

VHS Spring Sports Report

Softball – The Lady Loggers remain in first place in Special District 1 with a 15-1 league record after defeating Gaston 7-1 on April 30.

Vernonia has now won 10 straight games, including wins over Portland Christian, 26-4 and 18-5, Knappa, 3-2 and 10-0, and Nestucca 11-3, 19-4, and 11-2.

The Lady Loggers now have a 17-3 overall record on the season and have climbed to #6 in OSAA rankings in the state.

Lady Logger head coach Ernie Smith says he's getting solid pitching from his two main starters, senior Joyce Everett and junior Jordan Walters. Offensively Everett, Walters, and fresh-

men Brooklynn Walters and Nita Cook have been the big bats for Vernonia; Smith noted that junior outfielder Jessica Butcher has also been swinging the bat well recently and added some timely hits.

Smith praised the defensive play of Cook in the infield and noted the contributions of sophomores Natalie Groshong, who starts in left field, and Jayden Hartman in center field. He also mentioned freshman Audrey Hill as an up and coming player and important member of the squad.

The Lady Loggers will host a doubleheader against Gaston on May 3 and then finish their regular season with a series against Perrydale, with an away

game on May 6, followed by a home doubleheader on May 8.

"This is a really great group of players this year," said Smith about his team. "They are really hard working, and are really coachable."

Track and Field – Vernonia's track and field athletes competed against five teams at a league meet on April 25 at Nehalem-Kah-Nie. The Logger boys won the meet and the girls finished 2nd.

Among the highlights for the Logger boys, Abram Martin, Jake Handegard and Pete Crystal took 1st, 3rd, and 4th in the high jump, with Martin clearing a Personal Record (PR) and league leading 6'2". Handegard finished 3rd in the triple jump with a PR of 37'6.5". Gunnar Harral took 2nd in the long jump with a PR of 17'10". Crystal took 2nd in the pole vault, clearing 9'6".

Dustin Carreon took 5th in the shot put. Kale Sullivan finished 2nd in the javelin and Radek Zikmund finished 3rd.

In the running events, Martin won the 300 meter hurdles in 46.77 and Nick Costley finished 5th with a PR of 50.72. The Logger 4x100 relay finished 3rd. In the 400 meters Handegard, Abraham Kpirkai, and Noah Queen finished 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, with Handegard running a PR of 56.33. In the 800 meters Sullivan, Cody West, and Vasili Pedersen finished 2nd, 4th, and 6th. In the 1,500 meters Kpirkai finished 5th and West took 6th.

For the Logger girls, Abby Coleman tied a school record in the pole vault on her way to finishing 2nd and clearing 7'0", with sister Isabelle Coleman taking 2nd. Barbora Kvapilova won the high jump, clearing 4'6". Abby Coleman won the long jump with a PR of 14'5", with Kvapilova taking 2nd, also with a PR, and Isabelle Coleman finishing 5th.

In the shot put Starr McKinnis took 2nd. Lauren Ely took 2nd in the javelin.

In the 100 meters, Zoe Whiteman, *continued on page 13*



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