

Girls' Varsity Basketball Team looks to dominate

■ CALLEY LATHROP

Staff Reporter

Last year, the Varsity Girls' Basketball team finished with a record of 10-4 in league, and were 18-8 including off-season and tournament games. Following their second place finish in the Three Rivers League, Head Coach Glen Lee anticipates even more victories, and hopes for first place in league.

A tough loss to Central Catholic last year, stopped their advancement in the playoffs, and the team faced many obstacles, including injuries and illness. "We need to improve on health. Being healthy, staying warm outside, watching out for the flu, etc," Lee said.

Lee added that a team is made in off-season,

because that is where the players gain practice and experience. "They've put in a lot of work in the off-season, and played over 35 games this summer. They are working hard in two-player workouts, open gym, SAQ (Speed, Agility, Quickness) and the weight room," Lee said.

The season started with Midnight Madness on Nov. 6 at 12 a.m. An optional overnight event, its aim is to get players pumped and ready for tryouts, and to have some fun as well.

The first Varsity game, held Thanksgiving weekend, was against a team of alumni players from previous West Linn teams. The Varsity girls were able to sneak by the former players, 41-38.



Girls basketball hopefuls line up during tryouts which were held Nov. 6, 7 and 8. Last year, the team finished with an overall record of 18-8, and placed second in Three Rivers League.

Photo by Sarah Chicoine

In a home game against the Sandy Pioneers on Dec. 1, the team won 57-28. The team also won in the Tip-off Classic on Dec. 1, bringing them to 3-0. In another home game, they beat Forest Grove on Dec. 5, 63-50.

On Dec. 8, the Varsity girls lost their first non-conference match up against Beaverton, 37-51.

Upcoming games include a non-league game at Benson on Dec. 15 at 7:15 p.m. and the Lake Oswego Interstate Shootout. The first game in the tourney is against Lincoln on Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

"We need to work on just being consistent in practices and with game situations. Half-court game and lay-ups with transitions could be improved," Lee said.

Varsity Football Team ousted from playoffs by Beaverton in heartbreaker

■ JAIMIE LORENZINI

Staff Reporter

The Varsity Football Team was considered the underdog by its competitors and by the preseason polls out at the beginning of the season.

"I don't think we were underdogs. But I think we played with a chip on our shoulders because we weren't given a lot of respect," Ron Chappell, head coach, said.

The Lions used the disrespect as a motivator to achieve a 5-1 record in the Three Rivers League and a 7-2 record overall, which qualified them for the second place TRL spot in the playoffs. The Lions hit a five game winning streak that matched them up with the Metro League number four team, Beaverton. The Beavers came out of a tough league which includes Jesuit, Westview and Southridge. Southridge finished third in Metro and beat TRL champion Lake Oswego earlier in the season.

The second place finish allowed the Lions to play their first home playoff game since 1999. Despite their efforts, Beaverton beat the Lions,

38-28. The team went into halftime with a 14-12 lead but turnovers in the third quarter allowed the Beavers to take the lead.

The turnovers did not stop the Lions from putting out their best effort Friday night. In the fourth quarter, West Linn forced Beaverton to fumble in the endzone.

Kyle Quinn, senior, had the last touchdown of the season which capped off a great year for him. Despite the team's loss, the players remained in high spirits.

"It (the season) was good. We (the team) had a lot of chemistry," Kyle Kraus, junior, said. Chappell agreed.

"This was a very special season," Chappell said. "This is a group of players that are a lot of fun to work with. They work hard. They are very unselfish. They put the team first. They're just a great group of guys. It's (the season) also very special because they were picked to finish fourth or fifth in their league, and they exceeded expectations."

Chappell was named TRL Coach of the Year. Thirty players received all league

recognition, including two sophomores, Mitchell Gaulke and Josh Oltman.

Other accomplishments for the team were a third place state rank in recognition of a 3.26 team GPA and beating Clackamas for the first time in seven years. Lane Locke and Zac White, seniors, were named scholar athletes and Locke received a \$2,000 scholarship.

Next year the Lions will return many skill position players. Erik Koczian and Justin Monahan, juniors, return to take over starting receiver duties. Kraus, junior, will take over Quinn's spot at running back. Justin Williams, junior, will again take over blocking duties for Kraus at fullback.

Other returners will be Josh Thurston, junior, at defensive back, and Oltman on offense. Bryce Baker, sophomore, will take over as quarterback next year.

On the line, the Lions return starters Tommy Patrick, junior, and Gaulke. Several JV players will step up to play next year to fill the vacancies left by graduating seniors.

Cross country finishes impressive season

■ MARY SCOFIELD

Staff Reporter

The Girls' Varsity Cross Country Team capped an impressive season as dual meet champions and by winning first at Districts and advancing to State.

"The team has a good team atmosphere; they motivated each other really well," Jenni Denekas, senior, said.

Taylor Nowlin, sophomore, finished third at Districts with a time of 19:37 and Rachel Seigneur, junior, finished ninth with a time of 20:16 earning them spots on the Three Rivers League First Team. Taylor also earned State recognition and qualified to compete in the Oregon-Washington Border clash.

"It was a good season. We worked hard. When we work together we are pretty good," Kelsey Gerber, senior, said.

The Boys' Varsity Team improved over last year, moving to fourth place in the league, up from seventh place. No runners advanced to State but Ben Morrow and Michael Bernert, juniors, placed tenth and twelfth at Districts. Both

improved over last year by close to a minute. Morrow ran a 16:41 and Bernert was not far behind with a 16:46. Morrow was also named to the TRL First Team.

On Nov. 4, the State Championships were held at Lane Community College in Eugene. The girls Varsity placed twelfth in the State. Nowlin placed ninth running a 19:12 and was less than three seconds off her personal record while Seigneur placed forty-seventh running a 20:27 and was eleven seconds off her personal record.

"Our strength is that we have a good depth as a team," Bernert said.

Both the Boys' and Girls' JV teams won at Districts. They ran undefeated and are looking forward to next year. The leaders of the girls at Districts were Alyssa Jernigan, junior, who placed first with a time of 21:39 and Sara Myre, junior, who placed second with a time of 21:41. The leaders of the boys team were Logan Kelly, freshman, who placed first with a time of 18:08 and Tyler Harmon, sophomore, who placed second with a time of 18:09.

Girls' soccer ends successfully

■ LEXI WELP

Staff Reporter

The Varsity Girls' Soccer Team ended well with a fifth place finish in the Three Rivers League.

"We were a very young team, which included 10 sophomores and one freshman," Joey Leonetti, head coach for the past nine seasons, said.

"Our senior captains, Megan Foster, Elizabeth Sloop and Susan Schrank, did a great job this year keeping everybody positive when we were struggling with injuries,"

Leonetti said. The juniors on the team this season were led by Amy Kestek, in her second year on the team and Leonetti said she will "definitely be an important leader next year."

Other juniors on the team included Erika Busch, Samantha Demars, Dana Bush and Jordan Gilbertson. In their first year on Varsity, Leonetti cited their contributions to the defense and midfield. He looks forward to them comprising the starting line up next year.

Girls Varsity Soccer

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Justin Senff, senior defensive tackle, attempts to regain control during the game against McKay on Nov. 3. The Lions fought their way into overtime, but lost in a narrow defeat, 36-35.

Photo submitted by Linda MacClanathan