

VHS Spring Sports Report: School Dedicates Holce Field; Boys Track Wins District

Vernonia sends 11 track athletes to State; brings home Coach of the Year honors; Sullivan named top athlete

Track and Field – The Vernonia boys won the District Championship in track and field for the first time since the early 1990s, scoring 147 points to second place Delphian's 117. Byron Brown and John Roady were named Coach of the Year. Clay Sullivan was named Athlete of the Year after winning all four events he competed in. The Vernonia girls team finished a strong third in the District.

Twelve Vernonia athletes will travel to Eugene on May 17-18 to compete in the State Meet; the top two finishers in each event at District qualify for State. State qualifiers were:

- Sullivan, who won the long jump, triple jump, 110 high hurdles, and 300 intermediate hurdles. His triple jump mark of 42' 3.75" broke the school record by a full foot. He is the two-time defending State Champion in the 110 hurdles.
- The biggest surprise of the meet was Pete Crystal who won the pole vault after just learning the event three weeks ago.
- The boys 4x100 relay team, including seniors Andrew Vasquez, Noah Rylands, Misha Yazmadov, and sophomore Josh Rice, placed 2nd.
- Senior Adele Cousseau won the 800 meters. She also placed 3rd in 3,000.
- Senior Odessa Roberts took 2nd in the high jump.
- The girls 4x400 relay team consisting of Cousseau, sophomore Lauren Ely, and freshmen Hailey Reynolds and Jenna Handegard finished 2nd.
- Senior Andrew Vasquez placed 3rd in the 400 meters with a personal best of 54.21 seconds, and will go to State because the 2nd place finisher chose not to compete in this event.

Other standout performances for the boys:

- Misha Yazmadov and senior Ben Fleck placed 3rd and 4th in the shot put, just missing a berth at State but getting huge points for the team. Those same two finished 3rd and 5th in discus. Sophomore Kale Sullivan and Rylands placed 5th and 7th in javelin.
- In the high jump junior Jake Handegard placed 3rd, while Crystal finished 4th. Handegard also took 4th in the 800 meters.
- In the sprints Josh Rice placed 5th in the 100 meters and 8th in the 200. Vasquez placed 6th in the 100.
- The boys 3,000 meters was a fun event to watch as the trio of Handegard, senior Justine "Tanzy" Massengo, and freshman Wyatt Jones all made the podium placing 4th, 5th, and 6th respectively.

Other girls performances of note:

- Jenna Handegard finished 3rd in the

solid season with a 5th place finish in the shot put.

- Freshman Reynolds had a Personal Record (PR) in the 200, placing 8th, and also ran a PR in the 400, finishing 6th.
- Emma Hahn placed 5th in the 1,500 with a PR.

Baseball – Vernonia officially dedicated their new baseball facility, Holce Field, on May 11. The field was built using very generous donations from Randy Holce and his mother Evelyn Holce. Randy Holce's grandson Trevor Wolf threw out the first pitch and the Vernonia boys celebrated the day by sweeping a double header from Gaston, winning 5-2 and 4-1. The Log-



Jordan Walters

gers ended their season in 4th place in the Northwest League with a 9-14 record overall and a 3-9 record in league play. The Loggers qualified for the league playoffs and were scheduled to play 3rd place Neah-Kah-Nie at 4:30 on Wednesday, May 16 at Pacific University; winner of that game will play Nestucca.



Tyler Wolf threw the first pitch to VHS senior Gaven Everett as Holce Field was dedicated on May 11, 2018.

high jump. Handegard just missed earning a State berth by .4 seconds, finishing in 3rd place in the 400. She also took 4th in the 800.

- Roberts just missed State in both the long and triple jumps, placing 3rd in both. In the triple jump sophomores Angela Iem and Lauren Ely placed 4th and 5th for a nice 3,4, 5 sweep.
- Senior Sara Ghislanzoni and Iem placed 4th and 7th respectively in the long jump.
- Senior McKenzie Fassold finished her

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