

Varsity boys to come out of their valley to 'make it happen'

By Salena McDonald

'We can defeat any team in the league when we get involved in what we are doing,' says VHS Varsity Boys' Basketball coach, Mr. Gary Curtis.

'Our attitudes appear good, we work hard in practice, but we have had some serious let-downs in our games,' remarked Coach Curtis, whose team is comprised of seven seniors, four juniors, and one freshman.

'A week ago (January 15) our chances for going to state were slim, today they are much improved.' Mr. Curtis feels the key is the development of a strong team on both ends of the floor.

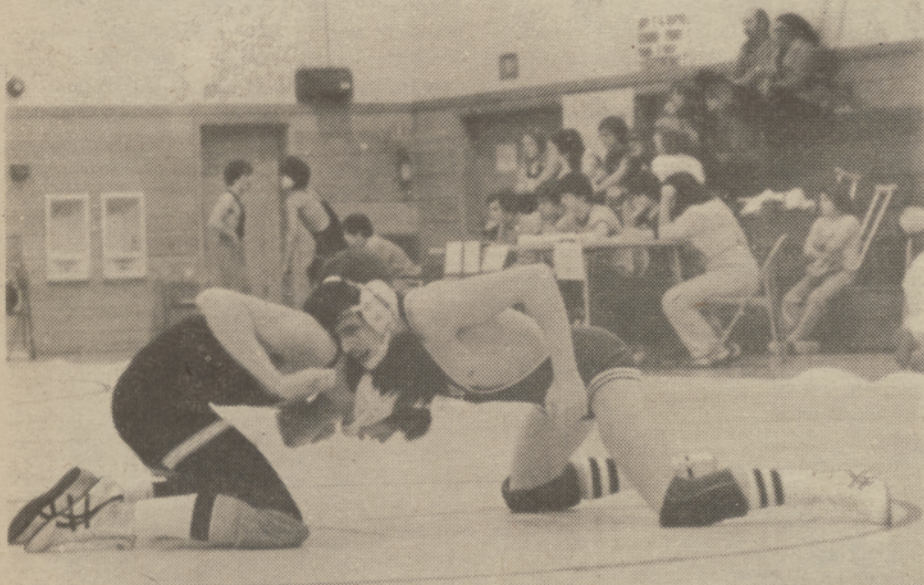
'We are more of a team this year. I think we can do it with hard work and

teamwork,' says Kurt Dunaway, one of the seniors on the team.

When asked how this year's team compares to those of previous years, Coach Curtis replied, 'It is unfair to compare them; of course they are not as talented individually as most past teams, but they show signs of coming together as a team more than some of the previous Logger teams did.'

'Our season, to date, has been a series of peaks and valleys with too many of the latter. Hopefully, things are turning toward more consistent play, and we will climb out of the valley.'

Coach Curtis went on to add a determined 'We can make it happen! Yes!'



Howard Eskins sets up for an underthrow his Rainier opponent.

Nimz foresees 4 or 5 state qualifiers on wrestling team

VHS Wrestling team, with nine returning members, is expecting to do well this year.

'We're a young team, having only two seniors,' remarked Coach Terry Nimz, 'but I'm hoping four or five boys will qualify for state.'

'We have only twelve people on the team, which is hurting us. We've had to forfeit at least three weight classes every

meet,' said assistant coach, Mr. Steve Calhoun. Mr. Calhoun went on to say, 'It's hard to win without a full team.'

Their record, after five meets, is third out of four teams, second out of four teams, second after four teams at the VHS Invitational, second out of two teams, against Corbett, and third out of four teams.

JV boys need to 'improve mentally' says Howard

'We should be doing better than we are right now,' says Ross Bellingham, sophomore member of the VHS JV Boys' Basketball team.

JV team is supporting a record of 1 win and 9 losses which Coach Howard explains as a 'lack of effort and concentration. We're not intense enough and we aren't quite handling situations as

we need to.'

'I don't think we're playing up to our potential,' remarked Howard, 'any team has talent; ours just is taking a little longer to come out.'

Five juniors, five sophomores, and two freshmen make up the team which, according to Coach Howard, 'Needs to improve mentally.'

