

VHS Spring Sports Report

Softball – The Vernonia Lady Loggers locked up the District title several weeks ago and earned a first round bye in the State Playoffs.

The Lady Loggers will host a home playoff game on May 22, and will wait to find out the final state rankings before they know who they might face. They are scheduled to play the winner of the #11 vs. #22 game.

Vernonia finished the regular season with a 22-3 record and #6 ranking in state after sweeping Perrydale in their final season series, winning 26-2, 13-1, and 10-0. The Lady Loggers won their final 15 games of the season.

Head coach Ernie Smith has a well rounded and solid lineup of starters. Leading the way has been Joyce Everett, the only senior on the squad. Everett has been the star pitcher, racking up a 12-0



L-R: Tomi Ota, Joyce Everett, and Jordan Walters

record with a 2.36 ERA on the season. Smith has also been able to send junior Jordan Walters out to the mound, who has also had an impressive season, with a 5-1 record and a 1.59 ERA.

Smith says one of the quiet leaders on the team this year has been junior Tomi Ota, who has been the field sergeant in the infield where she holds down second base and makes sure everyone knows where the ball needs to be. Smith says Ota's bat has also really come alive towards the end of the season; against Perrydale Ota hit three triples to help spark the Lady Logger offense. "Tomi has been one of our silent superstars," says Smith. "She doesn't command a lot of attention, but she's been a real solid player and a real leader on the team this year. She's one of those players you love to have

because she just does her job and does it well and gets us results." Sophomore short stop Nita Cook and either Jordan Walters or Everett at first base have been the other key players in the strong infield defense. The infield has turned six double plays and one triple play this season.

The Lady Loggers have really hit the ball well this year. Freshman Brooklynn Walters and Cook lead the team with five home runs each, Everett has hit four, and Jordan Walters has three.

Smith had high praise for Everett, who is closing out a strong career as a three sport athlete at VHS. "She's done a great job every year and this year she's really stepped up as a leader, and had a great season pitching for us. Everybody on the team has had a really solid season and Joyce has been at the center of it."

time of 45.75 and finished tied for 1st in the high jump, clearing 6'0". Kale Sullivan finished 3rd in the javelin with a Personal Record (PR) throw of 150'10" and qualified for State as an at-large selection. Jake Handegard also qualified as an at-large selection after finishing 3rd in the high jump with a PR jump of 5'11". Handegard just missed qualifying in the triple jump by .5" after finishing 3rd with a leap of 38'5.5".

For the Vernonia girls Jenna Handegard finished 2nd in the 400 meter finals to qualify for state, after

running a PR of 1:04.57 in her preliminary heat. Lauren Ely will go to state after running a PR of 2:38.6 to take 2nd in the 800 meters. So will Hailey Reynolds who tied for 1st in the 300 meter hurdles, running a PR of 51.90. Barbora Kvapilova took 2nd in the high jump, clearing 4'6". Abby Coleman finished 2nd in the pole vault after clearing 6'10".

Other top performances by Logger boys at the Districts included Sullivan and Abraham Kpirikai who finished 3rd and 4th in the 400 meters, both running a PR; Handegard's 5th place finish in the 800 meters; Nick Costley, who finished 5th in the 110 hurdles and took 7th in the 300 hurdles; Dustin Carreon's 5th place in the shot put; Gunnar Haral, who finished 6th in the long jump with a PR leap of 18'9.5" and Radek Zikmund who had a PR jump of 17'5" to finish 11th.

Other top performances for the girls at Districts included Kvapilova's 6th place finish in the 100 meters; Handegard, who finished 4th in the 800 meters after running a PR of 2:42.21; Sadie Gump, who took 3rd in the 3,000 meters and 4th in the 1,500 meters; Reynolds, who finished 4th in the 100 meter hurdles

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Track and Field – Head coach John Roady had eight athletes qualify for the Track and Field State Championships at the District Championship on May 10-11.

For the Logger boys, Abram Martin won the 300 meter hurdles in a

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