

Young Jewell Volleyball team relies on teamwork



By **DON ANDERSON**
For *The Daily Astorian*

Though 17 girls signed up for volleyball at the end of the school year, only 11 went to volleyball camp and practiced during the summer, according to Jewell volleyball coach Jessica Miller. This means her team will be both small in numbers and young in age, but that doesn't faze her.

"We will probably get more girls to come out when school starts on Wednesday," said Miller. "But anyone who comes out won't be in shape and will have to start from scratch," she said.

For more than a decade, Jewell has produced quality volleyball teams, and this year's team, while it doesn't have the talent of some of the teams of the last few years, works very well together.

"Everyone has their role, and does it well," said Kayla Miller, Jessica's daughter. Kayla is the team's co-captain, and its only

senior. The other captain, junior Allycia Littlepage, gives the team balance with her ability to serve and set the ball well. "I need to work on communication," Littlepage said, "speaking up to everybody on the court."

Volleyball is all about communication and this is what the Jewell team does especially well. At such a small school, teammates on a volleyball team become like sisters, learning all about the nuances of each other's game.

With their first game on Sept. 8, the 11 girls on the Jays team know that they can make it to the district playoffs this year, but most are aspiring for more than that.

"I want to go state this year," said freshman Lilly Kaczenski, following Tuesday afternoon's practice. While the girls have a ways to go, their team is coming along well. Volleyball camp and lots of workouts have made them into a well-oiled volleyball machine.

JEWELL VOLLEYBALL

Coach: Jessica Miller
2014: 7-5 Casco League
Playoffs: Lost league playoffs to Willamette Valley Christian (0-3), Crosshill Christian (0-3)



ABOVE: Jewell Sophomore Emma Guillen scores a kill during volleyball practice Tuesday, while teammates Ashley Thurston and Allycia Littlepage look on. **RIGHT:** With only one senior playing volleyball this year, the Jewell Blue Jays are going to have to rely on younger players like freshman Lilly Kaczenski who sets the ball for her teammates during Tuesday's practice. Team captain, junior Allycia Littlepage looks on.

Photos by Don Anderson/For The Daily Astorian

Jewell High School launches first cross country team

By **DON ANDERSON**
For *The Daily Astorian*

With too many injuries last season and too few students wanting to play football, Jewell abandoned its football program, for at least this season. Some of the boys who wanted to play football went to play for the Warrenton Warriors, but three others started a new sport for Jewell: cross country. The three runners for Jewell are sophomores Thomas Meehan and Ben Stahly, and freshman Daniel Kuhnly.

Coach David Fix and his athletes are excited about starting a new tradition at Jewell School that has often had a difficult time fielding enough athletes for larger team sports.

"I have family that has done a lot of sports at Jewell, but I think it is cool that I can do my own thing, that isn't something my family has

done in the past," said Stahly, who went to state in four track events last year.

Meehan is another excellent athlete for the Blue Jays. He holds the school record in the 3,000-meter run, and is one of the pillars of the Jewell track team. "After doing track, I really looked forward to coming back here in the fall and establishing a new tradition," Meehan said.

"I think it is great that we are doing something new at Jewell School, even though some people are scared of cross country because they think it is too much running," he said.

"I really like running in the woods," said Kuhnly, the youngest member of the team, who is excited to be involved in a sport that takes him through forests and swamps and grasslands.

"We'll explore new places and find new places for them



Don Anderson/For The Daily Astorian

Jewell cross country coach David Fix discusses practice with his three runners, Ben Stahly, Daniel Kuhnly and Thomas Meehan. The three make up the Blue Jay's first cross country team.

to run," Fix said. "The fields and the woods are so much different than having kids run around a track.

"Although we won't have our own cross country course this year, it that is something we definitely want to do. We

have such a wonderful physical space here and the acreage that we have, with the woods and fields and so forth, it is

a nice setting for cross country," Fix said. "We look forward to having meets here in the future."

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