

BOYS BASKETBALL

Warriors looking to compete on the court

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Will the third year be the charm for Nate McBride? Depends on how you define "charm." After all, the only way to go is up for Warrenton boys basketball.

The Warriors were 0-for-24 in McBride's first season, then took a big step to 8-16 overall last year, although the Warriors still struggled in league play, finishing 2-14.

"It's kind of a big year for us," McBride said. "The first year, we weren't ready to compete. We didn't have the talent. Last year, we started to compete a little more. We were 6-2 in the preseason against teams who were similar to us. Then we got into our league, and our league is just tougher right now."

The 2015-16 season "is a year to step forward and compete more with those teams," he said. "We're 2-and-30 in our last 32 league games, and it's worse than that if you go back further."

"We have not been very successful in our league in quite some time, and this will be a big year to try and get over that hurdle. One of our goals is to just compete more. We were in quite a few games last year, including some that we should have won."

LEWIS & CLARK LEAGUE

Speaking of the Lewis & Clark League, it "should be pretty tough," said McBride, which is no surprise, even though the league had just one team in the final eight last year, after three advanced to the Final Four in 2014.

"Portland Adventist returns everybody," McBride said. "De La Salle returns quite a bit, including their



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton's Anthony Cochran started most of the games last year and is a projected starter going into this season. Head Coach Nate McBride said Cochran is a big defensive presence.

second- and third-best players. Catlin Gabel returns pretty much their whole team."

Continuing, "Riverdale will be OK, Portland Christian will be pretty young with a new coach, but they bring everybody back. Rainier also has a new coach, and some good young players."

THE WARRIORS

Warrenton finished last season without a junior varsity team, and "we're at 20 right now," McBride said the first week of practice.

The returners include a good group, "three who started last year and two others who started as sophomores, so between the projected five starters, each has started 15 or 20 games. All five have pretty good experience."

The players include:

- Senior Anthony Cochran, started half his games as a sophomore and all but one or two last year, McBride said. "He's a good rebounder and a big defensive presence."

- Senior Joe Little also started as a sophomore, and will provide much

of the rebounding and strong defense for the Warriors.

- Senior Hunter Wilson, started as a sophomore and a junior, and "he will have a good year, and might end up being our second-best scorer. He's a big, physical kid."

- Junior Christian Holt, the "second-leading scorer last year, and he had some huge games over the summer (scored 44 in one game). He's gotten a lot better," McBride said. "He's really developed and will probably play a lot of point guard."

- Junior Tyler Whitaker, started

last year as a sophomore, mostly at wing. He could be "more out on the perimeter this year."

"That's the projected starting lineup," McBride said.

Also likely to see action will be junior Raymond Alcobendas, who played as a freshman; and sophomores Logan Fischer (missed last year with an injury) and Austin Stein (6-foot-4, good shot-blocker and rebounder). Rounding out the roster will be freshman Dalton Knight, along with Bryant Bautista and Tyson Secord.

WARRENTON BOYS

Coach: Nate McBride, 3rd year
2014-15: 8-16 (2-14 L&C League)
All-League Loss: Brock Johnson

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

Boys Basketball — Warrenton at Ilwaco, 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling — Knappa Fun Meet, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

Girls Basketball — Liberty at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.; Waldport at Warrenton, 3 p.m.; Clatskanie at Knappa, 6 p.m.; Ilwaco at North Beach, 5:45 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Liberty at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.; Waldport at Warrenton, 4:45 p.m.; Clatskanie at Knappa, 7:45 p.m.; Ilwaco at North Beach, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Basketball — Warrenton at Vernonia Tournament, TBA

Boys Basketball — Naselle at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

Swimming — Tillamook Invitational, 10 a.m.

Wrestling — Astoria, Warrenton at Estacada Tournament, 10 a.m.; Knappa at Ocosta Tournament, TBA

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hoepfl era begins at Warrenton

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The Warrenton girls basketball program is on its third coach in four years, as Robert Hoepfl replaces Jeremy LaFramboise.

And despite their 2-22 record from a year ago, Hoepfl actually has a lot to work with, as the Lady Warriors hope to rebound, literally, from a tough 2014-15 season.

"We are looking to compete in a very tough league and improve each day," said Hoepfl, who also serves as the Warrenton athletic director.

LEWIS & CLARK LEAGUE

New league member Portland Christian cruised to a 15-1 record to finish first place in the Lewis & Clark standings last season.

