

# VHS Winter Sports Preview *continued from front page*

they choose. Senior Charity Coleman and sophomore Hailey Reynolds are both returning wrestlers and should lead the way for the Logger girls.

"I feel like this is going to be a break out year for some of our wrestlers," says Barnes.

The Loggers will head to the Banks Tournament on December 12, the Yamhill/Carlton Tournament on December 14, and then host Clatskanie and Santiam at home on December 18. They'll compete in the Clatskanie Tournament on December 29, and will host a League Meet at home on February 1. The District Tournament is scheduled for February 15-16.

**Girls Basketball** – The Lady Loggers look like they should be contenders for the Northwest League title this year, with a strong group of returning players.

Last season the Lady Loggers finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league and qualified for the State Playoffs as the #16 seed, before



*Lauren Ely should provide some scoring and rebounding in the center of the Logger offense and defense.*

win over Umatilla in the Vernonia Tournament on November 30, before falling 45-30 to Riverdale in the tournament final on the following day.

The team will be led by senior Joyce Everett and juniors Jordan Walters and Lauren Ely. Walters was named First Team All League last season and is strong and athletic, with a good outside shot. Ely provides some height around the basket, while Everett, a Second Team All League selection last season gives the team some veteran leadership on the court to go with a good outside shot.

The varsity lineup will include juniors Abby Coleman and Jessica Butcher who provide depth off the bench, along with sophomore Jayden Hartman who earned a starting role as a freshman last year.

Freshman Brooklyn Walters, who looks like a solid all-around player with strong ball handling skills to go with a good outside shot, will also be a big contributor to this year's team.

"We've built the team from the outside in," explains assistant coach Walters. "We're going to have a lot of three point shooters. We've based our offense around that, with a lot of passing and cutting, a lot of motion, a lot of running. Hopefully it's going to be high scoring and fun to watch."

The Lady Loggers had pre-season games scheduled against Santiam and Colton, before opening league play at City Christian on December 10. They host Knappa on December 12, Neah-Kah-Nie on December 14, and Faith Bible on December 17, before traveling to Nestucca on December 20. The League Playoffs are scheduled to begin on February 12.

**Boys Basketball** – This may be a tough year for the Logger boys basketball program and for their fans. With just two returning starters, a small turnout with several new players, and not a lot of depth, head coach David Weller is realistic about his squad this season.

"Everything is down for us this year," says Weller. "Numbers, experience, and talent and skill level. We're in one of those years that small towns and small schools experience sometimes."

The Loggers did open their season with a 57-56 win over Umatilla on November 30 in the Vernonia Tournament. The Loggers lost to Riverdale 63-49 in the tournament final.

Senior Jake Handegard will be one of the leaders on the squad, along with junior Kale Sullivan. At 6'6" Handegard provides excellent size inside, but also has a good outside shot, so he'll be a focus of the offense. Sullivan will lead the offense as the point guard. Junior Gunnar Haral, was the sixth man last year and should step into a starting role this season.

Senior Abram Martin played JV ball last year and continues to improve and looks like he'll earn a starting spot. Junior Jackson Fletcher also played JV last year, but has some size and will probably play at center, allowing Handegard to play more on the wing.

The varsity roster will be filled out by senior Sean Coffey, and juniors Hunter Nordahl, Eli Thompson and Cutter Barklow.

A lack of varsity experience will be a real problem this season says Weller, although the team is fairly athletic, which should help some. Weller says Fletcher is an improved player who should match up well against some teams because of his size. Nor-

dahl and Barklow are both big men who can play under the basket, pick up some rebounds, and play some defense. Thompson is very athletic and could provide a spark off the bench and be a defensive stopper. Coffey plays hard, gives a strong effort, and understands the system.

With so many young and inexperienced players, Weller expects the team to improve as the season progresses. With six of the league's nine teams qualifying for the playoffs, that's Weller's goal this season, get into the playoffs. "All we have to do is get in because at the end of the year anything can happen," says



*Left: Jake Handegard at 6'6" gives the Loggers a commanding presence around the rim, but also has a good outside shot. Below: Kale Sullivan will direct the Logger offense from the point guard position.*



Weller. "We'll be much better by then. Come February we'll look totally different. We always seem to improve and are usually playing our best at the end of the year, so we'll give it our best shot."

The Loggers will play preseason games against Santiam and Colton, and then open league play at City Christian on December 10. They'll host a stretch of home games with Knappa on December 12, Neah-Kah-Nie on December 14, and Faith Bible on December 17, then travel to Nestucca on December 20. The League Playoffs will begin on February 12.



*Jordan Walters is expected to be one of the leaders on a talented Lady Loggers team that should compete for the Northwest League title.*

being eliminated in the first round. They look ready to pick up where they left off last year.

"We're looking real solid this year," says assistant coach Joe Walters, who was filling in at practice for head coach Jim Krahn. Teresa Williams will once again be coaching the JV squad.

The Lady Loggers opened the season with an opening round, 46-12

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