

Snowboarders prepare to shred into season

KATE TOLAN

Staff Reporter

After an impressive first place finish last year at State, the Girls' Snowboard Team has a high standard to uphold. Although the pressure is on, members are still looking forward to the season.

This year players want to, "Have fun, learn new tricks and jumps," Danielle Ramsby, senior and returning member, said. However, problems caused by the weather have left both teams in a bind.

Last year the Snowboard Team practiced every Wednesday, traveling by bus on Highway 35 to Mt. Hood Meadows Ski and Snow Resort. With the recent flooding, Highway 35 was closed due to massive

washouts from floods on Nov. 6 and Nov. 7. Repairs involved moving 25 feet of boulders before contractors could even begin.

The team practiced at Ski Bowl until Meadows opened on Dec. 9. However, it cost \$15 dollars per member to practice at Ski Bowl.

Dry land practices began the week after Thanksgiving and the first mountain practice was to be on Dec. 6.

An all time high turnout of 51 snowboarders and an in-house coach, Jamie Kelso, biology teacher, mark some of the changes this year.

The team has two returning coaches, Ryan Stephens and Forest Alcamo. New coaches are



Kesslie Carlson-Ham, Brynn Hayes, junior, Danielle Ramsby, senior, Hana Jacover, senior, walk up the mountain during a snowboarding competition. The Girls' Snowboard Team finished first at State last year. Photo submitted by Nanette Boggess

Jenny Looper and Joey Bruce. Looper will be the Snowboard Team's first ever full time female coach. She comes from Tahoe, Calif. and is highly skilled in the half pipe.

To make the Snowboard Team, new members had to try out in April and attend follow-up interviews in October; last year's competitive members earned an automatic spot on the team.

With the sport becoming more and more popular, riders were cut this year for the first time.

The Snowboard Team is expected to perform well based on last year's standings at State and on the number of experienced members returning.

Volleyball Team's hopes for State squelched

SYDNEY MACNAUGHTON

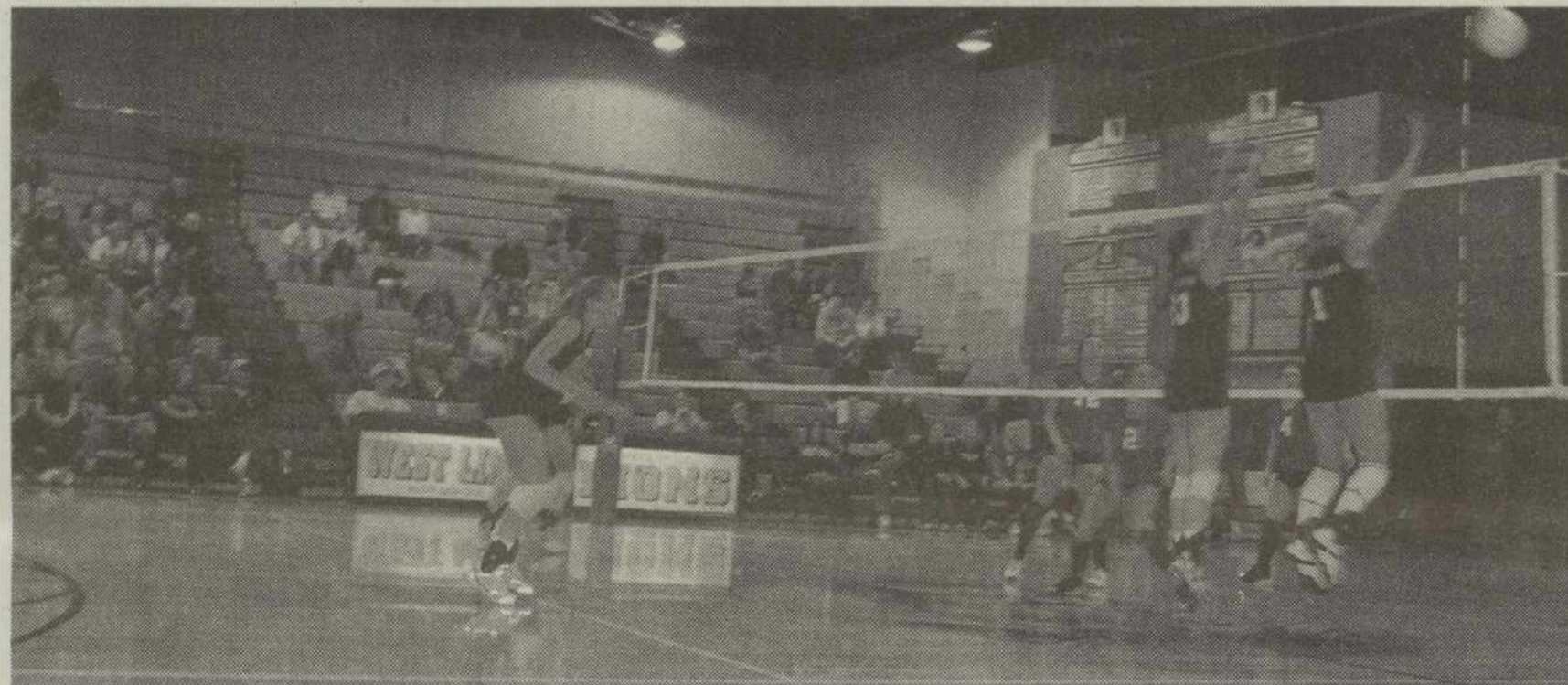
Staff Reporter

On Nov. 1, the Varsity Volleyball Team played David Douglas for the playoffs. They won against the Royal Scots, 3-0 but a Nov. 4 loss, 2-3, to North Medford at home kept them from advancing into the State playoffs.

