

VHS Spring Sports Report: Track team continues to dominate as they prepare for district meet

Track and Field—The Vernonia Loggers track team continues to prepare for the district meet on May 11th and 12th and the state meet on May 18th and 19th.

With a r a week to go, the VHS boys have the fastest times in every running event except the 3K. The 4 x 100 team (Jacob Stevens, Nicolo Casale, Lane Sullivan and Paul Jiranek) should win at District and make it to state. "We ran out of the zone on a handoff at PC and that's the only time we've lost in league all year," says head coach Byron Brown. It's the same with the 4x400 relay team (Paul Jiranek, Nathan Fleck, Jacob Stevens and Nicolo Casale). "We're clearly the best team," says Brown.

In the sprints Brown has a lot of options, with Casale able to win the 100, 200 and 400—unfortunately he can only run in 4 events including relays. "Same with Jacob Stevens," says Brown. "Casale and he are currently 1st and 2nd in state in the 200 meters."

Nathan Fleck continues to dominate in the middle distance events. "He has really made us a dangerous team with his improvement this season," says

Brown. Fleck ran under 2 minutes in the 800 meters at the Portland Christian Invitational last on April 28 and almost set a new school record, set nearly 40 years ago. "That performance was the best in the state so far this year," says Brown. Fleck also has the fastest time in the 1500 in the league at 4:23.

In the field events, Lane Sullivan is 2nd in the long jump and Jon Anderson is 4th in the shot; they are our strengths in the field events. For the girls, Lea Wilson continues to dominate the shot put and should win at district and head to the state meet.

The girls 4x100 relay team (Meghan Sullivan, Sammy Lindauer, Julie Zhussanova and Kim Allen) and the 4 x400 relay team (Lucy Cheramy, Rowan Cheney, Sammy Lindauer and Kim Allen) have a realistic chance at making it to the state track meet. Lindauer has a good shot at going in the 400 and so does Rowan Cheney in the 3K.

"At this point, it's almost a chess match," explains Brown when discussing how to choose which athletes will compete in which events. "We not only have to think about giving us the

best chance to win our district, but we have to think beyond that to the state championship. We're planning on a couple of surprises. It's very possible and even likely that we will be more successful at the state track meet than the district meet. At state, our premier athletes will probably stand out even more, with the state meet being even more competitive at every event, with the points being more widely distributed."

Baseball—The Loggers baseball boys still have a chance to make the league playoffs this season.

It's been a roller coaster ride of a season for the Loggers this year. They've struggled to field the ball consistently and early in the year lost some games they should have won. And yet, when they play their best they are capable of beating any team in the state, as they proved on April 16 when they beat Knappa 12-2, who were ranked number one in the state in 2A. "We played really well that game," said Logger head coach Aaron Miller. "Tim Jennings pitched for us and really kept them off balance. We hit the ball really well and finished them off early. It was our best game of the year."

The Loggers have come alive at

the plate towards the end of the season as they swept their three game series against Neah-Kah-Nie, winning 18-6, 17-2, and 9-2. "We had some strong pitching performances and everyone hit the ball well," said Miller. Jennings continues to pitch well for the Loggers along with Bo Clark and Austin Cutright. At the plate Joe Benes has been getting on base consistently and Josh Butcher, Austin Cutright, Tim Jennings and Jackson Miller have been hitting well behind him.

The boys dropped an important make-up game against Gaston 7-1 on April 25, dimming their hopes of grabbing the third place seed in the playoffs. And three straight losses to first place Portland Christian has made the task of just getting into the playoffs a real challenge for Miller's boys.

Softball—The Lady Loggers have a solid hold on fourth place and a spot in the league playoffs and still have a chance to grab second place. The girls have a key three game series against Nestucca on May 8 at home with a double header on May 10 at Nestucca.

The Lady Loggers were defeated by first place Gaston 15-5, but pounded Neah-Kah-Nie in a three game sweep, 28-8, 20-4 and 23-9.

VHS Students Save Flowers

A group of Vernonia High School students volunteered on Saturday April 21st and salvaged flower bulbs from around the current school site.

Organized by school instructor Teri Willard, the students dug up the perennial bulbs that have been growing for possibly as long as fifty years.

The current school site is scheduled for demolition this summer. According to Willard the bulbs will be stored and replanted at the new school campus.



District Clean-up Day

The Vernonia School District will host a Clean-up Day on May 19th starting at 9:00 AM at the District house at 1201 Texas Ave. The house will be the new district office when the school campus moves to the new location.

There is a need for trimming trees and clearing some underbrush and they could use some community volunteers to help trim the branches once they are down and to haul them away.

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