

# Sophomores Show Top Varsity Football Potential

by Joseph Hawk

Their style is cool—sometimes cocky—but still cool enough that their varsity football prowess somehow masks the fact that they are sophomores.

Sure they show the tension and anxiety that most rookies experience in their first varsity appearances, but they play in such a way that shows they've got the potential to be conference contenders.

"You've got to put out 110 percent during practices and games," says offensive guard Jeff Rodgers. Built like a football player, Rodgers at 5'6", 170 lbs., likes being helped by his senior teammates. "The coaching here is pretty good, but there are some things that only the bigger players on the team can help you with. It's that relationship that makes a team strong."

### Reliance on Speed

Grizzly reliance on speed has put tailback Andy Phillips in the public eye. Not noted for size, the Ashland offense has been running more often than passing. "Sure I'm scared of those big defensemen," says Phillips, who at 5'8", 155 lbs., was impressive in the Anderson game netting 72 yards in 22 carries. "I just stay moving around and don't let anybody get a square shot at me."

"Sophomores add depth to the team," says Rodgers. "There's more competition for positions—everybody works harder—everybody tries to help each other."

Sophomore depth is apparent in little recognized defensive back Greg Barats. Besides posting two yards in one carry in the Anderson game, Barats' interception of a Cubs' pass on the Ashland 33 in the fourth quarter helped to solidify the Grizzly defense.



Andy Phillips has emerged as the top Grizzly ground gainer so far this season.

"Up" for the Game  
Getting "up" for the game, cites Phillips, is harder when your team is predicted to win. Says Phillips: "When you're seen as the underdog you get that added initiative to win—you really want it. But when you're the favorite it's harder to build up that extra spark to push yourself over the top."

Although on the roster sheet they may be listed as sophomores, the spirit and emotion displayed by them on and off the field is done in a very "senior" way.

## TONIGHT'S GAMES

**Preseason Action . . .**  
South Albany at Ashland  
Sunnyvale at Medford  
Crater at Central Catholic  
Beaverton at Grants Pass  
Hillsboro at Klamath Falls  
Aloha at Roseburg

## Hopes of District Title

### Gymnastics Team Young

Girls gymnastics has a new face at Ashland High this year.

The Lady Bears, under the leadership of a new coach—Sara Larson—consists largely of sophomores with a single year of compulsory routine experience at the junior high school. Only three members of last year's district championship team returned for competition this season: seniors, Sharon Hill and Kathleen McClure and junior, Teresa McClure.

### Another District Title

Even though, it is an obviously young team, hopes of an unprecedented third consecutive gymnastics title are rising steadily. Former Ashland High gymnast, Lois Hill, who has been helping the team in her spare time, feels "the girls should take district again. I didn't think they were experienced enough at first but everyone is working hard and learning the stunts now. . . All the floor ex girls are doing back handsprings."

Cancellation of the Klamath Falls meet moves conference competition up to October when the Lady Bears encounter their toughest rivals, Medford and Lakeview. Mrs. Larson has tentatively schedule the first meet of the year against her former gymnasts from Beaverton, next week, either on Thursday or Saturday. Even if the Beaverton meet materializes, she expects the Medford-Lakeview meet to be a real test since they will have had an extra meet before meeting us.

"The girls from some of the other schools show a lot of

practice and skill. We will have to work hard as a young team to maintain our supremacy for the third year in a row. It's my feeling that if the girls continue their maximum effort in practice that we will prevail," said Mrs. Larson.

### Expected Starters

Two sophomores, Karen Dew and Liz Steinek, will compete in the all-around competition as well as Ms. Hill who assumes the top all-around position vacated by AHS graduate Pamela Hoffbauer.

Lack of depth presents problems only on the floor exercise mat. The three all-arounds will be joined by Sue Bedogne, a freshman. Back-up performers are scarce with just Pam Bessel, Kathy Dunlap and Kathleen McClure as possible alternates.

Balance beam, uneven bars and vaulting each have the added depth necessary for a championship team. Vaulting looks very promising with assistant coach Patricia Selby working eight girls on handspring vaults. With just four entrants allowed per event in a meet, there are nine gymnasts on the beam and seven on the bars vying for those crucial positions.

That type of depth has been Ashland's strong suit for four years now and will hopefully result in another title when November 17—the district meet—rolls around.

### Cross Country Crew Building For Future

Ashland High's cross-country team is very good and very young. Already Robert Julian's long distance runners have proven themselves as a track power by taking a strong second place finish at the Crater Invitational and first place honors at the Lost River Invitational.

Mark Simmons, Mark Farrell, and Dale Simmons were three of the best reasons Ashland was able to take second place out of the eight competing teams at

River Invitational. Five out of the Grizzlies seven varsity runners finished in the top eleven giving Ashland an unbeatable 35 points. To post a win Ashland had to beat teams such as Medford, Crater and Eagle Point. Mark Farrell lead Ashland's winners by taking second with 13:04 time. Ashland's Junior Varsity also took first place.

Last year with a much more experienced team, the high school finished third. But, this years young but talented crew will be challenging the field of thirty teams for the prestigious trophy.

The meet being held tomorrow at Gilcrest, will sound off at

12:00, led by juniors Mark Farrell, Mark Simmons, Jim Troutman and Brad Stadelbacher. Challenging for a share of the lead will be sophomore Bill Yeoman, and Freshmen, John Winter and Dale Simmons.

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Coach Bob Julian clocks the cross-country team during practice.

Crater, Grants Pass was the only team able to outrun Ashland. Mark Simmons lead the Grizzly runners by taking 9th place. Farrell took twelfth and Dale Simmons came in 18th. Farrell would have done much better had he not fallen down while he was in first place.

Ashland won easily at the Lost

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