

SPORTS



WARRENTON SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW 2018

Young Warrenton team should be 'far more relevant'

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Needless to say, the 2017 season was not kind to the Warrenton baseball program in terms of wins and losses. There were plenty of losses, and only one victory.

After 14 straight defeats to open the season, the lone win was a 4-3 decision over Portland Christian in the fourth-to-last game.

The Warriors are expecting that the worst is over. On to bigger and better things, with more experience and hopefully more wins.

It's been a nice start. Through six games of the current season, the Warriors were 4-1-1. Warrenton also has a new batting cage, and a couple of alumni returning as assistant coaches. A kinder and gentler schedule should also help.

Warrenton will play four of the five teams in the 2A Northwest League, and their doubleheaders with Clatskanie and Rainier are both at home.

"We're coming off a one-win season, so it's kind of hollow to say, 'I think we'll be better.' We would just about have to be," said Warrenton coach Lennie Wolfe, who has 505 career victories. "We can't go much in the other direction. I think we're going to surprise a lot of people by the degree that we improve. We're going to be far more relevant than expected, coming off a one-win season."

LEWIS & CLARK LEAGUE

League champion Rainier is looking at a rebuilding job, after a 12-0 league season in 2017.

Rainier lost league Player of the Year Mason Schimmel, along with six other all-leaguers. The loss of seven all-league players could be tough to overcome.

Catlin Gabel and Clatskanie finished a distant second and third, respectively, and both made early post-season exits.

"With the exception of us, everyone graduated significant people and significant numbers," Wolfe said. "Rainier only has three returning starters. (Caymon) Rea is obviously a stud on the hill, (Joey) Tripp always gets the job done, and (Dawson) Carr has been a stud at shortstop. They will all have to do more, because they graduated six starters. Catlin Gabel graduated seven starters. Clatskanie did not graduate a lot, but they lost some key play-



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

From left to right, former Warriors Jacoby Marshall, Zach Gantenbein and Boomer Bjaranson will serve as assistant coaches for Lennie Wolfe.

WARRENTON BASEBALL

Coach: Lennie Wolfe, 27th year
2017: 1-17 (1-11 league)
All-league returner: Jacob Morrow, So.

ers and they're fairly young."

THE WARRIORS

Warrenton was young last year, and the Warriors are still young.

Even the only two seniors — outfielders Caden Hans and Preston Miller — have limited varsity experience.

The junior class includes pitcher Dalton Knight, who did not play last season and "should be one of the mainstays on the hill," Wolfe said, in addition to playing first base and center field.

Right fielder Kale'o Kapua is in his third varsity season, Maverick Pedraza is "the most improved and possibly the hardest working kid in the program," Wolfe said. Torben Bradley and Josh Shipley are the other juniors.

The Warriors have the most promising sophomore class in the entire league.

It features Gabe Breitmeyer (outfield, catcher, shortstop and pitcher — "his strength

is his versatility," Wolfe said), along with third baseman Alec Herrera, second baseman Ethan Holthusen, pitcher/first baseman Devin Jackson, shortstop/pitcher Austin Little and catcher Jake Morrow. Also in the mix will be Ahstin Culp (from Jewell).

Three freshmen on the roster include Duane Falls, Ryan Hoagland and Nic Pior.

"The practice energy is high, and I've been happy with the work ethic," Wolfe said. "Boomer (Bjaranson, assistant coach) put it well — there's just a different vibe this year."

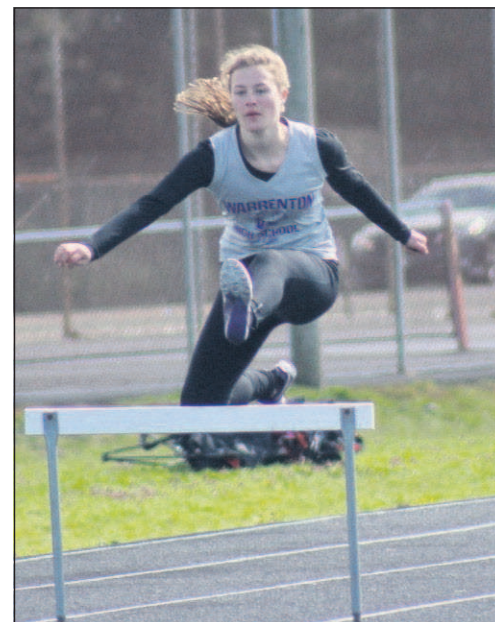
Bjaranson is joined by Zach Gantenbein and Jacoby Marshall as the other assistants, all former Warriors.

