

Spikerman, Cathcart have no effect on Kevin Love

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They're the big names in basketball: Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neil and Kobe Bryant. What would it be like to play against one of them? The Varsity Boys' Basketball Team had the rare opportunity when they stepped on the court against the Lake Oswego Lakers and their shining superstar, Kevin Love, one of the nation's top prep recruits.

Love is an absolute beast in the key. Not only is he huge, standing tall at 6'9", he knows how to use his body.

"He's a great outlet passer, has a great court sense, and his knowledge of the game is very impressive. That, combined with his skill, makes him a great player," Aaron Downs, WLHS coach, said.

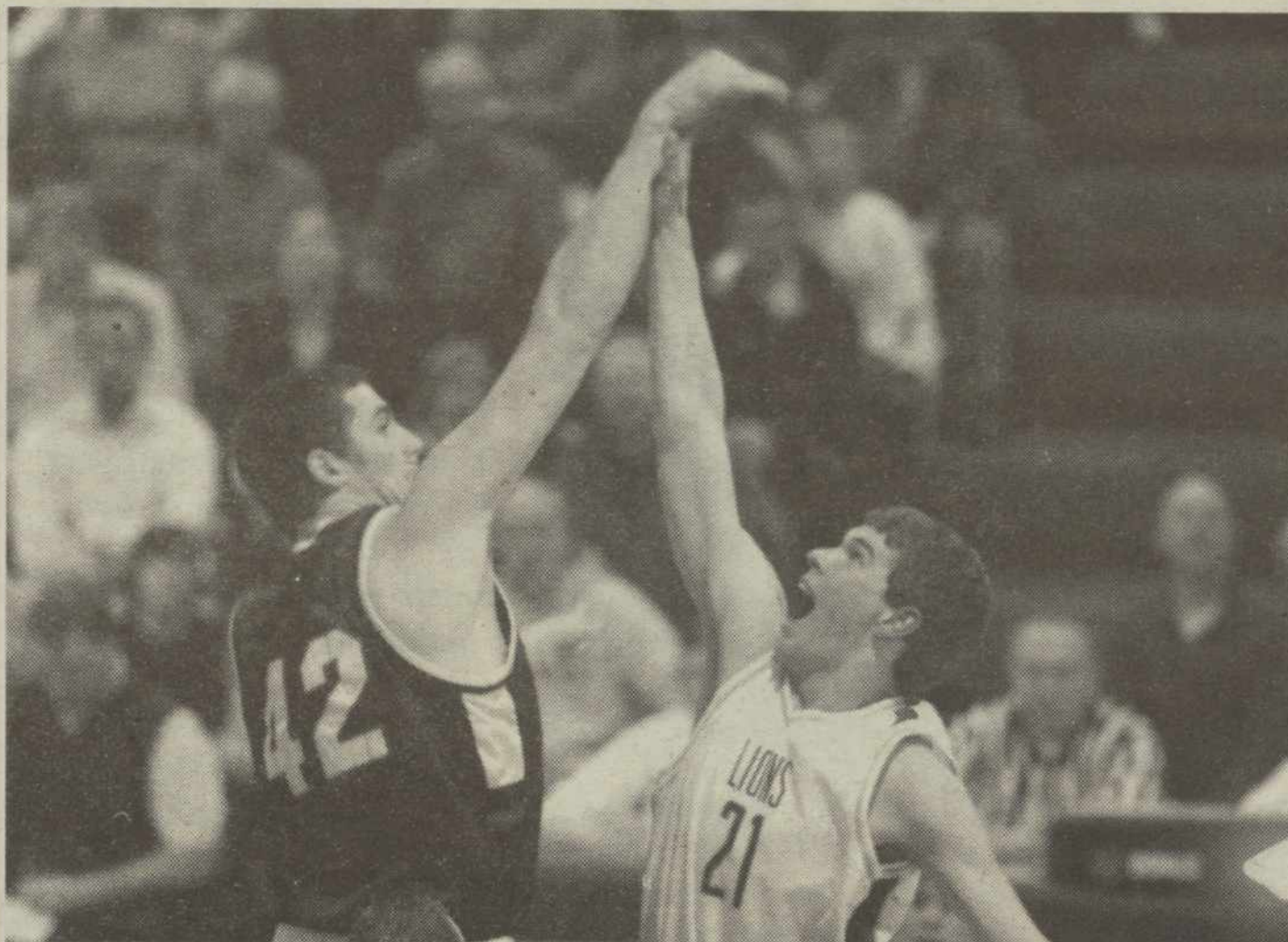
Love, a two-time Class 4A player of the year, averaged 29 points and nearly 17

rebounds a game last season as he led the Lakers to their first state championship. Love is going to play for the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and barring catastrophe, there is no doubt that he'll make it to the National Basketball Association (NBA). There is no way to stop him.

He's big, he's strong, he wants to work, and he has a true gift.

"We've tried double teaming him, putting one guy in front of him and one guy behind him, but nothing works. Our guys were like flies he swatted off," Downs said.

