

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Blue Jay girls vow to return to playoffs

By DON ANDERSON
For The Daily Astorian

Despite their inexperience, the Jewell varsity girls' basketball team is confident during practice, and growing steadily in their basketball skills. Whether they can make it to the playoffs depends on how much effort they are willing to put in.

"It will be harder to make the playoffs this year, because the Casco League has eight teams instead of five," said sophomore starter Emma Guillen. "I think that we will do well considering that we just have one junior (Allycia Littlepage) and one senior (Hanna Littlepage). We really have a team of sophomores."

Last year the Lady Jays went to the playoffs, but just barely. This year they hope to build on their success with a more experienced squad. They have a new assistant coach, Hailee Smith, to help build on their speed and help develop their shooting skills. Mark Fick is the head coach for both the boys and the girls.

"It was really easy for us to get comfortable with our plays this year. Our summer camp at Joseph really helped our younger players get use to our team configuration," added Guillen. "We really need to work on our shooting percentage though," she said.

Besides the two seniors and sophomore Guillen, the Jays have sophomores Serena Hadlock, Ashley Thurston, Gabi Morales, and Niqui Blodgett, and freshmen Sophie Olvera and Lilly Kaczinski in the lineup.

The Blue Jay Girls start off their season like the boys with a Jamboree at CS Lewis Academy on Wednesday, followed



Photos by Don Anderson/For The Daily Astorian
Sophomore Emma Guillen provides speed, ball-handling and a threat close to the basket for the Blue Jays varsity girls. Guillen says she looks forward to a hard fought, but fun season.

by their first game on Saturday against Eddyville and their first Casco League game Monday against Oregon School for the Deaf.

RIGHT: Sophomore Gabi Morales is the high-scorer for the Jewell Blue Jays as well as being an excellent ball-handler. She uses her speed both with a fast break offense and hazing defense. FAR RIGHT: Junior Allycia Littlepage is one of the best shooters for the Jewell Blue Jays. She also provides a lot of experience, which Jewell badly needs. The Jays have just one junior and one senior on the team.



BOYS BASKETBALL



Don Anderson/For The Daily Astorian
Blue Jay sophomore Ben Stahly and senior Nico Chavera-Munk listen as Jewell head coach Mark Fick outlines a play during practice Tuesday. The Jays first game is Thursday against Open Door.

Jewell boys team build on experience

By DON ANDERSON
For The Daily Astorian

JEWELL — With four seniors on their varsity boys' basketball team, the Jewell Blue Jays will attempt to get past rivals Country Christian and Perrydale and into the playoffs of the Casco League that they missed last year.

While the Jays didn't have enough bodies to make up a football team this year, they barely have enough, 10, for a solid basketball roster, including three seniors that are starting for the Jays: Dallas Ritchie, Trystan Silva and Rylan Murray, along with sophomores Ben Stahly and Thomas Meehan.

Tonight the Jays play a Jamboree with C.S. Lewis, Mohawk and Central Christian. Thursday they play

their first official league game against Open Door, followed by a trip to Eddyville on Saturday.

"I have high hopes for our team this year, but we need to work on our shooting percentage," said junior Sean Hinson. His teammate, sophomore Corey Lyon added, "Hopefully we will do well this season, but we will see after the first game. We have experience and we have a lot of height this year." Senior Nico Chavera-Munk, and juniors Jon Thompson and Rhett Gerken, round out the Jewell team.

Former Astoria High School player and coach Mark Fick is the head coach for the Blue Jay boys and girls varsity teams again this year. Under his tutelage, the Jays have done well despite their small numbers.



Don Anderson/For The Daily Astorian
Jewell sophomore Ben Stahly and junior Sean Hinson battle for possession of the ball during practice Thursday. The two big men on the team, they will be responsible for most rebounds in the paint.

Clatsop County takes gold in fall Special Olympics soccer

The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop Green Machine came away with gold at the Special Olympics Oregon Fall State Games soccer championships, Nov. 21-22.

More than 900 athletes across Oregon gathered to compete in soccer, volleyball or swimming.

There were several firsts for the Clatsop County team. The Clatsop Green Machine is the first soccer team in the county established for athletes with intellectual disabilities. Coaches Diana Johnson and David McAloney are first-time soccer coaches and few of the athletes have ever played soccer before.

What ensued were three-hour practices held on several rainy and windy Saturdays in Astoria. Enthusiasm and hard practice paid off.

At the Fall State Games, The Green Machine won all four of their matches. The undefeated Clatsop County took top honors in their division with a gold medal.

"I am always amazed how talented these athletes are," said Steve McAloney, volun-



Aliina Johnson-Sconiers/Submitted Photo

The Clatsop County Green Machine: (Back) Coach Diana Johnson, Stephen Adams, Ben Johnson, Beau Routh, Samuel McAloney, Andrew Kujala, Ryan Breitmeyer and Coach David McAloney; (Middle) Anna Rodriguez, William Heckard, Mahalya Green and William Kelso; (Front) Elizabeth Colson and Julian Whitsett notfor sale

teer local program coordinator for Special Olympics-Clatsop County. "They work together as a team and learn how to pass the ball and kick goals. At the beginning of the season, we did not know what kind of team we would have, but, when that whistle blew, our athletes stepped up and

showed everyone they are champions."

Johnson said, "My son has been a part of Special Olympics since age 7. Over the past 20 years, we have hung his tournament medals on our Christmas tree. These medals represent badges of courage and honor for Ben and

the whole family. On a larger scale, the medals symbolize just how far we have all come in celebrating diversity."

Special Olympics Basketball is the winter sport for Clatsop County. Those interested in participating as athletes or volunteers can contact Steve McAloney at 503-298-0633.

Youth softball camp Saturday

The Daily Astorian

A youth softball camp for players in grades 5-8 is scheduled for Saturday at CMH Field.

The camp is divided into two sessions: Players in grades 5-6 will receive instruction from 9-11 a.m., cost is \$20.

Players in grades 7-8 will practice from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., cost is \$25.

Registration takes place a half hour before the start of each session. T-shirts are included.

No metal cleats are allowed on the CMH Field turf. Rain could force the camp to be moved to the Astoria High School gym, but registration will still take place at CMH Field.

For more information, contact Mykka Abrahams at 503-741-1093.

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