC selection both years at Lane. That's easy to understand because coaches know a good baller when they see one. Rath racked up a few all-tournament team selections as well, including MVP in a holiday tournament this past December.

Rath's career at Lane may be through, but you can bet that she'll be ballin' at a four-year school next year. Many schools have shown interest in Rath including Denver University where she and her fiancé will be visiting over spring break.

"I'm just going to go there and just

see what happens," she said. "I'm not rushing anything. It's important for me to find the right match."

Rath and Admire have brought a lot to the Lane athletic program and players, coaches, and staff will miss them.

"To see Lindsay and Tish move on, and not be able to be a part of it is tough," said women's assistant Karen Bauer. "That's the frustrating part about two year schools, they're gone before you know it."

"You certainly can't replace them. They've both been amazing," said Sheley. "Tish was definitely our stabilizing force, and Lindsay really matured this year as a player."

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