

Vernonia Fall Sports Report

By Scott Laird

Vernonia's school sports teams are off to a mixed start this fall.

The Varsity and JV football teams have struggled to start the season, both losing all three of their first games. After starting the season with a successful jamboree, beating Gervais and Gaston, and tying Willamina, the Loggers Varsity was beaten by Sheridan 6-0, Knappa 34-0 and Nestucca 20-16. Athletic Director Gordon Jarman noted that Knappa has an excellent team this year and that the Nestucca game was between "two evenly matched teams." "We expect to improve as the year goes on," said Jarman, as the team moves into league play. "I think we will compete for a playoff spot." The JV team, made up mostly of freshmen and sophomores, has struggled to score so far this season.

One bright spot in the Vernonia football program is the middle school team coached by Alex Etta. The Toppers won their first game 34-7 with an attacking defense and some solid offensive performances. "The kids are really becoming a team and starting to believe in each other," said Etta. Etta is working to instill three traits in his players-be positive, be respectful, and to have integrity meaning "...do the right thing, even when no one is looking." Etta mentioned some of his top performers- Corey Eason and Nick Court, both playing defense and runningback; Kendrick Leaverton- "... the littlest guy on the team,



The Vernonia Middle School football program is off to a great start

but really tough," and Jake Titus, "...our fastest player." The Toppers last home game of the season is against Jewell on October 14.

The Varsity Volleyball team has struggled to start the season. Captains Tricia Levenseller, a senior, and Bonnie Birkmaier, a junior, lead the Lady Loggers. "This is a great group of girls who all love the game of volleyball and who desire to play at the top of their ability," said coach Brook VanMeter. "Though we have had a slow start, we anticipate gaining momentum and ending somewhere near the top." The JV squad has fared better with a 4-1 record led by team captain Chelsea Patton. Coach Teresa Williams mentioned head setter Ariel Rock ("... very athletic, quick on her feet, a good all around player.") Mickell Maller ("...one of our middle blockers who has played well") and Shyla Tungwenuk ("...has played well on defense on the back row- she's not afraid to get down on the floor.")

The Cross Country teams, with seventeen total runners under the direction of coach James Brookins, are improving. The Boys team has been lead by English exchange student Timothy Pillow. "Timothy should qualify for State," said

Brookins. "The rest of the team is fairly young." Contributing to the team have been sophomores Chris Johnston, Paul White man and Kodi Dyer, and freshman



The Varsity Volleyball team talks strategy

Jackson Miller. Brookins said he thinks the boys will continue to improve and be competitive throughout the season. The Girls team lost four varsity runners to flood related moves. Juniors Katy Stevens and Souvanne Miller and fourth year seniors Amber Eastlick and Gillian Cheney have led this year's team. Kristina Halverson, an active cheerleader, has also stepped in occasionally and finished first for the team in her first race. "Katy Stevens and Souvanne Miller have a chance to make the league team if they continue to improve," said Brookins. The Loggers host the Vernonia Relay on October 16 as part of Homecoming Week, the only chance to see the Loggers race at home this season.

One other highlight for Vernonia sports this fall season has been the return of the Vernonia Cheerleading Squad. Coach Cassandra Ashby has her girls together and working as a team, bringing school spirit back to school sports events in Vernonia.



Vernonia Cheerleaders at their first game

Trail Blazers Student Achievement Program Rewards Good Behavior

By Scott Laird

Last year over 15,000 students and families participated in the Portland Trail Blazers student achievement programs and over 150 schools performed, played on the court or organized a special group event.

The Portland Trail Blazers are pleased to once again offer local area students, staff and their friends and family their School and Family Nights: several nights designated just for you with incredible ticket savings! For the Super Saver \$5 nights, tickets must be ordered two weeks prior to each game. For the Saver \$10 nights, the order deadline is three weeks prior to each game. Reserved seating for this program is limited and is filled on a first come, first serve basis. I hope you are able to take advantage of this discounted offer. Enjoy! If you have any questions, please feel free to call Lisa Swan at the Portland Trail Blazers at (503) 963-3966.

If any student, K-5, at Washington Grade School maintains positive school behavior, demonstrated by having no disciplinary referrals or stingers through the end of the first quarter, October 30, they will receive a complimentary Portland Trail Blazer ticket through the Behavioral Reward Program! Parents and guardians of the specific student can get their tickets at a discounted price.

The same procedure will be followed for the second quarter, ending January 22, and the third quarter, ending April 2.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Washington Grade School Principal Mr. Miller or Mr. Spaulding at 503-429-7941.

Hope to see you at some games!

District 47J PTA Needs You!

By Scott Laird

The Vernonia School District Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) is looking for new members. Are you the parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle of a student attending Vernonia or Mist schools? Are you a concerned citizen without children in school but still interested in what is going on with local schools, teachers and students? Are you a student in the district who would like to help influence parent and teacher relationships? If you are any of these, then you could be an active and vital member of the local PTA and help shape how Vernonia schools function.

The local PTA has been actively assisting Vernonia schools for the last six years. The PTA has been responsible for providing digital cameras for photography classes, printers for the grade school and middle school, helping fund class field trips, and purchased and installed the new playground equipment at Washington Grade School (WGS). They also put together the community Easter egg hunt each spring.

The PTA is actively recruiting members so it can continue to play an active role in local schools. "We have done so much, but we need more members to keep it going," said PTA President Camrin Eyrrick recently. Eyrrick was instrumental in re-starting the local PTA six years ago, and she believes it has a critical role to fill in the community. "The PTA is about open communication and working for our children."

Eyrrick said they are looking for members from the middle and high schools so there is equal representation. She also said that the PTA gives a scholarship to a high school senior each year who is an active member. There are no eligible members yet this year.

Eyrrick explained that the PTA is the oldest child advocacy group and has been active in Oregon for over 100 years.

The Vernonia PTA usually meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at WGS. On October 8 they will hold a Back to School BBQ in conjunction with the WGS open house night. Many other activities are planned for the upcoming year and volunteers are needed.

For more information about the Vernonia PTA, contact Camrin Eyrrick at 503-429-0425.

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