

Warriors hope for big turnaround in 2015

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The Warrenton Warriors may not win the Lewis & Clark League, but one thing's for certain — the Warriors won't see 5-18 again.

That was Warrenton's overall record in 2014, as the Warriors went the entire season without winning two games in a row, and finished 3-12 in league play.

Part of that was a tough schedule (the Warriors played Astoria, Banks and Monroe in nonleague play); part of it was youth, and part of it was too many strikeouts at the plate.

"One of the big issues for us the last couple years has been the number of strikeouts offensively," said Warrenton coach Lennie Wolfe, entering his 24th year. "If we can put the ball in play, this is going to be a very good team. That will be the key."

He added, "The way last summer went, we have reason to feel confident and excited about this year. As poor as our record was last spring (5-18), we turned it around in the summer (18-5). We went back to Warrenton baseball. We kept it close for four innings, then found a way to win in the last three.

"We still only have three experienced seniors, so it's still a young team. This is the year that it should really click for us."

THE WARRIORS
Coach Wolfe's 2015 roster run-down:

Seniors
Brock Johnson: Four-year letterman, shortstop/pitcher, will hit No. 1 or 2. Third-team all-state.
"Brock had a good summer. We changed his arm motion, and I think it really improved his ability to throw more 'out' pitches with that (side)arm angle. It also increased his velocity. It's



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Warrenton's Hunter Wilson, No. 7, makes a catch at first to get out Naselle's Justin Martinez, No. 14, in the sixth inning in of their baseball game March 26.

WARRENTON BASEBALL

Coach: Lennie Wolfe, 24th year
2014: 5-18 (3-12 L&C)
All-League Loss: Bradd Lundberg
All-League Returners: Brock Johnson, Sr.; Hunter Michaelson, Sr.

more of a natural arm position for him, and it's definitely made a difference.
"He's in the No. 2 spot, just because I'd like to have him get a few more at-bats with someone on base. He's been a consistent .300 hitter."
Hunter Michaelson: Pitcher/third base. "Our best power hitter, good RBI guy for us; will hit third or fourth; his bat

is always reliable, and we'll need him to be more of a factor for us on the hill."
Drake Fischer: "Worked hard for four years; earned opportunity to be starting left fielder; he's improved defensively, and has always been a hard worker."
Kory Thomas: Transferred to Warrenton from Scappoose, "He was here

through junior high before moving away, but hasn't played ball since eighth grade. He's a good athlete, hoping that he will pick things up quickly."

Juniors
Anthony Cochran: Working in the outfield, he's a big strong kid who has done a great job the last couple years in getting himself in better shape."
Joe Little: Infield/pitcher. "When Hunter pitches he will be at third, when Brock pitches he'll play short. We're asking him to move around a little. He did a good job of it last year, and it's a role he's returning to. His hitting started to improve over the summer."

Gavon McFadden: Catcher. "He was a very pleasant surprise last summer; demonstrated that we can throw a pitch anywhere we want to, and feel comfortable that he's going to keep it in front.

"Offensively Gavon will need to put the ball in play more, because he's one of our fastest kids, and if he does that, he's going to be a very effective offensive player for us."

Justice Watson: Started since his freshman year. "Will be our starting center fielder, and possibly our leadoff hitter. He's a very good baserunner, good bunter, puts the ball in the play. If he can handle that leadoff spot, it really makes us tough at the top of the order."

Hunter Wilson: First base, although "he has played outfield. There's a good chance he'll be at first. He should be capable of that. He wants to play that position, and we do have a need there."

Rounding out the Warrenton roster are junior David Foster and sophomore pitcher/second baseman Jake Holthusen, who "did an incredible job in getting himself in physical shape. He's lost 30 pounds and worked very hard."

THE LEAGUE
"I think Clatskanie will be one of the top teams in the state," Wolfe said. "They should be. They have eight returning starters. They've got everyone back. The catcher was good, and they'll have to replace him. We had a hard time getting on base against German George. Clatskanie should feel like this is their year to push for a title."
Elsewhere, "Rainier lost a lot of kids, but I suspect they have good athletes back. They've still got the Tripp family. I know they felt good about this year's sophomore class."
Along with Catlin Gabel, Portland Christian and Rainier, the Warriors will compete for one of the two state playoff spots from the Lewis & Clark League.

Lady Warriors compete in softer league

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The last team from Warrenton High School to make the state playoffs (softball, 2013), could be the first in over a year to break that string of bad luck.

The Warriors are back with more experience at the crucial positions, the league is a little softer and the Warriors are a little tougher following a rough 2014 season.

Warrenton lost nine of its first 10 games last year, then had to deal with a tough league that included eventual state champion Rainier.

Heading into 2015, the Warriors — who are designated "Warrenton/Jewell" by the OSAA this year, will place a special emphasis on the "Jewell" part.

Warrenton's starting pitcher is Niquilla "Niqui" Blodgett, a freshman at Jewell who will play for the Warriors, since the Bluejays have no softball program.

