

VHS Spring Sports Report

Track and Field- The Loggers are about half-way through the season, and have participated in 5 meets, 3 of them big invitationals with much larger schools from Oregon and Washington. Head coach Byron Brown and assistant coach Teresa Williams have been able to evaluate their talent and how best to take advantage of their strengths. "I think we have a very good team with several outstanding athletes and many more very good athletes that have shown improvement so far," said Brown.

Nathan Fleck, Samantha Lindauer, Meghan Sullivan, Lane Sullivan, and Maina Martin are outstanding athletes who would be successful in any

program. Fleck is either first or second in the NW league in the 200, 400, 800 and 1500 and has the fastest time in the state in the 800. Lindauer is currently 2nd in league in the 1500, 3K and triple jump, and 3rd in the 800. Meghan Sullivan is 2nd in the 100 and 200 and long jump. Dezi Roberts is 2nd in high jump. All should qualify for the state meet at Hayward Field in Eugene in late May.

All four of the Logger relay teams are also on track to qualify for the state meet.

Drew Cheney has shown tremendous improvement in the 3K, beating his previous best by nearly a minute in St. Helens on Saturday, April 13th. Devon Shay and Dan Rice have made the team deeper and stronger in the 400 and 800. Jacob Medearis has shown great improvement in the 1500 with a 4:52 performance at Knappa on Thursday April 11th.

The girls team is on track for a great performance at the District state qualifying meet at Portland Christian May 17th and 18th. "This may be the best overall girls team Vernonia has ever had," says Brown. Brown thinks the boys team has the same potential. "Everything we do from here on out is to be in a position at district to qualify as many athletes as we can for state," say Brown. "Last year we had one of the best track teams ever at Vernonia and it will be difficult to top it, but who knows, maybe we can. It's been a very exciting year so far and the best is yet to come."

Softball- The Lady Loggers have 2-4 league record and a 5-7 record overall so far this season. Coach Randy Shockey and his team are in fourth place in special District 1, and were looking towards an important three game series against Knappa on April 16th and 19th.

Shockey says the girls have



been hitting the ball well and noted the bat of freshman Sara Smith who hit a home run against Nestucca. Samantha Wallace also had a home run and has been leading the team in hitting. Kenzie Anderson also added a home run.

Shockey has been pleased with the development of his starting freshmen battery of pitcher Kassidy Fetch and catcher Sara Smith. "They are getting better and better every week," says Shockey. "That is one of our real bright spots for now and for the future."

Defense has been a struggle at times and Shockey points to the team's tendency to make several mistakes in the field and give up one big inning. "Our defense has been letting us down, that has been our big problem this year," says Shockey. "When we don't make errors, as we did in our 8-5 win against Gaston on April 5th, we can play with anybody. We have just been beating ourselves." Shockey did note that the Lady Loggers pulled off a triple play against Gaston, something Shockey says is extremely rare in high school softball.

Shockey says he is pleased to see his team continuing to improve as the season progresses. "We're a young team and some of them are still learning all

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need to be kept separately from each other, but the females can stay in groups called "sororities."

"My primary goal for starting this whole thing was an attempt to increase student's respect for other living things on this planet, through knowledge and interaction," says Riley. "Respect for living things is important to me—and should be important to the students as well, as we are all co-residents of Earth."

Riley says caring for this large



number of fish requires quite a bit of work, and she does not plan on breeding any fish again anytime soon. But her students are continuing to enjoy observing their fish, learning from them and caring for them.

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