

VHS Fall Sports Preview *continued from page 9*

at safety.

"We have guys that do the job, we're just going to have to be more disciplined than the team was last year," explains Watson. "I think everyone will be pleasantly surprised by this team."

Watson says the early, non-league part of the season includes some tough opponents, including St. Mary's out of Medford and an away game at Culver. The Loggers will play Oakridge at home on September 16 and open Northwest league play on October 7 at home against Gaston in the Homecoming game. They will also play Knappa at home on October 21, and travel to play against Nestucca on October 14 and end the season at Neah-Kah-Nie on October 28.

"This is going to be a group of kids our fans can get behind," says Watson. "They're going to be well behaved and they will represent our town well. Their ethics and their character has been very good so far and I think the community will be able to feel good about bringing their families out to support this

team. I would invite fans to come out and watch them; they'll be an easy group to get behind."

Volleyball – Head coach Teresa Williams and assistant Brandy Everett are confident and optimistic about their team's chances this year in the Northwest League.

"Things are looking really good this year," said Williams during a recent practice.

Williams' Lady Logger varsity squad is loaded with talent, experience and size. They should be exciting to watch and a favorite to bring home a league championship this season. An opening league 3-1 loss to Gaston on September 6 was hopefully just a minor setback.

"We need to bring up our intensity level," said Williams following the 25-23, 23-25, 16-26, 24-26 close loss to Gaston.

The Lady Loggers did bounce back with a decisive 3-0 victory over Nestucca on September 8,



Senior Cassidy Whitton will be an important part of the Lady Loggers' offense this season.

winning 25-19, 25-8 and 25-23.

The Northwest League is again split into East and West divisions and looks wide open this year. Vernonia will play in the East with Columbia Christian, City Christian, and Knappa. Arch rival Faith Bible has moved to the West this year and will play against Nestucca, Gaston, Neah-Kah-Nie and Delphian.

Williams has some solid senior leadership with team captain Payton Wolf, Cassidy Whitton, Autumn Sorenson, Megan Ely, and Grace Coleman, along with experienced underclassman Morgan Haral, Courtney Barklow and Kailia Jackson.

Williams will also look for some big contributions from sophomore Joyce Everett, and freshman Jordan Walters.

Up front Williams has Ely and Haral in the middle providing dominating height and blocking ability. Whitton and Walters will be the outside hitters along with Coleman and Sorenson. Walters has been a pleasant surprise and a good all-around player, earning a varsity spot as a freshman and will play both at the net and in the back on defense.

Joyce Everett has earned the starting setter role as a sophomore. Barklow will play defense on the back line and will be the backup setter. Wolf will be the libero and anchor the back line. Jackson will also play defense.

Brandy Everett has a very athletic group on the JV squad that is also very young and inexperienced but should be very competitive this season. "They look like they are going to be a really good group of players and show a lot of potential," says Williams.

"We have the ability," says Williams about her varsity squad this season. "I need to find some ways to spark a little bit more competitiveness in them. I still see us winning the East division." Williams says she expects the most competition to come from Knappa this season.

Williams says the squad has set a goal of winning the league Sportsmanship Award this season and also plans to qualify for the Academic All State award.

The league playoff structure is a bit different this year, with four teams from each division qualifying for

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