"She will be fine," said Warrenton coach Staci Miethe. "She played summer ball for the Rampage (based in Forest Grove), and before that she has some tournament experience. She's pretty seasoned as far as pitching goes. She's real mature and plays year-round.

"Landree (Miethe) is always available for backup, but the only issue there is that we don't have another catcher.

"We're focusing on offense," said the coach. "Niqui will be able to hold her own up there, and we'll just have to be able to produce some runs."

THE WARRIORS
Warrenton has just three seniors, and only two have varsity experience.
Shortstop Brianna Marsch will anchor the infield, and Alyssa Casteel is slated to



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Warrenton's Ally Hanna, No. 14, scores in the second inning of the softball game against Naselle March 26.

WARRENTON SOFTBALL

Coach: Staci Miethe, 14th year
2014: 4-18 (2-10 L&C)
Playoffs: Lost league playoff at Clatskanie, 2-8
All-League Losses: Hanna Little, Savannah Thomas
All-League Returner: Landree Miethe, So.

play third. Irie Hernandez is the third senior.
A small junior class features first baseman Ally Hanna and Sarah Nichols; while the sophomores include Landree Miethe and Heidi Erland.
After that, it's all freshmen, led by Blodgett, with Rachel Dyer, Hailey Furr, Alyssa Herrera, Kiley Holdiman and Tyla Little.
The Warriors lost Taylor Ford to Naselle.

THE LEAGUE
Time to add up the positives and negatives heading into league play.
The bad news — Valley Catholic is no longer in the Lewis & Clark League, having made the jump to the 4A Cowapa. The Warriors had just two league wins last season, both over the Valiants.
On the other hand, Corbett (second place behind Rainier last season) is also no longer in the L&C, having moved up to the 4A Tri-Valley League. Portland Christian (from the

2A Northwest League) has joined the league.
And finally, the league title is basically reserved for Rainier.
"If Rainier doesn't win state, I'll be shocked," Miethe said. "They hardly lost anybody, and they're just that good."
"There are five teams in the league and four make the league playoffs, so I think we should be playoff-bound," she said. "We beat both Portland Adventist and Portland Christian last year. Barring anything crazy, we should be able to make the playoffs."
Just two teams from the Lewis & Clark will have automatic bids to the state playoffs.
After the Columbians, "it's going to be a dogfight for the rest of the league, and I'm hoping that we'll be in it," Miethe said. "I think you will see a lot of lead changes — a lot of teams will be beating each other. The league is pretty even after Rainier."

Lots of youth on the track for Warriors

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The top athletes on the Warrenton track team can run, jump and throw with the best — the Warriors are just hoping there are enough of them to score some big team points in the big meets.

"If we stay healthy, I think our boys' team has a good shot at placing pretty high," said Warrenton coach Josh Jannusch. "We have some solid athletes returning, and a couple who we didn't have last year.

"I think we'll be pretty strong in the field events," he said. "The boys, top to bottom, will fill most events, which is half the battle. And we have some quality, so I think we'll be all right."

THE WARRIORS
Individually, the Warriors have seniors Bryton Kyme and Chris Ocana, and junior Eli Petersen as their state returners.

"Ocana has gotten a lot stronger, and he could do well in quite a few different events," Jannusch said. "We have a freshman hurdler (Austin Stein), who's going to be a good athlete.

"Jed Emonds came from Neah-Kah-Nie, and he's a good, fast kid. Tyler Whitaker is out for track; he's a fast kid and can jump."

Jeryd Lewis is a returning sophomore distance runner, joining sophomore Luke Liljenwall.

Sophomore Rae Alcobendes will be a middle distance runner and compete in several field events.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Warrenton's Luke Liljenwall runs in the 1500-meter race during the Seaside track meet March 19. Liljenwall placed first in the race.

Senior Liam Baker and sophomore Alex Ocana (hurdles) are other key members for the boys.

For the girls, "Katherine Carey is back for her fourth year," Jannusch said. "Libby Biel (Jr.) will be doing some jumping, the 400 and some relays; we hope to get Phoenix Haines (Sr.) to state — she was third in both hurdles last year.

"Sophia Thomas (Jr.) is a high jumper with a chance at getting to state; and freshmen Macen Fritz will do some hurdlng and the pole vault."

Sophomore Krista Morrill and junior Sarah Stein added depth to the distance events.

THE LEAGUE
Valley Catholic is gone, but there's always private schools competing at the top of District 1/3A track, which will include Catlin Gabel and Portland Christian this season.
"A lot of it is going to be numbers," Jannusch said. "Portland Christian was always tough at the 2A level, so I think Catlin and Portland Christian will both be strong."

Rod's

AUTO & MARINE

ELECTRIC

AUTO, RV & MARINE SERVICE & REPAIR

GAS & DIESEL ENGINES • LOF • TUNE-UPS
BRAKES • COOLANT & TRANSMISSION FLUSH

230 SE MARLIN, WARRENTON 503-861-2655

Best of luck

Rod's

JENSEN

COMMUNICATIONS

Cell 503-741-6124

230 SE MARLIN, WARRENTON 503-861-2655