

# VHS Winter Sports Update

**Cheer Squad** – The Vernonia Cheer Squad brought home 2<sup>nd</sup> place from the 2016 OSAA Cheerleading State Championship on February 13, 2016. Competing in the 3A/2A/1A division against 16 teams, the Vernonia girls scored 56.8 points in Building Skills (the top score in the competition), 51.1 points in Tumbling/Jumps, and 49.0 points in Overall Routine, with just 1.0 penalty points for a final score of 155.9.



The Squad was made up of 13 girls: Breanna Gardner, Nichole Gardner, Meagan Schirmeister, Olivia Shulnut, Sophia Shulnut, Charity Coleman, Kenzie Willard, Justine Larue, Launa Brent, Maggie Brent, Kay'Leigh Lillethun, Ellie Brewer and Jessie Williams.

On February 14, the team again took second place at the OCCA Championships. In addition, Schirmeister, Nichole Gardner and Larue competed in individual routines with Gardner finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in Individual Nontumbling and Larue taking 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Schirmeister finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in Individual Tumbling.

Congratulations to the entire VHS Cheer Squad on a fantastic season!

**Boys Basketball** – The Loggers, ranked #1 in OSAA 2A, wrapped up their regular season play with an 82-37 dismantling of an overmatched and outsized Gaston team on February 13.

The Loggers finished with 23 straight wins, the only blemish on their almost perfect season a 66-52 opening game loss to Clatskanie.

The Loggers finished

Northwest League play as the regular season champions with a 16-0 record and added a 65-43 win over Nestucca and a 74-66 win at Life Christian.

The Loggers deep roster has allowed head coach David Weller to be flexible with his line ups depending on the situation. He can go big with 6'6" Robert Conner, 6'9" Arne Schiemann and 6'5" Francesco Mian or he can go quick with point guards Clay Sullivan, Jared Medearis and Blake Clark running a fast tempo offense. He also has the option to play traditional and use outside shooting, driving the lane and crashing the boards with juniors Luke McCallum, Brett Elliot, Tristan Adams, and Brett Jones.

The Loggers are now preparing for the Northwest League playoffs on



Luke McCallum

Saturday, February 20 at Dayton High School where they will play for the outright league championship at 7:00 pm and are looking to secure the number one seed in the state playoffs. The Loggers are expected to host an opening round state playoff game either Friday, February 26 or Saturday, February 27.

**Girls Basketball** – The Lady Loggers finished their Northwest League season undefeated once again with a perfect 14-0 record. Head coach Steve Whiteman's team was 23-2 over all and ended regular season play ranked #8 in OSAA 2A.

The Lady Loggers completed league play with wins over Nestucca 66-39, Life Christian 72-36 and Gaston 73-33.

Earlier in the week, Whiteman coached his 100th game at Vernonia and now takes an 88-14 career record into the league playoffs.

The Lady Loggers will play for the Northwest League Championship on Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 pm at Dayton High School. If the Lady Loggers finish ranked in the top 8 in the state they will host a first round match up in the state playoffs on either Friday, February 26 or Saturday, February 27.

**Wrestling** – The Loggers finished 5<sup>th</sup> at the District Tournament at Nestucca High School on February 12-13.

Jake Harbour took third place in the tournament at 152 pounds, but was able to challenge the second place finisher and won, making him the only Logger to qualify for the State Tournament on February 19-20.

Harbour, who has a 28-16



Jake Harbour is going to state!  
(Photo by Jessika Goodman)

record in his senior season, won in the quarterfinals with a 12-3 major decision over Bradley Shaw of Nestucca, before falling in the semi-finals 9-4 to defending district, and eventual champion Chris Ralston of Monroe. "It's a tough loss and typically a career ending match for most kids," said head coach Chris Barnes. "The wind just goes out of them and they lose focus and determination."

Harbour battled back in the consolation round, winning a 13-3 major decision over D.J. Bryant of Knappa and then defeated Chance Murray of Monroe; Murray had previously pinned Harbour in less than a minute at league duals. Harbour won 13-6. "I was impressed with his fierce determination to fight his way back to the wrestle back for true second," said Barnes. "The wrestle back is a situation where the person who beat you in the championship quarterfinal or semifinal match must place first in the tournament to grant you a match for true second."

Harbour challenged and defeated  
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