

# VHS Winter Sports Report

## Vernonia wrestlers take second place at the Oregon Classic

**Wrestling** – The Vernonia Logger wrestlers brought home the runner-up trophy from the prestigious Oregon Classic meet in Redmond on January 12-13. The Oregon Classic pits teams from 2A/1A schools in dual meets against each other. The Loggers entered the 16 team tournament unseeded and were the surprise of the weekend, knocking off several top ranked teams.

“The kids really came together as a team and I got a lot of help from my assistant coach Daniel Rice,” said Logger head coach Chris Barnes. “It was a really great experience to be in the finals and for our kids to be part of it. I’m just really happy for our kids, especially our seniors, who have put in so much work over all these years. I really feel like it’s coming together for them and they’re having a great year.”

The Loggers defeated North Lake 54-15, and then defeated a mixed group of wrestlers from other teams 48-6, before falling to eventual champions Culver 71-0 in the opening rounds. The



Above: The Vernonia wrestling team with their runner-up trophy from the Oregon Classic Tournament.  
Below left: Storm Henson. Below right: Mekhi Williams.  
Photos by Lily Buchanan



Loggers then defeated Grant Union/Prairie City 52-24 in the quarter finals and defeated state powerhouse and #2 ranked Lowell 52-24 in the semis, before again falling to Culver 75-0 in the finals.

“Culver is by far one of the top programs in the state, regardless of division,” said Barnes following the meet.

proud of them.”

Standout wrestlers for the Loggers included Patrick Fletcher at 106, Mekhi Williams at 132, Isaiah Thompson at 138, Josh Rice at 152, Storm Henson at 160 and Cutter Barklow at 182.

Henson, who had several strong performances in wins during the tournament, lost to Culver’s Jerron Rhen, the top ranked wrestler in the state, twice 1-0 and 4-2.

“Some our wrestlers got some really great experience and had a chance to wrestle against some of the top ranked wrestlers in the state,” said Barnes. “Storm stayed right with his guy and now he knows he can beat him. Patrick Fletcher wrestled against a top ranked wrestler and held his own. Nick Bennett went up against the top guy and Mekhi Williams had some really tough competition all weekend.”

On January 5-6 the Loggers finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams at the competitive Pac Rim Tournament, which includes teams from large schools like St. Helens, Scappoose, Ilwaco, and Tigard. For the Loggers Mekhi Williams took 1<sup>st</sup> place at 138, Wyatt Jones took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at 120, Kameron Powell took 4<sup>th</sup> at 126, Byron Cook took 4<sup>th</sup> place at 138, Pat-

rick Fletcher took 5<sup>th</sup> place at 106, Storm Henson took 5<sup>th</sup> place at 160, and Cutter Barklow took 5<sup>th</sup> place at 182.

At the nine team Clatskanie Tournament on December 30, the Loggers finished 3<sup>rd</sup> as a team. Kailia Jackson won her weight class at 113, Storm Henson finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Mekhi Williams, Cameron Powell, Murad Yazmedev, and Nick Bennett all took 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The League Tournament will be held at Neah-Kah-Nie on Wednesday, January 24. The District Tournament will take place on February 2-3 at Monroe. The State Tournament will be held at Memorial Coliseum on February 16-17.

**Boys Basketball** – The Loggers have won three straight Northwest League games and are in second place with an 7-2 record.

After losing to undefeated Columbia Christian 58-42 on January 9, the Loggers defeated Life Christian 82-42, Gaston 58-55 and Delphian 85-41.

The Loggers are currently ranked #12 in OSAA 2/A and are competing in a very strong Northwest League this year with both Columbia Christian and Knappa fielding excellent teams; Knappa handed the Loggers their only other league loss, 69-48 on December 14.

The Loggers will play at home against City Christian on Friday, January 19, travel to Faith Bible on Tuesday, January 23 and to Neah-Kah-Nie on Saturday, January 27. The Loggers have key home match-ups against #3 ranked Knappa on Thursday, January 25 and against #2 ranked Columbia Christian on Thursday, January 30.

**Girls Basketball** – The Vernonia Lady Loggers sit in second place in the Northwest League with 6-1 record.

After falling to first place Faith Bible 54-26 on January 3, the Lady Loggers have now won three straight league games, beating Nestucca 36-32, Columbia Christian 39-6 and Gaston 42-33.

Vernonia will have some important upcoming games, hosting 3<sup>rd</sup> place City Christian on Friday, January 19, and traveling to Faith Bible for a rematch on Tuesday, January 23. The Lady Loggers will host Knappa on Thursday, January 25, travel to Neah-Kah-Nie on Saturday, January 27 and play Columbia Christian at home January 30.

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- Junior & Senior High
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