

WARRENTON WARRIORS

BASKETBALL • WRESTLING

Huge numbers for Warrenton wrestling

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The Warrenton wrestling team made its statement on the mats last season — now the Warriors are ready to take some big steps.

Big numbers usually equal big success in the big meets when it comes to wrestling, and with their current turnout, the Warriors are ready to stack their team up against any and all comers at the 3A level.

“We are super excited to have nearly 50 wrestlers come out. Almost 30 boys and 20 girls,” said Warrenton coach Corey Conant, whose team placed fourth out of nine teams in District 1 last year. “This is the biggest squad we have had in recent memory. This group takes care of busi-

THE WARRIORS

(Preseason roster)

Marlie Annat, So.
Austin Atwood, Fr.
Thomas Atwood, Jr.
Tyler Barefoot, So.
Janessa Bork, So.
Robert Burk, Sr.
Ethan Caldwell, Fr.
Shyler Cardinaletti, Sr.
Isabella Carr, Jr.

Nathan Cowan, Fr.
Cinderella Cox, Jr.
Kitchell Cox, Sr.
Ruby Dyer, Sr.
Jade Freniere, Jr.
Ella Gibbs, So.
Divine Godwin, So.
Parker Greenawald, Fr.
Sam Irwin, So.
Madison Kadera, Sr.
Alejandra Lopez, Fr.
Giovanni Martinez, Sr.
Jordan Martinez, So.

Patrick McCargish, Sr.
Evan Mossman, Jr.
Josh Niehuser, Fr.
Noel O’Bryan, Sr.
Nicolas Pior, So.
Tim Pior, Fr.
Brianna Quaschnick, Jr.
Elizabeth Rehnert, Sr.
Armin Rodriguez, Jr.
Sahanna Rodriguez, Sr.
Anna Schenbeck, Sr.
Triston Scott, So.
Ryder Sharpe, Jr.

Trevor Snider-Clark, So.
Caleb Sperengler, So.
Nathan Streibeck-Peterson, So.
Alex Tapia, Fr.
Leonard Thompson, Jr.
Dominique Verley, Jr.
Michael Verley, Sr.
Kalib Vincent, Fr.
Isaiah Vollmer, So.
Kade Weinmann, So.
Julien Whitsett, So.
Kassandra Young, Sr.

part in the girls wrestling state championships at last year, and placed 10th out of 91 teams (all classes competed at the same level).

Jade Freniere was Warrenton’s first female placer at state, taking fourth at 220 pounds. Freniere is back for her junior season.

The Lady Warriors “have accumulated a good deal of experience across our roster,” Conant said. “Returning point scorers from last year’s state qualifier are Sahanna Rodriguez (Sr., 100-pound weight class last season), Madison Kadera (Sr., 110), Anna Schenbeck (Sr., 125), Isabella Carr (Jr., 135), Brianna Quaschnick (Jr., 152), Noel O’Bryan (Sr., 160), Dom Verley (Jr., 180) and Libby Renhert (Sr., 180).”

WARRENTON AMONG BEST TEAMS IN STATE

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The Warrenton girls basketball team could not have been hotter last year as they finished out the regular season.

A 65-55 win over De La Salle gave the Lady Warriors a 12-4 league record, and had Warrenton entering the postseason with 19 overall victories.

But that’s where the winning stopped, as Clatskanie and De La Salle both scored league playoff wins over Warrenton, and the Warriors lost a first-round state playoff game at Coquille, 69-48.

The three losses left a bad taste for the Warriors, who can’t wait to set things right.

“Last year I felt like we didn’t have enough challenging games early, and that ended up biting us later,” said Robert Hoepfl, last year’s Lewis & Clark League Coach of the Year. “Like the Coquille game. I felt like we could have played better against them.

“We want to beat those teams come February and March, so we have to play them now, even if we take our lumps early. We can identify what our weaknesses are and what we need to improve on.”

That’s why the Warriors have scheduled a tougher non-league schedule.

“We have a really solid team,” Hoepfl said. “We have a lot of returners, and we’re further along right now than we’ve ever been at this point.”

COASTAL RANGE LEAGUE

Clatskanie, Rainier and Warrenton will be joined by Taft and Willamina to form the new Coastal Range League, a five-team league that will feature a three-game series with each team.

The absence of the private schools won’t be too big of a loss, since Catlin Gabel, Oregon Episcopal and Portland Adventist all finished well below .500 in league play.

Riverdale is also gone, and Portland Christian has moved to the 2A level.

