

VHS Winter Sports Wrap Up

Girls Basketball-The Vernonia Lady Loggers had a remarkable season in 2013-14, ending their campaign with a 22-3 record. The Lady Loggers went unbeaten in the Northwest League regular season with 16 wins and won the regular season league championship for the second year in a row.

The Lady Loggers opened the season with 8 straight wins before losing to Santiam 51-50 on December 28 at the Gervais Holiday Tournament. The Lady Loggers then reeled off 14 more straight wins, including league victories over rival Portland Christian 63-37 and 44-37. Portland Christian got revenge in the end of season League Tournament, handing the Lady Loggers only their second loss of the year, 43-23. The Lady Loggers still qualified for the state tournament, but had to travel to Santiam, where they lost 67-37 which ended their season.

"All the girls this year were good team players," said head coach Steve Whiteman following the season. "All of them tried their best to improve and that is what we ultimately want."

Whiteman had a great core group of returning players to build around this year with senior captain Stephanie Castro, juniors Julia Fletcher and Meghan Sullivan, and a promising class of sophomores. Whiteman was able to add three foreign exchange students to his roster; Katka Brejchova, Emma D'Onghia and Johanna Lange all played a significant role on the squad. Castro and Brejchova were both named First Team All League and were selected to play in a regional All Star game. Fletcher and Sullivan were named

Second Team All League, and D'Onghia was Honorable Mention.

"Stephanie was a terrific leader for us this year," said Whiteman. "Katka is a real game changer. Julia has a chance to be the best player in our league next year. Johanna and Emma came with some real good skills and really helped us. Meghan played with a broken finger the whole second half of the year-I can't wait to get her back next year when she's healthy."



Senior Stephanie Castro

Whiteman has a lot to look forward to next season. His junior varsity squad, coached by assistant Teresa Williams, had the best record in the league for the second straight year. Whiteman will have both Fletcher and Sullivan returning, along with junior Brittany Young and sophomores Sara Smith, Paige Smith and Jocie Roberts who all saw significant playing time this season. Add to the mix two freshmen who also saw some varsity playing time this year, Megan Ely, a six-foot physical presence and athletic Peyton Wolf, and Whiteman has the nucleus to make another championship run.

Whiteman expressed thanks to his other assistant coaches: his daughter Nicole and Jim Krahn, along with coach Williams.

Boys Basketball-This season was a rebuilding year for the Loggers, who finished with a 10-13 overall record. The Loggers finished in sixth place in the Northwest League with a 7-9 record, but as head coach David Weller likes to point out, the team was competitive in almost every game they played.

Weller says the Loggers were only blown out in one game and lost seven games by five points or less. "We were so young and rebuilding and our guys just didn't have the experience to pull those out."

"My honest opinion is that we just ran out of time," says Weller. "The last few weeks we started playing better. We ended the season with a three game winning streak, with all three wins in double digits. We were playing really well, we just needed the season extended a week or two."

Exchange students Alejandro Rubiero and Emil Hardenberg were the top players, with Rubiero averaging 19 points a game. Both were named Second Team All League. "Without those guys I don't think we would have been as competitive," said Weller. "But we have a lot of young guys and a lot of potential."

Weller had a good class of freshman this year, some of who split time between the varsity and the JV. Both Brett Elliot and Tristan Adams saw significant playing time on the varsity.

Seniors Ronnie Maldonado

and Adonis Hopkins were both hard working. "Although talent wise they might not have been our go-to guys, they are guys who have been loyal to the system for four years, participated in off-season activities, they were guys we could rely on," said Weller. "They were leaders in practice and deserve recognition for buying in to the system and being coachable over their four years."

Wrestling-Coach Chris Barnes had a young and fairly small squad this year, with just 11 wrestlers at the end of the season.

Barnes was pleased that 10 of his 11 wrestlers placed at the District Meet, with four, Jason Bouslaugh at 132, Damon Young at 145, Michael Bouslaugh at 152 and Samuel Hout at 182, qualifying for the State Tournament. The Loggers best wrestler, Zane Kovelda found himself in a tough weight class at 160 and took third at the District and missed the State Tournament for the second year in a row. Four of those wrestlers, except exchange student Hout, are juniors and will be back next year. The Loggers struggled at the State Tournament, with Jason Bouslaugh having to withdraw because of a knee injury in the first round and only Hout advancing beyond the first day; he was eliminated in the third round and did not place.

Barnes says he is pleased with the improvement the team made through the season with their technique. "That is huge for a wrestling team to have consistent technique."

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