

# VHS Fall Sports Update

**Football** – The Vernonia Loggers have now won two straight games after defeating Culver 25-12 on September 22 in a non-league contest, and then opening Northwest League play with a dominant 34-7 win over Gaston on September 30 at Forest Grove High School.

The Loggers now have a 3-2 record over all on the season.

“The main thing right now is that the attitude of our players has improved,” says Logger head coach Reed Watson. “They’re playing hard and they’ve bought into being a team and the concept of family.”

Watson says the Logger defense has been especially strong this season. In the win over Gaston the Loggers held Gaston to just 18 total yards in offense for 46 minutes, before giving up one big play at the very end of the game. “They’re hitting hard and really chasing the ball,” says Watson. He mentioned Gaven Everett, Jake Patton, and Josh Rice as the leaders of that defensive squad. “They’re all really hitting hard and playing well. I’m also really surprised and proud of the improvement of Hepner Forster. He’s been among our leading tacklers and blocked a punt and as a lineman, he’s chasing plays down from behind, and really been hustling.”

Watson says the Loggers diverse and balanced offense has really kept teams guessing and unable to key on any specific player. “Our offensive line has really done well, allowing our quarterback time to throw and everybody is really performing at a high level.” Sophomore Rice continues to be the leader out

of the backfield, but Watson says senior Patton has also carried the ball well, as has sophomore Calvin Clapshaw. Watson says sophomore quarterback Gunnar Harral has really stepped up. “The leadership growth we’ve seen in him has been great,” says Watson. “He’s throwing for a lot of yards, he’s throwing for touchdowns, and he hasn’t thrown an interception yet. I’m really proud of him.”

“The players are really excited and I think they really want to compete for the league title,” says Watson. “They’re ready to do the work and are excited about what’s happening.”

The Loggers will host Nestucca, who is 0-5 on the season, on October 6 in the Logger’s Homecoming Game. The Loggers then face what look to be their two toughest league match ups when they travel to Knappa on October 13 and then host Neah-Kah-Nie on October 20.

**Volleyball** – The Lady Loggers are currently in second place and undefeated in the Northwest League with a 8-0 record, and have a 10-5 record overall.

The Lady Loggers have put together a string of strong victories with 3-0 wins over Delphian, City Christian and Knappa, and 3-1 wins over Nestucca and in a rematch with City Christian.

“We have been winning, but our competition hasn’t really been challenging us,” says Lady Loggers head coach Teresa Williams. “I don’t think we’re playing our best yet and we know collectively that we can play better. We know we’re going to need to play better in our last few matches. So we’re trying to pre-

pare for some of those tougher matches so we can rise to the occasion when we get to the District Tournament.”



Jordan Walters in practice hitting sets by Joyce Everett

Williams said sophomore Jordan Walters continues to show improvement over last year. “Her passing, defense, and serve receive has really been outstanding.” Williams says exchange student Sara Ghislanzoni has been a great addition to the squad. “Morgan Harral has also been really strong for us offensively, with her hitting and being able to score,” said Williams. She also mentioned that the vocal and motivational leadership of setter, junior Joyce Everett has been important.

The Lady Loggers will head to the North Marion Tournament on Sat-

urday, October 7, where coach Williams expects the Lady Loggers to face some stiffer competition, before closing out their regular season at home against first place Gaston on October 10 and then away at Knappa on October .

**Cross Country** – Assistant coach John Roady says the team continues to improve as the season progresses. In cross country the top five runners from the league get an automatic invite to the state meet, while the top three teams, based on the top five finishers from the team, also qualify for the state meet.

On the boys squad, Roady says Jakob Handegard has improved his times by about 3 minutes from last year and continues to be the leader on the team. Roady says Handegard is currently ranked fifth in the league. He says at the Southwest Christian Invitational on September 29 Handegard stayed right with two runners from Westside Christian who are ranked in front of him and finished just one second back. “That bodes well for us and for Jake,” says Roady.

Roady says the Loggers have a solid top five group of runners that should push for a state berth. Justine Massengo, an exchange student from Tanzania nicknamed “Tanzy,” has been the next best runner, followed by a trio of runners that includes seniors Mehki Williams and Clay Sullivan, along with junior Byron Cook. “Byron had a really good race at the Meriwether Classic on September 22 and finished third for us,” says Roady. “He and Mehki, and

*continued on page 11*

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