

VHS Spring Sports Preview:

Softball - Head coach Mike Fetch and assistant Ernie Smith return most of their starting lineup from last season's league championship team, meaning the Lady Loggers should be favored to win the league again. After being eliminated in the opening round of the state playoffs, Fetch and the Lady Loggers are looking to go further this year.

Juniors Kassidy Fetch and Sarah Smith will once again be on the mound and behind the plate for the Lady Loggers. Paige Smith may also pick up some pitching duties.

Payton Wolf will play second base and anchor the infield. Otherwise Fetch has been doing some experimenting trying to fill a hole at third base where Pearl Cook, Paige Smith and Kassidy Fetch have been seeing time. Cook has also played shortstop along with freshman Allegra Poetter. Smith has shared time at first with Poetter and Cassidy Whitton has also played some infield. "We're trying to find the right formula that clicks for us," said coach Fetch. "Errors have been killing us early. As the season progresses I'm sure we'll find our rhythm."

In the outfield, Cassidy Whitton usually starts, with Cook, Paige Smith, Fetch, Autumn Sorenson and Kristine Lauenborg all seeing playing time.

Almost all the Lady Loggers are good at the plate but expect to see a lot of offense from Wolf who consistently gets on base and Fetch who slaps the ball,

bunts and uses her speed. Cook, Poetter and both Smith girls have all been hitting the ball hard in the early season.

With a light league schedule, the Lady Loggers scheduled in numerous non-league games. They traveled to Bend where they participated in the Central Oregon Tournament. They begin Northwest League play on Tuesday, April 7 against Gaston.

Baseball - Head coach Joe Walters, along with assistant coach Jim Krahn, bring a young team onto the diamond again this year with sophomores and freshmen making up the bulk of the starting lineup.

B a i l e y Morrison, who throws hard, will be the number one pitcher. Brett Elliot, Jake Butcher and Hayden Cieloha will make up the rest of the rotation with freshmen Gaven Everett and Brenden Mulligan also seeing time on the mound. Walters says new assistant coach Chris Thomsen has been doing a lot of work with pitching mechanics and has made a big difference. Everett will handle the bulk of the catching duties and is doing great.

Mulligan, who Walters says is

solid defensively and has an excellent baseball IQ, will start at second base. Elliot returns as the starter at third. Butcher and Cieloha have been sharing duties at short stop. Newcomer Luke McCallum brings size and reach to first base and is doing well.

In the outfield Cieloha and Tomy Breton play in left, Tristan Adams has locked up the starting spot in center and Trevor Kent looks to have earned the start in right.

After going 1-3 in preseason, the Loggers Northwest League opener against Nestucca was rained out on Tuesday, March 31.

Track and Field - Head coach Byron Brown and assistant coach Teresa Williams have a large group with thirty-seven students out for the team this season.

Early in the season, with the athletes still trying to find their best events, the Loggers look to be strong in the shorter distances. Senior state placer Meghan Sullivan returns to lead the girls along with Marketa Veselkova, Lisa Paje, Jocie Roberts and Cecile Birkelund. The girls should be able to put together some strong relays. Maria Alvarez will run some distance events. For the boys Drew Cheney and Dan Rice, along with freshman Clay Sullivan, will lead the team. Nikita Moskalev and Jared Medearis will also score points.

In the field events Dylan Taylor is a league leader in shot put and discuss. Nik Merzadah shows potential. Clay Sullivan shows promise in the long jump and the high hurdles and Medearis is doing the high jump. For the girls, McKenzie Willard is the top discuss and shot put thrower. Julia Fletcher is a newcomer but has been throwing the javelin well.

"This should be a really fun and entertaining season," says Brown. "We have some really good athletes and some good potential on the team. I think we have a good shot at competing for the league championship in both the boys and the girls, and this is the first time we could say that in a while."



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