

VHS Spring Sports Preview *continued from front page*

lacking athletes in the hurdle events.

For the girls distance runners, sophomore Jenna Handegard and freshman Sadie Gump will lead the way. Both are coming off a strong cross country season and will look at running the 800, 1,500, or 3,000, along with sophomore Emma Hahn.

Lauren Ely, another versatile athlete, is trying the 400 and maybe the 800.

Sophomore Hailey Reynolds will lead the sprinters. Also competing in sprints will be sophomore Zoe Whiteman and juniors Abby Coleman and McKenzie Pickering; Pickering is also trying the 400.

Roady is looking to focus on the 4x400 in the relays for the girls, with a team that could include Handegard, Ely, Gump, Reynolds, Abby Coleman, and Hahn.

Reynold and Abby Coleman and Isabelle Coleman may try the hurdles.

Exchange student Barbora Kvapilova, the Colemans, and Handegard will be competing in the high jump and long jump.

In the throwing events look for senior Alexa Cook, junior Star McKinnis, sophomore Anika Suppes, and senior first year athlete Jenna Watson to all compete in the shot put and discuss. Ely will be strong in the javelin.

At the first meet of the season, the J-Town Small School Classic at Jefferson High School on March 16, a few Logger performances stood out, even though they were missing several of their top athletes.

For the girls, Loren Ely took 2nd in the 400 with a time of 1:10.94, and took 4th in the javelin with a throw of 96-0. Sadie Gump finished third in the 3,000 with a time of 13:20.48. Star Mckinnis took 7th in the discus with a throw of 84-07.

For the boys Abram Martin took 6th in the 400 with a time of 57.83 and Abraham Kpirkai took 9th in 59.22. In the 1,500 Wyatt Jones finished 11th in 5:00.05. Dustin Carreon took 8th in the shot put with a throw of 35-09.5. Kale Sullivan took 2nd in the javelin with a throw of 145-04.5 and Radek Zikmund finished 4th with a throw of 139-10; Sullivan also finished 10th in the long jump with a leap of 18-01.5. In the high jump Pete Crystal took 6th clearing 5-06 and Martin took 8th with a jump of 5-04. Crystal finished 2nd in the pole vault clearing 9-00.

This season the Loggers will compete at the NWL relay meet on March 21 and will get a look at their Northwest League competition at meets on April 4 at Portland Christian, April 11 at Knappa, April 18 at Nestucca, and April 25 at Neah-Kah-Nie; they will host a league meet on May 2. They will also participate in the Lower Columbia Invitational at St. Helens on April 13 and the Banks Invitational on April 20. The District Championship is scheduled for May 10-11 at Portland Christian with the State Championships at Western Oregon University on May 17-18.

Softball – The Lady Loggers have a large group of very talented athletes, and should compete at the top of Special District 1 this year.

Head coach Ernie Smith and assistant Katie Poetter have just one true senior on the 16 player team, Joyce, Everett, a strong class of juniors, and several underclassmen who will get



Clockwise: Joyce Everett, Gunnar Harral, Jordan Walters, and Jake Handegard.

away doubleheader on March 18, 16-1 and 20-2, and then winning 20-4 at home on March 19. Vernonia will compete in the Pilot Rock Tournament on March 22-23. The Lady Loggers' home schedule includes Portland Christian on April 2, St. Paul for a doubleheader on April 12, Knappa for a doubleheader on April 19, Nestucca on

April 23, a doubleheader against Gaston on May 3 and Perrydale for a doubleheader on May 10.

Baseball – Logger head coach Joe Walters has a very young squad this season, so it will be a bit of a rebuilding year for Vernonia. With just 11 members on the team, some talented young players will see a lot of playing time.

Junior pitcher Gunnar Harral will be the ace of the pitching staff this year, and will share the mound with junior Hunter Nordahl, freshman Shayne Lardy, and junior Derek Johnson.

On defense, behind the plate senior Sean Coffey will handle the catching duties, with Lardy backing him up. Nordahl will play first base, Johnson is at second, Lardy will play shortstop, and freshman Levi Walters is at third; freshman Aydan Poetter will also see some action. In the outfield junior Rylan Pond is in left, senior Hepner Forster holds down center, and newcomer Luke Thompson, also a freshman, is playing right field.

Forster has been the lead off batter in the early season and coach Walters expects Harral and Nordahl, along with Levi Walters and Johnson, to feature in the offense.

The Loggers opened league play in Special District 1 with a 15-8 home loss to Neah-Kah-Nie on March 19. The Loggers are scheduled to play at the Ridgefield Tournament on March 28-29. The Loggers home schedule includes Portland Christian on April 2, a doubleheader at St. Paul on April 12, Knappa for a doubleheader on April 19, Nestucca on April 23, and a doubleheader against Gaston on May 3.



a lot of playing time this year.

Pitching for the Lady Loggers will be Everett, along with junior Jordan Walters, and freshman Brooklynn Walters. Jordan Walters will play behind the plate, and Smith can also use Tommi Ota, who is starting at second base, along with freshmen Audrey Hill and Averie Hough to catch.

Defensively in the infield, Brooklyn Walters will start at first base, Ota starts at second, talented freshman Nita Cook plays shortstop, and sophomore Jessica Whiteman starts at third base. Everett will play some first base, along with Hill. In the outfield sophomore Natalie Groshong starts in left field, sophomore Jayden Hartman will play in center field, and junior Jessica Butcher covers right.

Smith says it's still early to tell where the offensive production will come from this season, but he expects Everett, Ota, and Jordan Walters to be leaders. He said Hartman has been hitting the ball well in practice, that Groshong has really improved and has great form at the plate, and Cook looks like she'll be a solid hitter.

Smith says he plans to be aggressive on the base paths this year. He says he's also working to get players comfortable playing in several positions on the field, which gives the team more flexibility.

OSAA has rearranged their leagues this year, so the Loggers will now compete against several of their previous Northwest League foes in Special District 1, which includes newcomers St. Paul and Perrydale.

The Lady Loggers opened league play with a three game series against Neah-Kah-Nie, sweeping an

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