Portland Adventist ultimately beat the Royals in the consolation round of the state tournament.

There were five teams between the Warriors and the top two spots in last year's league standings.

The bottom line: It's tough to get anywhere in the L&C League, which had three teams in the final eight of last year's state tournament.

Portland Christian had two sophomores and a junior on last season's all-league team.

THE WARRIORS

Warrenton had two players on the all-league squad, and both return for their junior seasons — post Katelynn Blodgett and guard Landree Miethé.

The senior returners are Romana King and Sophia Thomas; Chloe Little also returns for her senior year after spending last season at Knappa, then transferring back.

Other juniors on the roster include Sierra Lyons, Krista Morrill and Elle Schenbeck, who all saw varsity action as sophomores.

Rounding out the Warrenton lineup are sophomores Rachel Dyer and Tyla Little (both played as freshmen); and freshmen Claire Bussert and Reagan Hunt.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton's Sophia Thomas, No. 4, is one of three returning seniors to this year's basketball team.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Katelynn Blodgett, No. 11, was on the all-league squad last year.



Warrenton's Colton Walker is one of two captains of the wrestling team this year.

Joshua Bessex
The Daily Astorian

Warriors aiming to improve on last year's Top 10 finish

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The Warrenton wrestling program has entered the Corey Conant zone, as the Newberg graduate takes over the Warrior coaching duties.

Trask Bergerson stepped down at the end of last year, but the Warriors still hope to pick up where they left off following a successful 2014-15 season.

Warrenton finished in a tie for 10th in the team standings of the Class 3A state tournament, with several stellar individual performances.

"Our program has a lot of new faces and is really headed in a positive direction from the kids and middle school programs up," Conant said. "We are really excited to get on the mat and are looking to better our 10th-place finish at state last year."

The Warriors also had two wrestlers come within seconds of winning Warrenton's first individual championships since 2002, as Colton Walker and Rogue Bergerson advanced to the finals at 106 and 113 pounds, respectively.

Walker was the No. 1-seed-

THE WRESTLERS

106: Colton Walker, Sr.
120: Brandon Williamson, So.
126: Azeiyah Eduardo, Fr.
132: Brian Sheppard, JR.
132: Justice Bjork, So.
138: Rodrigo Verissimo, Jr.
145: Giovanni Martinez, Fr.
145: Andrea Ortalli, Jr.
152: Justice Watson, Sr.
152: John Niehuser, Sr.
152: Alex Sanchez, So.
160: Tyler Coolidge, Sr.
160: Gavon McFadden, Sr.
170: Caden Hans, So.
182: Levi Lewis, Sr.
182: Devon Grubaugh, So.
220: Forrest Vaughn, Sr.
220: Dakota Mollett, So.
285: Beau Reynolds, Jo.
285: Wayne Frye, Sr.
Stats: Michelle Arney

ed wrestler at 106, but dropped a dramatic, come-from-behind 9-8 victory for No. 2 seed David Kerr of La Pine.

Bergerson was unseeded in the championship bracket at 113, but he quickly showed that he was one of the best, as he won his first bout in 24 seconds, then took down No. 2-seed Jacob Sabel of Jefferson 14-9 in the semifinals.

In the title match, Bergerson faced Nyssa's Heath Hartley, who somehow managed to hold

off Bergerson in the late stages for a 9-4 victory.

A strong showing in districts resulted in five Warriors qualifying for state.

In addition to Walker and Bergerson, senior Michael Suppa took fifth place at 145 pounds in the state meet, while Justice Watson and Eli Petersen went 0-for-2 at 160 and 182 pounds, respectively.

Walker and Watson both return for the Warriors, who are hoping to score big points at the district and state levels.

"Our captains are seniors Colton Walker and Justice Watson (two-time state qualifier)," Conant said. "They provide a high level of leadership to our underclassmen and are looking to leave their marks at the state tournament."

Seniors Tyler Coolidge, Levi Lewis and Forrest Vaughn also return and look to improve on previous years experience, Conant said.

District-wise, "The 3A Special District 1 is one of the tougher districts in the state," said the first-year coach. "Last year three of the top five, and five of the top 10 teams in the state came from our district."

WARRENTON GIRLS

Coach: Robert Hoepfl, 1st year
2014-15: 2-22 (2-14 L&C League)
All-League Losses: None
All-League Returners: Katelynn Blodgett, Jr.; Landree Miethé, Jr.

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