

LoggerBots Have Successful Debut at First Robotics Competition

The Vernonia High School LoggerBots enjoyed a successful and fun experience at the Oregon First Robotics Portland Regional Competition on March 8–10.

This was the first time VHS has organized a team for the competi-

tion. As a rookie team the LoggerBots finished 59 out of 66 total teams, but scored the most baskets of any of the ten rookie teams competing in the Rebound rumble competition.

“It was very educational,” said VHS senior Brandon Krause. “the whole event has such a family feeling. All the teams try to help each other. The judges are very complimentary. It was just very friendly all around.”

This year more than 2000 students from Oregon, SW Washington, Mexico, Alaska and Hawaii descended on the Memorial Coliseum for the Oregon First Robotics Competition. Competing teams were tasked with designing and building and programming a robot from a basic kit they were given. The robots compete in

90 second games on a cooperative team of three robots against another team of three. Points are earned for scoring baskets, balancing on a ramp and programming their robot to be run by X-Box Kinect.

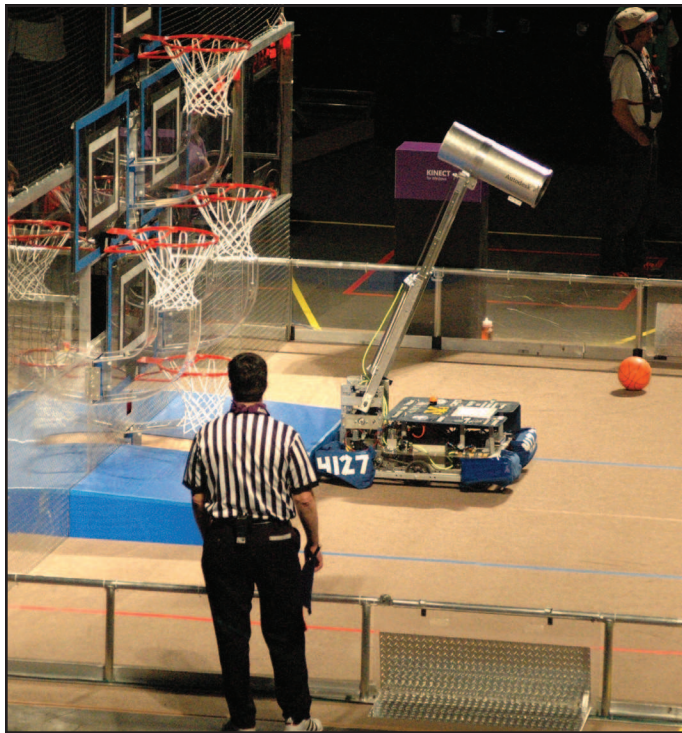
“The main ranking favors things that we did not concentrate on much, or at all, like the balancing, and using the X-Box Kinect,” said adult mentor Mitch Seibert. “Heck, speaking for myself anyway, I was thinking for this first year, it would be really great to show up with something that moved and maybe even scored a basket.”

The LoggerBots did much more than that, finishing tied for eighth over-all in points scored from baskets made with 78 points as well as leading all rookie teams in that category.

“The results were excellent as we were one of the best at

shooting baskets, which was always our primary objective,” said Jeff Ely, another adult mentor to the team. “We learned a lot that we can do for next year and it was great to have this level of success right out of the gate.”

Krause noted that one of the veteran teams from Philomath gave the Vernonia LoggerBots a special award at the competition for “Most Genius Design.”



Photos courtesy of Daniel Mullikin.



VHS Band Preparing for State Festival

The Vernonia High School Band is getting ready to head to the State Band Festival for the second year in a row.

The VHS Band will travel to Corvallis to compete on May 10th

The Band will once again need some help from the community to make this unscheduled overnight trip. Band Instructor Rob Izzett has come up with a creative way to raise the funds for his students and for the community to support the VHS Band going to State.

