



ABOVE: Warrenton Football Head Coach Jason Edwards talks to his team as they practice earlier this month, at Warrenton High School. BELOW: Gio Martinez throws the ball during drills as the Warriors football team practices at Warrenton High School.

## WARRENTON BEGINS THE 'EDWARDS ERA'

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

Another coaching change, youth at almost every position and the loss of five all-league players. Can the Warrenton Warriors deal with all that, and still compete in 2016?

It could be a rough September, but anything can happen in a four-game league season.

The times, they are a-changin' (again) for Warrenton football. The first change starts at the top, where Jason Edwards takes over as head coach, replacing Travis Freeman.

Warrenton has not made the state playoffs since 2012, and hasn't scored points in the state playoffs since 2009. The Warriors have also not had a winning record in league play since going 3-2 in 2008, slipping to 0-2 in the two-game league season of 2014.

And after 38 years of John Mattila (1974-2011), the Warriors are on their third coach in three years (Ian O'Brien, Freeman and Edwards).

"I think the community is a little gunshy, after seeing all the turnover after such a long legacy with Mattila," said Edwards, who was an assistant on Freeman's coaching staff last season.

Still, "It's a fabulous opportunity," he said. "I love this community. I have the best job in the world."

### Lewis & Clark League

Clatskanie's losses were Rainier's gains in the off-season, while Portland Christian and Warrenton look for a top-two finish in the four-team league.

The Tigers of Clatskanie were facing a major rebuilding job to begin with, then lost several key starters to the Columbians, as all-league lineman Job Karber and Cooper Blodgett have transferred to Rainier.

Rainier also acquired Vernonia's Steele Ware, who helped the Loggers to a Northwest League title last year, but is now back with the Columbians.

Rainier is the definite favorite for the league title. The No. 2 spot is up for grabs.



### WARRIOR FOOTBALL

**Coach:** Jason Edwards, 1st year  
**2015:** 4-5 (1-2 L&C)

**All-League Losses:** Nathan Bighill, Anthony Cochran, Gavon McFadden, Eli Petersen, Hunter Wilson

**All-League Returner:** Devon Bowser, Sr. (OL/DL)

### 2016 ROSTER

No.	Name	Position
4	Gio Martinez, So.	QB/DB
15	Preston Miller, Jr.	QB/DB
21	Ray Alcobendas, Sr.	RB/DB
33	Brian Sheppard, Sr.	RB/LB
38	Devon Bowser, Sr.	RB/DL
42	Logan Fischer, Jr.	RB/LB
51	Hayden Bingham, Sr.	OL/LB
52	Jared Middleton, Sr.	OL/DL
53	Caden Hans, Jr.	DL/LB
54	Tim Warren, Jr.	OL/DL
57	Collin Burchell, Jr.	OL/DL
59	Beau Reynolds, Jr.	OL/DL
70	Nathan Oseguera, Sr.	OL/DL
85	Derek Ham, Sr.	TE/LB

"I was an assistant and JV coach last year, so I'm familiar with everybody," Edwards said. "I heard Clatskanie's down and Rainier is up, and Portland Christian is Portland Christian."

### Warriors

"The numbers are a little down from last year, but we have a really good young core coming up," Edwards said. "We're going to be a young team this year. But the future is bright, and we're rebuilding the foundation."

All the seniors — which isn't that many — return. Edwards said the team captains will be Ray Alcobendas, Hayden Bingham, Devon Bowser and Brian Sheppard. Bowser is the only returning all-league player, as an offensive and defensive lineman.

The Warriors played most of last year with a freshman quarterback (Gio Martinez), along with sophomore Preston Miller.

On the plus side, "we've got talent all over the field," Edwards said. "Our work ethic is the strength of our team."

The Warriors will certainly be in shape, as Edwards had the group running hard in the August heat.

On Edwards' staff will be Lenny Brown, Craig Horton, Jim Kyme, Mike Larsen and Chris Sheppard.

## Warriors have large turnout for cross country

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

Warrenton cross country coach Hayley Espelund Rogers is hoping that bigger numbers result in higher finishes in the big meets this year, as the Warriors enter a new season.

Every preseason, Rogers takes her runners to Central Oregon for a week of fun before the competitive running starts.

"We just had the biggest cross country camp ever," Rogers said, "and we have the most numbers out this year, and I am confident we will have a couple more join once school starts."

Which is definitely good news for the Warriors, who compete in the always-tough District 1-3A/2A/1A.