"I'm really excited about the coaching staff," Wolfe said. "Three of the most storied baseball players in Warrenton baseball."

The batting cage, or "Walt's Lumberyard," is a donation of Walt Ferguson and Ferguson Lumber.

"It's for baseball and softball, and the 13-14's are using it right now," Wolfe said. "It's going to be a great thing for our spring sports."

Prediction: Warrenton's home doubleheader vs. Clatskanie May 11 could have second place in league at stake, possibly more.



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Kaisa Liljenwall is a returning district champion in the 300-meter hurdles for the Warriors.

Warrenton High strong in numbers

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

When it comes to track and field, the more athletes the better. It translates into big points in big meets.

That's what the Warrenton Warriors are hoping for, as they prepare to run, jump and throw for a new coach. Morgan Slonaker takes over for Hayley Espelund Rogers.

The Warriors have already won half the battle with a big turnout. Warrenton's pre-season roster is loaded with athletes — 29 on the girls' side, 21 boys.

Warrenton placed fifth out of eight teams in the district meet standings last year, both boys and girls.

As always, the Warriors will be looking to score big in the throwing events.

Warrenton has three returning favorites, as junior thrower Fernanda Alvarez won the district shot put as a sophomore last year. Sophomore Mark Warren was the district champ in the javelin as a freshman.

On the track, sophomore Kaisa Liljenwall won the district 300-meter hurdles, in addition to placing fifth in the long jump. She was sixth in the 400-meter final.

Elsewhere, sophomore Faith Peterson was third in the shot put at districts, while three-fourths of Warrenton's 1,600-meter relay (Adriana DeJesus, Cailin Bennett, Liljenwall) returns.

The Warrenton boys lost the bulk of their points, as Tyler Whitaker (district champion in the high jump and long jump, second in the triple jump and third in the pole vault) and Luke Liljenwall (second in the 800 meters) have graduated.

Thirteen of the 21 boys on the current roster are in the freshmen or sophomore class.

THE WARRIORS

Girls	
Fernanda Alvarez, Jr.	Anna Schenbeck, So.
Ashlynn Andres, So.	Pamela Talancon, Jr.
Marlie Annat, Fr.	Vanessa Talancon, Jr.
Cailin Bennett, Jr.	Trinity Womack, Sr.
Alma Bolanos, Sr.	Boys
Jessica Buoy, So.	Hobie Beeman, So.
Katelyn Carelock, Jr.	Forrest Bigelow, Jr.
Kora Carelock, Fr.	Forrest Cooley, Fr.
Hailey Crislip, Fr.	Kaden Gilbert, Jr.
Adriana DeJesus, Jr.	Jalen Green, Jr.
Marialli Hernandez-Rojas, So.	Brady Haylett, Jr.
Analysa Johnson, So.	Sam Irwin, Fr.
Sarah Karr, Fr.	Elijah Karr, Jr.
Zosia Koronkiewicz, So.	Jeff Lafferty, Sr.
Kaisa Liljenwall, So.	Jalen Maddox, Fr.
Alexis Maddox, Jr.	Giovanni Martinez, Jr.
Jordan Marsch, Fr.	Patrick McCargish, Jr.
Ivy McCargish, Sr.	Noah Miller, So.
Serena Moha, So.	Juancarlos Oxford-Cruz, Fr.
Natalie Oseguera, So.	Triston Scott, Fr.
Faith Peterson, So.	Ryder Sharpe, So.
Aviana Pierce, Fr.	Ayden Stephens, Jr.
Libby Rehnert, Jr.	Lucas Thompson, Fr.
Sahanna Rodriguez, Jr.	Mark Warren, So.
Leticia Sanchez, Jr.	Caiden Weinmann, Fr.
	Julien Whitsett, Fr.

