

VHS Winter Sports Update

Josh Rice takes third, Wyatt Jones finished fourth in State wrestling; Lady Loggers lose in basketball State Playoffs

Wrestling – The Vernonia Loggers went to the State Wrestling Tournament on February 16-17 with high hopes but had to come home somewhat disappointed.

With six wrestlers qualifying, and three of those seeded in the top four, the Loggers were only able to bring home two medals – sophomore Josh Rice with a third place finish at 152 and freshman Wyatt Jones with a fourth place finish at 113.

The Loggers struggled in the opening round, with only #2 seeded Jones winning his match by fall in 1:30; the rest of the Loggers' grapplers lost their opening round matches.

After Jones failed to advance in his second round match, losing by fall to Culver's Anthony Hood in 5:27, the team bounced back in the consolation rounds. Jones won his next match by fall in 2:38 before falling in the consolation final to take fourth place. Junior Josh Sholes was eliminated from the tournament after his second loss at 126, as was junior Hepner Forster at 160, but senior

Mekhi Williams won a tough 5-4 decision, before being eliminated following a heartbreaking 8-6 overtime loss.

Senior Storm Henson's Logger career ended too early. Henson entered the tournament as the #3 seed but was upset in the opening round before earn-



Josh Rice (in white)

ing a tough 7-6 decision. Henson failed to medal when he lost by fall in 4:34 in his final match.

Rice had the best performance of the tournament for the Loggers. Slotted as the #2 seed at 152, Rice was upset by eventual second place finisher Brody Davidson from Santiam in an exhausting 14-11 first round loss. Rice roared back to win the consolation bracket and take third place with three straight pins, winning in 0:48, 2:21, and 0:37.

The Loggers had hoped to have three or four wrestlers

medal and finish in the top five for team scores but fell to 14th, scoring 28 points in the tournament.

Girls Basketball – The Vernonia Lady Loggers were eliminated from the State Playoffs on Friday, February 23, after falling to #1 seeded Kennedy in an opening round away match-up.

The Lady Loggers qualified for the State Playoffs after finishing third in the Northwest League Playoffs. The Lady Loggers lost to City Christian 44-40 on February 15 before locking up the final league spot in the State Playoff by defeating Neah-Kah-Nie 32-27 on February 17.

The #16 seeded Lady Loggers had a tough draw facing top ranked Kennedy and fell 53-17 to see their season come to an end.

#5 seed Faith Bible, after winning the Northwest League playoffs with a dominant 67-27 win over City Christian, advanced to the State Tournament in Pendleton with a 51-29 opening round victory over Toledo. The Falcons, whose roster includes Vernonia resident Allegra Poetter, will open play in Pendleton on Thursday, March 1 against #4 seed Grant Union.

Loggers Boys Head to Pendleton *continued from front page*

asked about having to face league rival Knappa in the opening round. "If you poled our players about who they would want to play in Pendleton, I think all of them would say Knappa. For me the preparation is easier because we don't have to try and find film on them. I know them and our players know them, so we know what we're up against. We'll put a few plays into our offense that they haven't seen. The last time we played them was over a month ago and we're such a better team now. We always talked about wanting to play them again on a neutral court, so here we go. I'm looking forward to it."



Clay Sullivan (l) was named NW League MVP and 1st Team All League, Kale Sullivan (r) was named Honorable Mention All League

This will be the fourth straight year the Loggers have qualified for the State Playoffs and the third straight year they have advanced to the State Tournament in Pendleton. The Loggers won the State Title in 2016.

The trip will cap the dynamic career of Logger senior Clay Sullivan, a four year starter for the Loggers, and a key player in each of the Loggers' runs to the State Tournaments. This season Sullivan has averaged 25.4 points per

game on 50% shooting from the field - including 39% from 3-point range, made 88% of his free-throws, and averaged 7.8 rebounds, 3.4 assists, and 2.4 steals. He scored 41 points against City Christian, 45 against Life Christian, and 40 against league champion Columbia Christian when he shot 6 for 8 on 2-point shots, 7 of 11 from 3-point range and made all 7 of his free-throws. Following the League Playoffs this season Sullivan was named Northwest League MVP. In 2016 as a sophomore he was part of an extremely talented Logger State Championship team; he was named First Team All Tournament and won Player of the Game honors in the State Tournament opener. Last year the Loggers finished sixth at the State Tournament as Sullivan was twice named Player of the Game and was named to the Second Team All Tournament.

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