"We always play to win," Carl Neuburger, Varsity Volleyball Team coach, said, before the loss during the second round of the playoffs. This was the first time since 1991 that the team did not make it to State.

This year there were two playoff rounds rather than one, so only eight teams went to State rather than 16. "The best tight (teams) will not be at State," Neuburger said.

"Our captains are always pushing us to be the best we can be," Michelle Hurt,



Michelle Hurt, junior, and Brittney Beatty, senior captain, reach for the ball during against David Douglas in the first round of the State playoffs. After losing in the second round of the playoffs, the team did not make it to State for the first time in 15 years. Photo by Kelsey Schrader

junior, said. One of the most memorable games is considered the game against the Clackamas Cavaliers, according to Victoria Bechtold, senior team captain.

This season, the team struggled with injuries to the back and wrists of several players, including

Brenna Kelley, sophomore, and Hurt. At times, the practices could not be completed because of these injuries.

The team made up for their struggles with strengths. The team has lots of experience, and is skilled at ball handling, especially setting. The team

continued its winning streak this season, reaching 108 consecutive league wins by the end of the season.

Locke and Alyssa O'Neil, sophomore, were named to the Three Rivers League First Team. Neuburger won Coach of the Year for the league.

"The whole season we all worked really hard, winning league and getting far in the tournaments," Hurt said. "Also, making it to the semifinals at the West Linn tournament is a pretty big accomplishment because for the past couple of years, we have not done very well. The team was sad we lost the game, but I think we realized how far we came and how much we improved. The loss made us determined that we will succeed next year."

Ski Team hopes for best during building year

HILLARY KRIPPAEHN

Staff Reporter

With 13 seniors who graduated last year, Ski Team is planning for a "building year." Bruce Rodway, coach, and Jeff Woodsen, assistant coach, accepted 10 beginners on the team this year.

The team also lost Katie Whitbeck, senior, due to an injury. After suffering from disease in both of her knees, Whitbeck decided not to participate in Ski Team this year. "Skiing will cause my knees to get worse, which would be bad," Whitbeck said. She thinks they will do well, but also expects it to be a rebuilding year.

"The kids have a great time, and their families are always there," Sue Wenger, mother of a graduate, said. Wenger is planning on helping out with Ski Team this year. "I help because I love seeing the team succeed."

Chelsea Spitzer, junior, joined the team for the first time this

year. "I like competitive racing and skiing seemed like it was right up my ally," Spitzer said. In the off season Spitzer runs four to five times a week and works out at the gym.

Ski Team is both a team and an individual sport. Participants ski down the mountain and receive a score. The individual's score adds points to the team total.

The first meet, the Christine Cato Memorial Race, is Jan. 6 at Timberline Lodge. The race, dedicated to a high school skier who died, is the largest high school ski race in North America.

The skiers practice from 3:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and work hard according to Sandy Slossar, parent of freshman on the team. "They are doing fantastic. They have started their dry land training and the coach says they are in good condition. I think they will do well this year," Slossar said.

Swimmers start fresh with new coach

EMMALIE COX

Staff Reporter

Rumors were circulating that there wasn't going to be a Swim Team because Blake Blackwell, former coach, left. Interviews for the new coach began the week of Oct. 30, and Jessica Hauser was hired on Nov. 2.

Blackwell took over for the previous head coach, Al Marsh (former Southern Oregon University and Lake Oswego Swim Club coach). He was Marsh's assistant coach for two years prior to that. Blackwell, a West Linn alumni and former Swim Team member, announced he would be leaving.

"He was a great coach. It kinda' sucks that he had to leave because this is my senior year and I wanted to

finish with someone I was familiar with. But it's good for the freshman because they are new and coming into the Swim Team with a new coach," Sarah Wilson, senior and team captain, said.

Hauser's practices consist of a dry land practice where swimmers usually run two laps, work in the weight room, and play endurance games. Pool practices are a mix of all the strokes and some drills focusing on technique.

"At first I thought she wasn't going to push us very hard, but by the second practice, she got harder on us. She is really nice and determined," Kelsey Lissman, freshman, said.

Last year, Lake Oswego was the toughest competitor... again but Wilson also cites

Clackamas as being a tough competitor. "They are the hardest because we are both at the same [skill] level," Wilson said.

She is confident that this year will be different. "Even though last year we had pretty good seniors on the boys team, we have heard that there are going to be three or four freshman club swimmers joining the team," she said.

The Swim Team competed on Nov. 30 against the Oregon City Pioneers, with the girls beating the Pioneers but the boys losing. Whitney Finnerty, sophomore, placed first in the 100 meter breaststroke and Wilson placed second in the 100 meter butterfly.

Their next meet is on Jan. 4 against archrival Lake Oswego at the Lake Oswego Pool.