When playing against LO, the team had to pick its poison. If by some miracle chance they were able to shut down Love, which would take an incredibly strong double team (like Shaq and Tim Duncan), the rest of the LO starters, who are also



Brenton Spikerman, junior, futilely tries to outreach Laker center Kevin Love on the opening tip-off of West Linn's game against Lake Oswego on Feb. 22. From the start, Love had his way with the Lion defenders.

Photo by Jon Helmkamp

greatly talented players, would be open.

Earlier this year, Lake Oswego played Mater Dei, a team from California who is the second-ranked high

school team in the country. Their starting five players are 7' 1", 6' 10", and three standing at 6' 9". Their starting lineup is taller than any college starting lineup in the country. Against Mater Dei, Love racked up 36 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks.

"They're a very impressive team, and Love single handily demolished them," Downs said.

Fans had speculated that, based on the way the Lions played against Lake Oswego on the road, that maybe they would have a chance against them on the home court. Unfortunately, it was Love's show. Lake Oswego won easily 81-54, with Love leading the way with 37 points and 25 rebounds. Love was two points shy of having three times as many points as West Linn's leading scorer Justin Monahan who had 13 points.

Brenton Spikerman, junior, who was matched up against Love in the game against LO, wasn't too enthused about the prospect of guarding the famous Laker. In anticipation of the game that night, he said sarcastically "Yay, I get to get dunked on."

Ski Team reflects on season

KAITLYN RAGAN

Staff Reporter

The Ski Team's season was officially over on Feb. 17. The Girls' Varsity team finished in fifth place and Boys Varsity in ninth at the preliminary races to decide who goes to the State competition. Although none made it to State, the Ski Team had a good season.

Competitive skiing is much different than recreational skiing. There are two types of races: slalom and giant slalom.

The first consists of a series of poles placed closely together which the skiers must carefully ski through in a zigzag pattern. Giant slalom, on the other hand, is similar but with flags that are placed farther apart.

The team practiced about once a week, usually on Thursdays, and races took place on Saturdays.

"I feel like I improved ten-fold over the season. Once you can ski a course, you can ski anything,"

Eli Groman, junior, said. The team, since they must drive so far in order to practice, most days wouldn't get home until about 11 p.m., which would seriously cut into their homework time.

However, they still really

enjoy being a part of the team.

"It's much more fun to ski with your friends than your parents," Groman said. He plans on joining the team again next year.

Although none of the team members went on to compete at State, they were very proud of their improvement over the course of the season.

"We improved significantly on our speed this year," Nicholle Romero, sophomore, said. There were many seniors on the team last year so this year they are starting fresh with younger members.

"The team this year was more of a learning team since most of us are freshman and sophomores," said Groman. They are looking forward to next year when they will have some more experience, and expect to do well.

During the off-season it is hard for them to stay on their game since ski season only lasts for a few months out of the year. They try to get in as much practice throughout the spring as possible, and will work to stay in shape during the summer and fall to get ready for next season.

Girls' Snowboard Team takes first in State

KIRA MATSUOKA & KATIE CARNEY
Staff Reporters

With the Girls' Snowboard Team coming in first in the State, the entire team made great progress this season because of positive attitudes, teamwork and shared ambition that has guided them.

The Snowboard Team had 51 members from all grades including 41 men and 10 women. Members appreciated the experience of joining the group, and they have excelled as snowboarders while widening their friendship circle.

Jamie Kelso, coach, was surprised by the friendly acts of teammates toward each other. He also stated that they helped each other and tried to make each other better snowboarders.

As a result of their cooperation, both girls' and boys' Varsity teams came in first place in the January and February Slopestyle competitions, as well as ranking first in the February Halfpipe competition. In the January Men's Banked Slalom, Spencer Smith took first place with a best time of 35.148. Hana Jacover also

scored first in the women's competition, coming in at 36.524.

According to Andrew Riesen, freshman, on most teams older members have a tendency to look down on

snowboarders.

"I love my snowboard team. No one wants to bicker around and fight, they just want to board," Jali Henry, freshman said.

Teammates don't feel



Bryan Toti, sophomore, performs an Indie grab in a Snowboard competition. He was one of the many young Snowboard Team members who worked to create a successful team.

Photo courtesy of John Gertler

the younger ones, but on the Snowboard Team the older members have done nothing less than welcome the beginners and accept them as part of the team. So what is it that makes this team different, so cooperative?

"The fact that we all are in it together, and support each other," Riesen, said.

He believes that everyone works as a team and tries their hardest.

Kelso thinks that intimidation is not a problem for younger members of the team because they are all about motivation. Older members motivate younger ones to become better

that gender discrimination is a problem either. Out of 51 boarders only 10 are female. "I don't mind being one of the few girls on the team. I feel just as accepted as anyone else," Henry said. "No one really cares about picking on us. All they want to do is get up to the mountain."

The snow boarders hope to use this season's progress as a motivation to continue their success into next year. "I'm pretty bummed that the season's over. It's a fun time just hanging out and shredding with your friends. I'm also progressing in my snowboarding ability," Riesen said.