

VHS Sports Report: Vernonia Boys Take 5th at State XC Meet

Draeger finishes 11th in girls meet, Gump 19th

The Vernonia Loggers Cross Country squads finished a successful season on Saturday, April 10 with a strong showing at the State Championship, held at Cheadle Park Lake in Lebanon.

The Vernonia boys team took 5th place in the team standings, while freshman Delany Draeger finished in 11th place and Sadie Gump took 19th running individually in the girls race.

For the Vernonia runners, the journey to the State Championship started back in September during the traditional fall season. "When our runners found out that the season would be postponed, they decided to still run to prepare in case the OSAA decided to proceed with some type of season later in the school year," said head coach John Roady following the conclusion of the season. "They ran through the cold winter months. Led by the 600 miles put in by senior Nick Costley, a few others ran over 300 miles during this time. They all worked hard without being guaranteed a season."

And it all paid off at the State Championship. For the Vernonia boys, it was again a team effort, just like it's been all season. The team's top five runners all season have been a senior, Nick Costley and a group of four sophomores, all swapping finishing places throughout the season. At the State Championship it was Evan Miller who



led the Vernonia group, finishing 40th overall in a time of 18:54, followed closely by Seth Scheuerman in 43rd place in 18:57. Next up for the Loggers were Costley in 51st place in 19:22 and Peter Hahn in 52nd just a split second behind him, also in 19:22. Finishing the scoring for Vernonia was Max Anderson in 76th place in 20:18, giving the Loggers team 173 points and their 5th place finish. Sophomore Isaiah Rodriguez of Knappa finished 3rd in 16:45, while Jewell junior Nicholas Nikander took 37th in 18:48.

"Even though we did not have an elite runner on the boys team, our pack was always pushing some of the

state's best," said Roady.

The Vernonia girls did not have enough runners this season to qualify as a team for the State Championship, but did place their two runners as individuals. Draeger, who has led the team all season, finished in 20:44 to take 11th place while Gump finished 19th in 21:47. League rival Jordan White, a junior from Neah-Kah-Nie finished 8th in 20:22.

"The girls had an outstanding season as individuals," said Roady. "Delaney was first in several meets during the season and was outstanding at the state meet. Sadie was Delaney's sidekick and qualified for her second

straight state meet. Freshman Eloise Pedersen continued to show promise for the future as she finished in the top half of all of her races."

Volleyball – The Vernonia Lady Loggers competed in the Northwest League Playoffs, winning one match before being eliminated in the semi-finals.

The Lady Loggers easily handled Faith Bible on April 6 in the opening round, winning the match 3-0 by scores of 25-12, 25-15, and 25-17. On April 8 they faced league leaders Columbia Christian and fell 3-1 by scores 19-25, 19-25, 25-16, and 20-25. On Saturday, April 10, Gaston beat Columbia Christian 3-0 to take the League Championship.

Head coach Teresa Williams said the team struggled with their passing and serve-serve in their final match. "We were competitive and the girls didn't give up."

Vernonia concluded regular season league play on April 1 with a 3-0 loss to Nestucca. The Lady Logger finished their season with a 8-5 record overall.

"Considering the amount of time we had to prepare for the season, and with a small and somewhat inexperienced team, I was pleased with how we finished," said Williams, "but of course I would have liked to make to the league final game. I think our veteran player did well to help the rest of the team play their best."



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