Izzett has decided to run in the Vernonia Half Marathon on April 15th. “It worked out great because we need 13 rooms so we can stay overnight before our morning performance in Corvallis, and the rooms cost \$89.” explains Izzett. “There just happen to be 13 miles in the half marathon and since we need 13 rooms, what I’m shooting for is 89 people to sponsor me \$1 for each mile I intend to run. And that would cover the total expense for chaperones and stu-

dents.”

The VHS Band qualified for the State Contest in strong fashion, winning their league competition with scores of 85, 86, and 87. “You need at least two judges to give you a score of 75 or higher to qualify for State,” explains Izzett. “All three judges scored us well into the 80’s, so we qualified soundly.”

Izzett says the VHS Band will be required to perform fifteen minutes of actual music at the State Contest.

According to Izzett the Loggers will be performing three pieces of music: a transcription from an overture to a French opera

called La Bella Helena, (“It’s French opera and the kids just love it—it blew me away that the kids like it so much,” says Izzett); a coral called Appalachian Aire, (“it’s s rendition of an old, old hymn called My God Will Supply All My Needs.”); and a three movement piece called Greek Folksongs Suite, (A very difficult piece of music—if you’ve ever seen My Big Fat Greek Wedding, you can just picture that when you here this music.”).

Izzett says he expects VHS to

be competing against six to eight other schools and that the top half are awarded trophies.

Izzett and the VHS Band will warm up for the State Contest with a performance at a Festival at George Fox University on April 6th. Following the contest the judges will clinic with each band to give them some pointers and help them work on improving their performance. This is also done at the league contest. “There is winning and not winning, but ultimately it’s designed to help the kids, and me, improve,” says Izzett.

The VHS PEP Band recently traveled with the Basketball team to the State playoffs in Pendleton, where they received rave reviews for their performance. “We benefited from all the buzz around the basketball team and I just want to keep that buzz going,” says Izzett.

Izzett says that parents or other Band supporters are encouraged to attend the State Contest in Corvallis. “It’s free and anyone is welcome to come down and watch us perform.”

To sponsor Rob Izzett and help the VHS Band go to State you can email Izzett at robizzett@yahoo.com, call him at 503-780-0661 or sign up at Sentry Market.

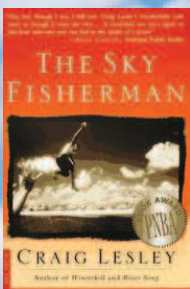


Vernonia Community Reads 2012

Youngsters will be reading and participating in an activity related to Addie Boswell’s book, *The Rain Stomper*. Ms. Boswell will be at the library Tuesday, April 10 at 3:30 PM to do an interactive reading, talk about how the book was made and lead a drawing activity on character development.



Adults will be reading Craig Lesley’s books—especially *The Sky Fisherman* with Mr. Lesley reading from and discussing his writing Saturday, April 14 at 4:00 PM in the library.



Funded by a joint grant from The Columbia County Cultural Coalition and The Friends of the Vernonia Library.

Winter Sports Wrap Up

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named Most Inspirational, Jesse Edgar was named Most Improved, and Byron Weller was named Best Defender.

Girls Basketball—The Lady Loggers got off to a slow start this season under new head coach Victor Matoush, but turned things around and finished fifth in the 2A Northwest League with a 8-8 league record and a 9-16 overall record.

The Lady Loggers qualified for the league playoffs where they faced a tough Gaston team that had beat them handily both times they played previously in the season. The Vernonia

girls showed up to compete at the away game in Gaston and were in the game right until the final minute, losing 39-34.

The Lady Loggers will say goodbye to several seniors including three year varsity players Kim Allen and Shyla Tungwenuk along with Robin Elliot, Laura Kaiser ad exchange student Lea Mari.

At the Winter Sports Awards junior Samantha Lindauer was named Most Valuable Player and Tungwenuk was named Best Defensive player.