

Sports

Girls' Rugby Team prepares for State; boys eliminated early

CALLEY LATHROP

Staff Reporter

There are only a few games left for the girls' rugby team, as the State competition begins Apr. 19. With a flawless record, the girls hoped to make it through one more tough game and reach top seed, while the boys looked to squeak out a final win to add *umph* to their record.

The girls played first-year team Reynolds there on March 15 and swept them off their feet, with a final score of 72-0. "I was really impressed with how everyone came together, we had such a strong offense that we were on defense very rarely," Ernesto Espinoza, head coach, said.

They then ran all over first year team Newberg, 70-0, on Mar. 21 in a non-league game at The Farm in West Linn. The team had one more season game, which was against Westside on Apr. 12. It was another shutout, the final score 35-0. This win brought the girls to first in their division ensured

top-seed at State.

According to Espinoza, many rookie players have stepped up to prove themselves in these non-league games, such as Carly Strasshoffer, freshman.

"Carly and many other rookies are starting



David Hogan, senior, jukes a defender during a March 15 game against Newberg. The boys dominated in the 24-0 shutout, their first win of the season.

Photo submitted by Bruce Sommers

to look like vets out there. They're really impressing everyone," Espinoza said. The young players' performances will be crucial at State, as nearly half the team is composed of rookies. Injuries have made an

impact on the girls' roster this year, as the team lost many key players including Alisa Cheadle, sophomore, in November, due to a broken ankle during an All-Stars game. Megan Hackney, junior, was also hurt early in the season and suffered a torn Lateral Collateral Ligament, and Hailey Jones, Lake Oswego sophomore, pulled the tendon off her finger during the Columbia County game. Ariel Heston, senior, was also sidelined with a sprained ankle during the Reynolds game. Espinoza hopes that all will be back in time for State.

The annual GoffOnRugby Tournament, which was held Apr. 7 in Lacey, Wash., gave the girls a chance to see how they matched up against the best teams from the Northwest, teams that they will likely play in State and, if they make it, Regionals. Espinoza was impressed with the team's performance.

Lacrosse kicks off season with tough competition

MAX HAYS

Staff Reporter

Both the Boys' and Girls' Varsity Lacrosse teams have started the season against elite competition and have been faring well in these games.

The boys' team has played against several of the top 10 teams in the Northwest beating Mercer Island, (Washington), 7-6, Skyline, (Washington), and the team hung tough with Oregon Episcopal School, taking them into triple overtime before losing the thriller against the top ranked OES, 2-3.

The Lions are 5-5 overall and 3-1 in league, putting them in third place in the Three Rivers League. To stay near the top, the Lions will have to avenge their loss to rival Lakeridge and a beat a good Lake Oswego team twice. But if the Lions continue to receive strong performances from Spencer Smith, Shannon Sirvaitis, and Nicholas Pepler, senior captains, Michael Fay, sophomore, and the rest of the team, they should win the Three Rivers League title and be in competition for the State Championship.

"The team works very

hard, does everything we ask them to and has been playing well this season," Mark Flood, head coach said.

The next home game will be against Lake Oswego on Apr. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

The Girls' team started the year with a tough loss to a very good St. Mary's team, but has only lost once

and has been working out the mental parts of the game. The team has played well as a whole behind Solveig Lee and Samantha Dewart, senior captains, and is looking forward to taking on top competitors in Oregon City, Lake Oswego and Lakeridge.

"We want every girl to take their play to the next



Solveig Lee, senior, is surrounded by Liberty defenders in the 14-8 Lion victory over the Falcons. Both the boys' and girls' teams have played well and are at the top of their respective leagues.

Photo by Malia Chong

since, to league rival Lake Oswego, besides the Lake Oswego game, the team has been blowing through the competition, beating Marist, South Eugene, Liberty, Southridge and Glencoe, in convincing manners. Allister Bunch, head coach, said that the team has come together

level, continue to improve as individuals and the wins will come naturally," Bunch said.

Upcoming games for the girls include back-to-back games against Oregon City on Apr. 21 and 24 at 8 p.m. The first game is at Oregon City and the second game is at home.

"We were playing top-notch teams like Kent, and only lost by several points or a try. If we'd had 70 minutes, the results could've been very different. We were playing like a team, and I was really impressed," Espinoza said.

Despite lukewarm results at the tournament, players and coaches are optimistic about the State competition. "We've been playing hard, smart, and together. That is a successful formula," Theodore Lambeth, coach, said.

A big win came for the boys' team on Mar. 15 against Newberg, 24-0.

"We played extremely well and dominated Newberg," Tim Medearis, head coach, said. The following weekend was a bye, giving the team a chance to heal from several injuries.

"It hasn't been a huge problem for us, players are

mainly getting hurt during practice," Medearis said.

The boys suffered a devastating loss on Apr. 5 against Columbia County, eliminating them from the State tournament. All was not lost, however, as the B-side already has a spot in State, thanks to their 2-1 record, which will be a round-robin tournament on Apr. 19.

The B-side has done well this season, and according to Medearis, they hope to finish strong at State. They took on McMinnville on Apr. 5, their last game of regular season. The game ended in their first loss of the season in the 35-0 shutout.

Medearis feels that, although they are out of State, they have come a long way since January. "We've been coming together as a team," Medearis said. Everyone's getting the concept of rugby."

Debs hard work pays off with fifth at State

KELSEY SCHRADER

Staff Reporter

The Debutantes Dance Team, coached by Amanda Wilcox, Angie Sharpe, Geoff Wishart and Karissa Peterson, placed fifth at State last month, a step up from a sixth place finish last year.

This year's theme, "Let Them Eat Cake," was Victorian-based, and the team danced to the song "Like It Or Not" by Madonna. Once again, Clackamas took first place with Parkrose coming in a close second. Last year, these two teams also took home first and second place, respectively. The Glencoe dancers earned fourth, even after part of their set fell apart minutes before they were cued to start their routine.

"Our coaches were very impressed at what we did," Hillary Krippaehne,

sophomore, said. "They were crying after the second round; [it] was very emotional."

The 32 dancers on the team started their hard work last summer with daily-doubles and training classes, and breezed through the fall season earning awards for their lyrical, jazz and hip-hop dances. This year was a big year for the seniors, because it was the first group that was coached by the same people all four years. Since Wilcox, Sharpe, Wishart, and Peterson returned in 2004, the team has improved its State placement.

"We've come a long way," Marissa Clark, senior, said, who gives credit for the team improvement to the hard work each dancer took responsibility for. "I think we did a great job this year, and the Dance Team's future looks very bright."



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