Warrenton set to challenge the Mighty Columbians

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The question heading into the 2018 softball season: Which team in the Lewis & Clark League can challenge Rainier?

The two-time defending 3A champions finished six games ahead of their nearest competitors in league play last year, which happened to be Clatskanie, Portland Adventist and Warrenton — as all three tied with 6-6 league records. Portland Christian was last at 0-12.

The Warrenton Lady Warriors are hoping to be in the mix of those challenging the Mighty Columbians.

Warrenton lost Landree Miethé — their league Player of the Year and all-time leader in everything — to graduation, but the Warriors enter the 2018 season on solid ground, with high hopes.

LEWIS & CLARK LEAGUE

Rainier went 12-0 in league play last season, 23-2 overall, and won the state championship with a 3-2 victory over Dayton.

The Columbians will be tough again, even without Pitcher of the Year Haley Schim-



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Niqui Blodgett — a student at Jewell High School and softball player for Warrenton — will be one of the top pitchers in the Lewis & Clark League.

mel. Rainier returns five all-league players, as the Columbians reload with another strong group.

"You always have to put Rainier at the top, just from what it's been historically," said Warrenton coach Staci Miethé. "They lost quite a

WARRENTON SOFTBALL

Coach: Staci Miethé, 17th year
2017: 16-8 (6-6 league)
Playoffs: Lost league playoff at Clatskanie (4-9)
All-league loss: Landree Miethé
All-league returners: Niqui Blodgett, Sr., Claire Bussert, Jr., Natalie Duncan, So., Kenzie Ramsey, So.

bit, but Rainier always has a strong program, and they may be ready to bring up some other players.

"Clatskanie might have their number," she said. "(Tiger freshman) Shelby Blodgett is just as good at softball as she was in basketball. It all depends. I don't know if Rainier will be quite as dominant with the pitching."

As for her team, Miethé said, "we have to win the games with Portland Adventist, which always seems to be a thorn in our side. We have to play better in those games."

THE WARRIORS

First the bad news. Warrenton lost returning juniors Joe Armstrong and Hanna Bentley to knee injuries, and both will miss the season.

Shortstop Claire Bussert suffered a sprained ankle in the basketball team's season-ending loss,

but will be back in time for league play.

On the graduation front, the Warriors lost their record-setting catcher, Landree Miethé. She will be tough to replace, but the Warriors also have seven players back, including four all-leaguers.

"With seven returners, that makes it kind of tough for anybody to break into the lineup," coach Miethé said. "Niqui (Blodgett) is back as our as pitcher, and she worked hard in the offseason."

Blodgett has already signed a letter-of-intent to play at George Fox University.

"We've been working with Lilly Thomas (Jr.) at catcher," Miethé said. "Then we have the three freshmen back who started last season — Kenzie Ramsey, Natalie Duncan and Melia Kapua."

Elsewhere, Warrenton has senior Rachel Dyer at first base and junior Dani Bue at second. The Warriors could have either Paisley Baker or Brianna Quashnick, both sophomores, starting at third.

Junior utility player Madison Kadera also returns, along with junior designated hitter Ruby Dyer. Junior Noel O'Bryan is a catcher/outfielder who makes the step up to varsity. The Warriors will also carry two freshman pitchers, Shelby Chester and Mia McFadden.

J & S APPLIANCE AND HOME FURNISHINGS

GIVE 'EM YOUR BEST TEAMS!

529 SE MARLIN, WARRENTON 503-861-0929

Hours Open: Mon-Fri 8-6 • Saturday 9-5 • Sunday 10-4

We Service What We Sell

BOGH ELECTRIC

GO GO

Tony Bogh Owner

503.325.5000

CCB#188326

WARRENTON!

Life happens...That's why we're here!

URGENTCARE NW - ASTORIA
a smartER alternative

Come Visit Us For Your Sports Physicals **only \$40**

Keith Klatt, MD Mark Tabor, PA-C
Sally Baker, PA-C Kenyon Solecki, PA-C

2120 Exchange Street, Suite 111
Astoria, Oregon

503-325-0333

Open 7 Days A Week! Walk-ins Welcome

Accepting most insurance, OHP and Medicare • 20% Cash Discount