

VHS Fall Sports Update

Football – After winning three straight games, the Loggers were given a dose of reality when they traveled to first place Knappa and were handed a 40-7 loss on October 13.

Prior to the loss at Knappa, the Loggers had defeated Culver and won Northwest League games against Gaston and a resounding 55-14 win over Nestucca at their Homecoming game on October 6.

“We’re still a very young team,” said Logger head coach Reed Watson. “I think we are starting to get strong enough and they are getting enough playing time under their belts to finally stand up to teams and really pound them like we did against Nestucca. I think it was an impressive win.”

The Loggers defense dominated the game with three interceptions and caused several fumbles. “Although we didn’t show it against Knappa, our defense is still pretty stout and I’m still pretty proud of them.” Watson noted the defensive play of Jake Patton, Kale Sullivan who had an interception in both the Nestucca



Jake is a natural leader but now he’s starting to learn how to lead and where to lead.”

“The guys kept fighting and didn’t give up,” said Watson. “I was really proud of their attitude and their effort.”

The loss to Knappa leaves the Loggers with 2-1 record in league play and a 4-3 record overall. The Loggers still have a crucial match up with Neah-Kah-Nie at home on October 20 with a spot in the state playoffs on the line. Neah-Kah-Nie is 5-1 on the season, with their only a loss coming at the hands of Knappa, 36-20.

“I think we’ll match up better against Neah-Kah-Nie than we did against Knappa,” said Watson.

Volleyball – The Lady Loggers suffered their only defeat in Northwest League play, falling to league leaders Gaston 3-2 on October 10. Vernonia bounced back after that loss, defeating Knappa 3-0 in their final regular season game.

Vernonia will have another shot at Gaston when they play for the Northwest League title on Saturday, October 20 at 3:30 pm in the Vernonia Gym.

The Lady Loggers played well in the back and forth loss

to Gaston, with the scores 14-25, 25-22, 25-17, 23-25, 9-15. “We’re definitely looking forward to another shot at them,” said Lady Logger head coach Teresa Williams. “Our girls played so well, we just got tentative and stopped attacking in the final game.”

Against Knappa in their final regular season game, Williams says the Lady Loggers started out a little slow but “caught fire,” especially in the final game, winning 25-17, 25-23, and 25-6. She said Jordon Walters was really hitting well and Joyce Everett’s setting

was on target; Everett also had a really strong game defensively. Williams mentioned the continuing improved play of Abby Coleman. “Collectively I think our whole team is really playing well.”

The Lady Loggers have already qualified for the state playoffs, but would secure a first round home match if they are able to defeat Gaston and win the

league.

“We’re working to clean up what we didn’t do well against Gaston,” said Williams.

The Lady Loggers finished the regular season with a 10-1 league record and a 12-7 record overall, and are currently ranked #12 in the state.

“I think we are really peaking at the right time,” said Williams, “and as long as we stay positive and keep believing in ourselves, I think we will do well.”

Cross Country – The Logger boys won the Northwest League title for the first time in recent memory at the Bigfoot Classic on October 10. Jakob Handegard again led the Loggers, finishing 3rd overall and was named to the All League team, as the top seven finishers receive this honor. Justine “Tanzy” Massengo was the second finisher for the Loggers, finishing 8th overall, followed by the Loggers trio of runners Mekhi Williams, Byron Cook, and Clay Sullivan who finished 12th-14th.

For the girls, freshman Jenna Handegard finished 5th overall and exchange student Adele Cousseau finished 7th and both were named to the All League team.

Head co-coach John Roady says that Cousseau has been steadily improving as the season has progressed. “She’s really improved and come a long way since the start of the season,” said Roady. “She’s been battling a knee injury but now she is really pushing Jenna.”

For the middle school runners, Sadie Gump finished 8th overall, with Delany Draeger finishing 15th. For the boys Peter Hahn and Max Anderson finished 9th and 10th.

At the Rainier Invitational on October 14, Jake Handegard finished 4th overall. For the girls, Cousseau surprised everyone, finishing 5th over all and 4 seconds ahead of teammate Jenna Handegard who finished 6th.

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Above: Jake Patton, Below: Josh Rice
Football photos courtesy of Whitley Tolonen

game and against Knappa, and Gaven Everett who returned an interception for a touchdown against Nestucca.

On offense quarterback Gunnar Harral threw for two touchdowns and Josh Rice ran for four, with 187 yards rushing; after the Knappa game Rice now has just over 900 yards on the season rushing and over 400 yards in kick returns. Jake Patton also rushed for one touchdown and caught another.

Against Knappa Watson, says the Loggers played better than the score indicated. “We had valiant efforts on defense but then we’d let down and give up a big play. We had sacks and some big stops.”

Watson noted the leadership of Patton, even in the losing effort. “It was a great thing to see, because there’s a tendency to get really negative when you are losing like that. Jake was a great leader for us, he was positive, he was our leading tackler and he ran the ball hard. He’s really grown up and is showing his maturity and his leadership and the team really responds to him.



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Above: Sara Ghislanzoni hitting outside and setter
Joyce Everett, Below: Jakob Handegard