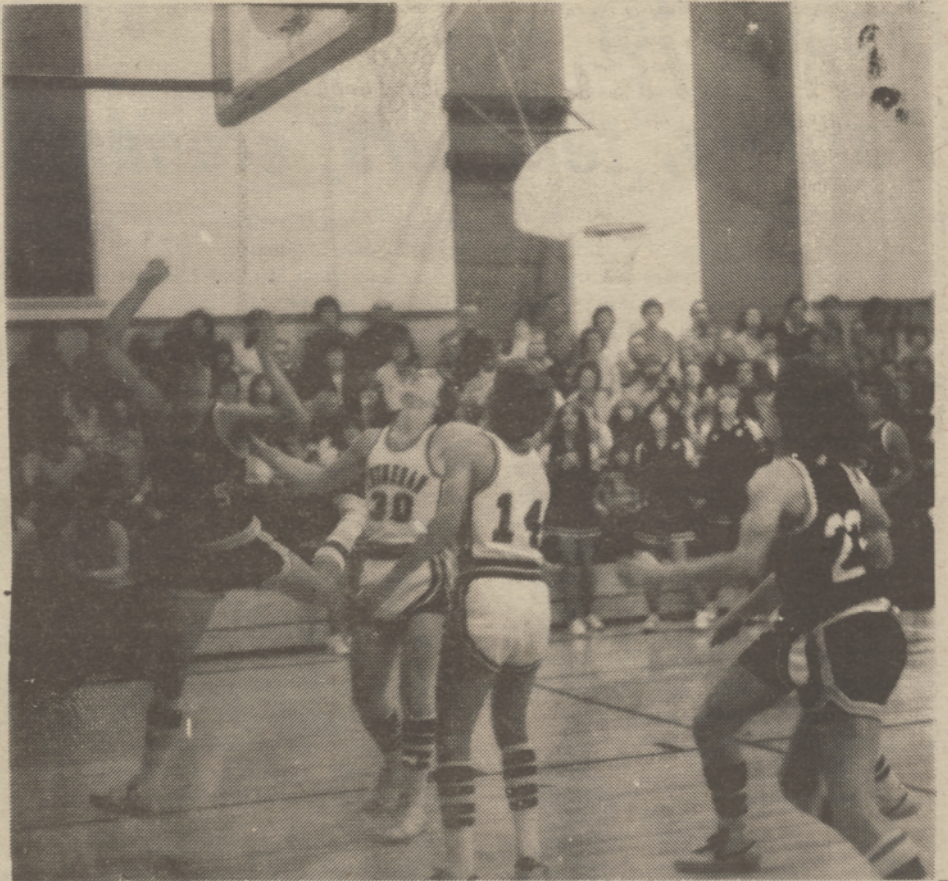
Forgey's freshmen a 'smart' ball club

'I think by the time the guys on this team are juniors and seniors, they will be going to State,' predicts Mr. Pete Forgey, coach of the VHS Freshmen Basketball team.

Forgey is coaching the team for the second year in a row. With a record of 6 and 2, the boys have reached the midpoint

of their season. 'The league this season is weak; there aren't that many good, competitive teams to play against. Clatskanie has been the only really tough game we've played so far.'

Coach Forgey stated that his team of twelve has a strong offense and is going to be setting some goals for their defense. 'They're smart players.'



Terry Newton shoots while Doug Curl anticipates a possible rebound in the VHS Luther contest.

Varsity girls a 'pretty spirited' bunch

'Yes, we're getting better,' said Mr. Melvin Nice, coach of the VHS Girls' Varsity Basketball team.

'The girls' attitudes for their games are excellent. They seem to enjoy themselves, and are a pretty spirited bunch.'

Three seniors, and three juniors make up the team, whose record is one win, and four losses. 'The girls haven't let their games bother them either way. They

have a lot of fun, and don't build up tension,' said Mr. Nice.

'I hope to see gradual improvements throughout the year, win the playoffs, and go to State.'

Vickie Pitt, one of the seniors on the team, added, 'Even though we don't win very many games, we have a good time. We are really trying to improve so we can bring our record up to par in league play.'



JV girls gain experience

'I think JV basketball is important because it is the only way to gain experience to be able to become a good varsity player,' remarked Shawn Brewer, sophomore at VHS, and a member of the girls' JV basketball team.

The team, which consists of nine players, has a new coach this year. Mrs. Cheryl Fitzsimmons, is helping her team improve their basic skills and develop more knowledge about basketball. 'Basketball is in its growing stages for girls, and each member of this team will participate as much as possible,' says Coach Fitzsimmons.

'I think we are going to have a good season. Even though we may not win all of our games, we are going to have fun trying,' says senior Denise Tracy, captain of the team.



'OK! You made the team!'