

Boys' and girls' rugby teams advance to State Championships

ALISON FIELDHOUSE

The Girls' Rugby Team took fourth in State after losing to Clackamas, 0-55, on May 22. The Renegades were unable to fend off the Centaurs' continually scoring.

"Although we didn't score during the game, it was an exciting match. The

of the game. Although the Renegades came back and scored a try, it was their only try of the game.

"It was a shame that we lost, but it was obvious that everyone on the team gave their all during the game. In the end, we just weren't able to pull through," Sara Crawford, junior, said.

to describe why we're different from other teams: hard work. We have players that have never played a sport or others who have no rugby experience. We've come a long way by working hard on the fundamentals, fitness and working on having a positive attitude,"

start of the season.

The girls' team finished second in league, 5-2; the boys were seventh in league with a 2-5 record.

"My expectations for the team are to keep improving as a team. We have yet to play to our potential. There's plenty of good rugby to be played,"

Espinoza said. The team faced tougher opponents in the State Championship matches.

In preparation, the Renegades increased their practices from three days a week to four. The team was hopeful that they would perform their best at State.

"We have to be ready to face even tougher opponents. This means more intense practices," Shelby Patterson, junior captain, said. Patterson was taken out of the season due to an ankle injury, but continues to support her team by showing up to practice and cheering them on at games.

The Renegades won their last league match by default against Bend on May 1. Bend was forced to forfeit because they only brought four players. This

meant that members from the Renegades mixed in with players from Bend.

"By mixing with Bend, we had a chance to play our own teammates and still have fun while playing them," Crawford said. According to coaches and players, rugby is a social sport so teams learn to be opponents on the field, but friends off the field.

In their second to last league match, the Renegades beat the Westside Pirates, 42-7. Early in the game, the team gained the lead and held onto it until the second half when the Pirates were able to score.

The boys' team lost its first playoff match to Linn Benton, 10-48. After taking the Division II State Championship last year, the team moved up to Division I to face tougher opponents. With its season over, the team will rest and prepare for next year's season.

The team lost their last league match to McMinnville 7-42. Prior to this loss, the team lost their second to last league match against Prairie 7-27.

"Despite the losses we've had, we want to persevere and bring our A-game to State," Colton Erickson, junior, said before the state match.



Photo by Elise White

Carly Hicks, sophomore, carries the ball into a tackle during the game against Bend on May 1. The team won by default because Bend did not have enough players to fill a team.

team showed their skill and the game was well played. We will miss our seniors, but we will take a break and come back strong next season," Marisa Brookhouse, sophomore, said. The team will graduate four seniors this year.

The team lost its match in the State semifinals to Reynolds 5-47. Reynolds scored two five point tries within the first 10 minutes

After the game, the team talked about what went wrong and how they could prepare for their next match.

The team won its first playoff match against Columbia County, 32-27. The Renegades pulled ahead early with two tries. From that point on, the two teams took turns scoring, consistently matching the other.

"There are two words

Ernie Espinoza, head girls' coach, said. Sixteen players graduated from the team last year leaving the team short on numbers at the

Track Teams, individuals, excel at District meet

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the 800 meters, Jefferson Chandler finishing first in the 1500 meters, and Timothy Donnelly continuing the string of first place finishes in the 3000 meters. All three of the runners are juniors.

Chelsea Ollar, junior finished first for the girls' team in the 1500 meters.

They set out to prove a point against the Mustangs, winning 105-40, while the boys also scored a sizeable win, 81-64.

"Our distance crew is really running well. On the girls side they are led by captains Kathryn Flyte and Kelsey Guerins. Both are seniors and are the backbone of a solid group of distance runners," John Linman, Distance Crew coach, said. "Our boys are coming off their second third place State meet finish with some fine times."

On a May 1 meet against Centennial, Wannarka ran the 3000 meter in a time of 8:45—the third fastest time in WLHS history.

However, the distance crew is not the only group to have made its mark this season. Many of the short distance runners, and members of

the field team, have had success as well. Keaton Hedman, junior, has finished first in all but two of the 100 meter races that he has run. In the 110 meter hurdles, Zachary Valentine, senior, has finished first four times. In the 300 meter hurdles Livesay finished first four times

On the field, first place finishes have been plentiful as well. In the shot put, Brandon Brooksby, sophomore, received first three times. Maria Green, sophomore, placed first five times in the high jump.

On the boys' side, Hedman will be going to State both in the 100 meters and as a member of the 4 x 100 relay team. The other members of the team are Mason Finnerty, sophomore, and Jacob Gianuzzi and Maxwell Hays, seniors. West, Boyd-Helm, and Wannarka will join them at State along with Justin McKee, junior, in javelin and Andre Armattoo,



Photo by Matthew Sherman, West Linn Tidings
Madison Leek, freshman, overwhelms the competition in the 200 meters at the District Meet at Oregon City High School. Leek also took first in the 100 meters and anchored the 4x100 Relay Team and second place 4x400 relay team.

senior, in pole vault.

In addition to the girls' relay teams, Livesay also qualified for State for the 300 meters hurdles as did Ella Clow, sophomore, who took third in high jump.

Boys' Tennis Team overcomes odds to send doubles team to State

Boys' Tennis

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"Most other schools didn't think we really had a chance to be competition."

The team practiced and prepared for matches by planning and working on their skills. They focused on covering both the offense and defense depending on how the play would turn out, according to Ward Lewis, coach.

"I feel like our team had great effort this year," Samra said. "We all work hard and come to practices all the time. We expect a lot out of each other and we help each other improve every day."

Outstanding athletes cited by the team captains include Samra and Macemon.

"They have stepped up

from being our third to our second and are both willing to improve by constantly playing against me and my partner," To said.

Both Samra and Macemon achieved the Most Improved award which was voted for by the team.

"I feel that we work well together and we both know our role on the team," Samra said. "We respect our opponents well and we play our hardest every match."

In addition to Macemon and Samra's Most Improved award, there were further awards voted for by the team. Nathan Aden, senior, attained the award for Sportsmanship, Joel Callagan, senior, won Most Inspirational and Tsuruta was awarded Most Valuable Player.