

Spring Sports Update

Girls Softball

First-year head coach Joe Walters has a somewhat young group of girls this year on the Girls softball team. After a shaky preseason, in which Walters shuffled players through a lot of position changes, the team is settling into a regular lineup and is playing well together. With only three seniors on the team, Walters is depending on a talented class of juniors to lead the way. "We have a very good team this year, and hope the community will come out to watch and support the girls," said Walters.

Amy Rethwell, Souvanny Miller, Karly Dewitt, Bonnie Birkmeir and Bre Maldonado cover the infield. Underclassmen Melissa Sandstrom, Chelsea Patton and Megan Rock patrol the outfield and Adrienne East is the top pitcher. Senior catcher Brittney Paden directs the defense from behind the plate. Leading the team on offense are Birkmeir, Dewitt, Miller and Rethwell. The team has a key away double-header scheduled against league powerhouse Rainier on May 5. A great chance to see the Lady Loggers in action is during the scheduled home double-headers against Neah-Kah-Nie on May 12 and Clatskanie on May 15. League Playoffs were scheduled to begin on May 21.



Adrienne East pitches for the Lady Loggers

Equestrian Team

The Vernonia Equestrian Team is sending their Drill Team to state this year. Second year coach Diane Benes is proud of the way her team has pulled together this year. "We've had a lack of practice due to weather," said Benes. "But I've really enjoyed my riders' great attitudes and sportsmanship. And they've even increased their skills."

Benes's team is made up of seniors Allee Chadek and Team Captain Ashley Paleck, Drill Team Captain Jamie Benes, Brianna Carr, Mackenzie Tarkelson, Chantel Szlavich, and freshmen Kayleigh Johnson and Brett Benes. Coach Benes mentioned Brianna Carr on barrels who has increased her times this year, and Jamie Benes who has really helped bring the team together. "All the team members have shown great attitudes, and we've all received a lot of support from family and teammates this year," said coach Benes.

The Drill Team will compete at the State meet on May 14-16. The team is also first alternate for IHOR and second alternate for Team Flags at states.

Golf

The Golf Team, under the direction of coach James Brookins, is being led by sophomore Paul Whiteman. Whiteman appears to be one of the top golfers in the league this year, finishing first in most of the meets where he's competed, including a win in the Vernonia Invitational where he shot a round of 79, and recently taking fourth at a combined inter-district tournament. The rest of the varsity squad is made up of Tim Prpich, Calvin Barnes, Dakota Burch, Jacob Alf and Josh Vanderzan-

den. According to coach Brookins, Whiteman is expected to do well at the districts on May 11-12, and could possibly qualify for the State Tournament.

Boys Baseball

The Loggers Baseball program is going through a rebuilding year, with only three seniors, three juniors, one sophomore and a slew of freshman making up the squad this year. Head Coach Aaron Miller is receiving the benefit of a strong junior baseball program that is feeding his high school squad, but still has a very inexperienced and young team. "This group of freshmen finished fifth in the state last year in Junior ball," said Miller. Seniors Caleb Rice, Kyle Brixey and Taylor Smith are the team leaders. Junior pitcher Alex Lende is throwing well and, according to Miller, may be one of the strongest pitchers in the league. Junior Oliver Kocura, an exchange student from The Czech Republic where he plays on the national team, brings experience behind the plate. "He hits well and really knows the game," says coach Miller. Freshman starter Jackson Miller has been almost errorless at shortstop, and freshman Joe Benes plays outfield, fills in in the infield, and can pitch as well. "My goal for the team is for them to go out and compete," says Miller. "If they think about what they are doing, they can execute what needs to be done, and do well."



Tim Brown gets a hit for the Loggers



Alex Lende is having a good year on the mound for the Loggers Varsity Baseball squad

Track and Field

Head Coach Byron Brown and assistant coach Teresa Williams have a good team, with almost forty members, that includes a couple of real surprises. British exchange student Timothy Pillow, who had never run competitively before joining the cross country team this past fall, has created a stir in the 1,500 Meter and 3,000 Meter races, having never finished less than second in a race this season. "He has so much pride and such a strong work ethic," said Brown. "I think he has a chance to be state champion." Brown also mentioned the performance of two strong sprinters, Blake Moeller and Justin Caputo. Williams, who mostly coaches the field athletes, mentioned the performances of Caputo, who just recently stepped in to throw the javelin and the shot put and is already excelling; Kim Allen in the 100 Meter and Long Jump and Sam Lee in the High Jump. The District Meet will be held on May 8 and 9 and the State Meet is the following weekend.

Climate Change Invades Our Town and Our Planet

By Brandi Fosdick

Well, everyone wanted spring and now they've got it. You can really tell that global climate change is taking its toll on the planet these past few weeks. The first week of the month, we were looking at the possibility of yet more snow. After that, we saw some of the only normal weather we've had in this town in like a year, which was a week of spring rain. Now, it's just been hot and windy. And that's just a weekly report-- the day-to-day has been getting even more interesting. One day it's pouring, the next it's almost eighty degrees, and then back to pouring again. Other times, like the day I'm writing this, it's raining in the morning, hot an hour later, hailing the hour after that, and then it starts all over again and repeats all day long.

We need to start putting more effort into this problem. It's just gotten too serious to ignore any more. Any person who says global climate change is a myth, and please excuse me if this is you, doesn't know what they're talking about. It's real and it's been there for years. Just look at the past decade or so in our town alone. We had the first flood in 1996, then the year when everyone was snowed in, the second flood in 2007, then the Christmas snowstorm this last December that made the previously mentioned storm look like a small flurry, and then it almost flooded again several times after that. So, as you can see, climate change is very real.

And it's happened before. Yes, it may have been millions of years ago, but it did happen and it's happening again. Scientists have computer banks and museums full of evidence to prove it, and to show us what's going to happen if we don't do something. The last time this happened, it got too warm for there to be any ocean currents, and the oceans went stagnant. How long do you think it took for most of the life there to die? Not very long, and in that short amount of time everything in that 2/3 of the earth covered in water died. What do you think happened to the land organisms that relied on the ocean and its inhabitants for survival? And the organisms that relied on them? In less time than you can imagine, our planet went through a mass extinction that killed 99% of all life on earth.

You might think that this isn't relevant, or that it would take forever to get that bad. But our average global temperature only needs to raise two or three degrees to cause severe and irreversible damage. Already, our polluting the planet has caused many species of plants and animals to become extinct, and many more are threatened. Our planet needs help and it needs it now. And the majority of the help it needs is so simple that it's sad that it ever got this far. Doing simple things like conserving fuel, energy, and water alone can both save the planet and money. Other things you can do are recycling, planting trees and threatened plants, and just trying to encourage as many people as you can to make an effort. This is probably the most important way you can help. One person doing the absolute most they can to help won't have near the same effect as if just ten percent of the people in our town picked just one thing to do to help out.

So please do something to help, even if it's just turning off the light when you leave a room. And remember to try and get other people to help too. If you want a reason why, just answer a couple of questions. Do you want another flood? Do you want it to be more than a hundred degrees all summer long? Do you want your house buried in snow again next winter? And the big one, do you want your grandchildren to be able to sit in the shade of a tree, or be able to see a live polar bear? Or to even be alive long enough to have grandchildren of their own? That should give you plenty of reasons.



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