


Clackamas CC wrestlers tie up Warner Pacific, 40-10

Created on Saturday, 03 December 2016 | Written by [Jim Beseda](#) | 

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Dillon Ulrey edged defending NAIA champion Blake Cooper 7-6 in overtime at 165 as the Cougars ran their dual meet record to 9-0 Saturday in Portland.



REVIEW/NEWS PHOTO: JIM BESEDA - Dillon Ulrey of Clackamas Community College looks at the clock after taking a 7-6 lead in his wrestling match with defending NAIA champion Blake Cooper of Warner Pacific Saturday.

Clackamas Community College wrestler Dillon Ulrey had a little something left in his tank when he needed it Saturday.

Ulrey used a third-round escape to force overtime and then got a two-point reversal with 12 seconds remaining in the second tie-breaker round to secure a 7-6 decision over Warner Pacific's Blake Cooper in the 165-pound weight class at Saturday's Cougars-Knights dual meet at Warner Pacific.

Clackamas won seven other matches — two by fall, two by technical fall, one by decision, and two by forfeit — as the Cougars overpowered the Knights 40-10 and remained undefeated at 9-0.

Ulrey grabbed the spotlight in his match with Cooper, the reigning NAIA national champion, when he used an escape and a takedown to trim a 5-1 deficit midway through the second period to 5-4 entering the third.

"I just tried to push the pace," Ulrey said.

"That's one thing I like to do. The first round, it was a little more Cooper's round as long as he was fresh. But once I started getting my hands on him and started wearing him out, the momentum started swinging my way."

Tied at 5-5, the two battled through a scoreless one-minute, sudden-victory period, setting the stage for two 30-second, tie-breaker periods.

Cooper chose the bottom position to start the first tie-breaker round and scored an escape to take a 6-5 lead.

In the second tie-breaker period, Ulrey started on bottom and put the match away with a reversal.

"I really wanted that one," Ulrey said. "I've been pushing myself really hard these past couple of weeks with some extra workouts and I think that paid off in the end there."

Clackamas' Kurt Mode at 149 and John Leal at 157 each won by fall, while Nathan Johnson overwhelmed Warner Pacific's Joshua Crager 17-1 to win by technical fall at 141, and Nick Maximov manhandled the Knights' Miguel Simon 18-3 for another technical fall at 197.

"I love the fire that these guys wrestle with," Cougars coach Josh Rhoden said. "And it's not cliché. They just show up. Even all of our redshirts and unattached wrestlers were here and were as fired up for Josh Beckler, our second-string guy at 157, as they were for anybody in the gym. That gives you some mojo."

"We've got a long way to go yet, but for today, it felt like we wrestled pretty well."

The Cougars return to action Saturday when they play host to Northwest College of Wyoming, Southwestern Oregon, and Highline at the Clackamas Duals beginning at 11 a.m. at Randall Hall.