The Warrenton boys finished ninth out of 10 teams in



Daily Astorian/File Photo  
**Taylor Owens will trade the hurdles for cross country this fall, as she will run some longer distances for the Warrenton cross country team.**

last year's district meet, while the Lady Warriors placed seventh out of seven teams.

For the Warrenton girls, "we

have Elle Schenbeck, Krista Morrill, Saran Pottschmidt, Rebecca Sprengeler, Ivy McCargish and Madison Kadera returning, as well as Taylor Owens, a transfer who has run cross country," but not for Warrenton, Rogers said. "She did track and had a great season (placing at state in the hurdles)."

New students include Trinity Womack and Alma Bolanos, and freshmen Kaisa Liljenwall and Anna Schenbeck.

"Our girls' team is the biggest ever," Rogers said. "And we have some leaders who have been around the team all their high school careers. I hope to see them not only mentoring our younger runners but getting some new PR's and having fun while they're at it."

Returning runners for the

boys includes senior Luke Liljenwall, who placed 31st out of 83 runners in last year's district meet.

Warrenton has added Alan Martinez, "and we're hoping Jeryd Lewis joins us, though he has had some injury problems," Rogers said.

Sophomore A.J. Schenbeck is returning, "and we have a new sophomore, Axel Martinez," she said. "We also have a student who is transferring from North Coast, Forest Bigelow."

"All of these boys can run, so I'm excited to see what they do this season as a team and individuals."

Warrenton will also host its third annual "Wreck Race" in October, held in and around the parking area and beach near the Peter Iredale.



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
**Head coach Jim Hackwith delivers a message to the Warrenton Volleyball team in a preseason practice.**

## Hackwith back in the saddle again

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

He's baaaaack ... a familiar face is returning to the sidelines for Warrenton volleyball, as Jim Hackwith returns as head coach for the 2016 season, stepping in for Jenny Smith, who may or may not return next year.

"I'm looking at it as a one-year thing, but that's still up in the air," Hackwith said.

That being said, "It's amazing how many things can change in just a few years," said Hackwith, who coached the Warriors from 2005 to 2013, after taking over for Dianne Dick following the 2004 season.

"I don't have to deal with Corbett or Valley Catholic like we did when I coached before, and now we have Portland Christian," he said.

Hackwith had lots of success during his first tenure, with four state-qualifying teams from 2006-09, followed by three more winning seasons.

But the Warriors have fallen on hard times lately, with league records of 2-9, 4-6 and 5-6 over the last three years.

Warrenton opened the 2015 season with sweeps over Knappa and Seaside, then lost three of its first four league matches.

### Lewis & Clark League

Lots of returning stars in the L&C. With five private schools, plus Rainier, there usually is.

The list of outstanding talent includes league Player of the Year Breana Edwards of Rainier, back for her junior season.

The Columbians lost a few all-league seniors off last year's team, but Coach of the Year Mike Edwards will likely reload with another title-contending lineup.

Oregon Episcopal (Belle Scott) and Portland Adventist (Sarah Halverson) return with first-team all-league players.

"Rainier should be very strong," Hackwith said. "Port-

### WARRENTON VOLLEYBALL

**Coach:** Jim Hackwith, 1st year (10th overall)

**2015:** 5-6 L&C

**Playoffs:** 1-1 in league playoffs

**All-League Losses:** Ally Bentley, Libby Biel

**All-League Returner:** Landree Miethe, Sr.

land Christian is also going to be strong, and PAA and OES always seem to come up with good varsity teams."

### Lady Warriors

The first task for Hackwith is replacing two of Warrenton's top hitters from a year ago, Ally Bentley and Libby Biel.

All-everything Landree Miethe returns for her senior year, but Warrenton's top all-around athlete will need help, and the Warriors will need to play a solid defense with their lack of height and hitters.

"We'll have to develop a very good defensive team," Hackwith said. "We lost some of our good hitters — although we have a few who are coming along nicely. Landree is a strong outside hitter, and Morgan Blodgett is actually playing well as a middle and is also a strong hitter."

Regardless, "we'll have to play strong a defense to disrupt the other teams, and as always hope to avoid the mistakes on offense," he said. "And you can't score points if you can't serve."

The Warriors had five seniors last year, and they've got five more this season.

Besides Miethe, the Fab Five includes Katelynn Blodgett, Cheyenne Harrison, Asia Lambert and Sierra Lyons.

Michelle Arney, setter Leah Durham and middle blocker Chloe Magranahan are Warrenton's trio of juniors; while sophomores Morgan Blodgett and Claire Bussert round out the roster.



Asia Lambert, right, is one of five seniors on the Warrenton volleyball roster for 2016.

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