PORTLAND – Thanks in part to the heroics of a pair of area players, the Clackamas Community College softball team won the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges championship in dramatic fashion.

Katie Aden, a 2010 Tigard High School graduate, and Gracie Dempster, a Tualatin resident and 2011 Horizon Christian graduate, helped the Cougars sweep Lower Columbia College by scores of 6-5 and 7-6 in a NWAACC championship doubleheader played May 23 at Delta Park.

Clackamas, after losing its second game of the double-elimination tournament, won its next five games to reach the championship. But, since Lower Columbia was unbeaten to that point of the tournament, the Cougars had to sweep a doubleheader from LCC in order to claim the title.

In the first game of the championship twinbill, Aden singled in Megan Malvik with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning. Malvik walked to lead off the frame and then moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Dempster, setting up Aden’s game-winning hit.

Aden, who played in center field, went 2 for 4 at the plate with three RBIs in the victory.

Aden and Dempster both came up big for Clackamas in the second game of the championship doubleheader.

Aden blasted a two-run home run in the bottom of the third inning to give the Cougars a 5-0 lead at that time. Lower Columbia came back with four runs in the top of the fourth inning to trim the margin to 5-4.

Clackamas scored a run in the bottom of the fifth inning, but Lower Columbia answered with a pair of runs in the top of the sixth to tie the score at 6-6.

Dempster singled to lead off the bottom of the sixth inning. She moved to third on a two-out single Katherine Janicke and then scored what turned out to be the game-winning run on a single by Ashley Bacon.

For the game, Aden, who was named to the all-tournament team, went 1 for 2 at the plate with two runs scored and two RBIs. Dempster, who plays at catcher for the Cougars, went 3 for 3 with two runs scored.

For the season, Aden, a Clackamas CC sophomore, hit for a .386 batting average with eight doubles, a triple, nine home runs, 45 runs scored and 49 RBIs in 145 at-bats.

Dempster, a CCC freshman, hit for a .321 average with two home runs, 13 runs scored and seven RBIs in 56 at-bats.
Aden has also signed a letter of intent to play softball at Concordia University next year.