Meanwhile, Taft and Willamina may not be much of a threat to Clatskanie, Rainier and Warrenton. Taft was 3-19 and Willamina finished 11-13 in last year’s West



Justin Grafton/For The Daily Astorian
The new season poster for the Warrenton girls basketball program, with ‘Pay the Cost’ the team’s theme.

WARRENTON GIRLS

Coach: Robert Hoepfl, 4th year
2017-18: 19-8 (12-4 league)

Playoffs: Lost league playoffs to Clatskanie and De La Salle. Lost state playoff at Coquille (48-69).

All-league loss: Tyla Little

All-league returners: Fernanda Alvarez, Sr., Claire Bussert, Sr.

Valley League.

Rainier has lost league Player of the Year Desirae Hansen and her all-league teammate, Aspen Norman, while Clatskanie’s two first-team all-leaguers (Shelby Blodgett and Olivia Sprague) return for their sophomore seasons.

The league title could come down to three meetings between Clatskanie and Warrenton, the last on Feb. 1.

“I think Clatskanie is the best team in the state,” Hoepfl said. “They have a good freshman class coming in, and I think they have the best player in the state (Sprague). They’re definitely the best team, but we’re right below them.

“I think we can beat them,” he said, “and that’s our goal, to compete for a league championship.”

He added, “Rainer has a great coach and system. They graduated a special player, so they will be different.”

THE WARRIORS

Warrenton lost just one senior (Tyla Little), “who was obviously a big part of our program,” Hoepfl said. “She ended up as our fourth all-time leading scorer. But we have four starters back, and we’re confident we can go eight deep, with 10 kids who can contribute.”

The list includes six seniors, “five who have played significantly,” said the coach. “Claire Bussert (Sr.) is prob-

ably the best point guard I’ve had. She’s started every year, she already has the school single-season record for assists and steals, and will finish first all-time in both, with a good chance to finish top 10 in scoring.”

Bussert was league Player of the Year in volleyball.

Elsewhere, “Fernanda Alvarez (senior post) had a really good year, so between those two, we have some elite players that I think have a shot to get us over the hump.”

Other starters will include Kenzie Ramsey (Jr.), “who will step in and start for Tyla,” Hoepfl said. “She broke our school record last year in threes, with eight in one game. She can really shoot, and she’s put in a ton of work in the off-season to make herself a more-rounded player.

“(Seniors) Maria Heyen and Sagi Diego both started last year. They’re both good defenders. Sagi does all the little things and has great instincts, and Maria can shoot good mid-range shots.

“Adriana Dejesus (Sr.) is probably the best on-ball defender I’ve coached. Melia Kapua (Jr.) is a good three-sport athlete, and will play wing and be our backup point guard. She’s really athletic and can shoot the ball.”

Avyree Miethe (Fr.) “is athletic and will play some role for the varsity,” he added. Others include post Annie Heyen (So.), Hallie Mossman (Sr.) and Sydney Marchello (Jr.), who was at Warrenton, played at Knappa last year, and has returned to Warrenton.

“This is the best group we’ve had at the top,” Hoepfl said. “If we can stay healthy, we can be pretty good.”

Prediction: Lady Warriors will make their first trip to the 3A state tournament in Coos Bay.

of fourth-place Warrenton.

Individually, the Warriors have a good mix of youth and experience.

Conant said, “Our boys will look for leadership from Armin Rodriguez (Jr., fourth at districts last year at 120 pounds), Nic Pior (So., 138), Giovanni Martinez (Sr., 145), Thomas Atwood (Jr.,

152) Sam Irwin (So., 195) and Patrick McCargish (Sr., heavyweight).”

He adds, “We will host the District 1 tournament this year, and we are excited to put on a good show for our fans. Our goal as a team is to crack the top three in the team scores.”

The Warrenton girls took

New league equals new start for Warrenton hoops

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

It didn’t take long for Warrenton boys sports to go from “poor Warrenton” to “look out for the Warriors.”

A league title in baseball last spring, a 2A state play-off game in football this fall, and if all goes well for the Warriors, a new league will help Warrenton boys basketball return to the postseason this winter.

“We’re getting better in all sports across the board,” said Warrenton basketball coach Nate McBride, a former three-sport star with the Warriors. “Baseball won a league championship, football was really competitive making the state playoffs, and I can see that in coaching the kids. Our numbers are up in all programs.”

THE COASTAL RANGE LEAGUE

For better or worse, the rivalry with the private schools is no longer there for the Warriors.

The “better” part is obvious: No more lopsided losses. The last two years have included losses to De La Salle, Catlin Gabel and Portland Adventist by scores such as 82-31, 80-39, 79-34 and 84-33.

And the addition of Taft and Willamina has leveled the playing field in the new league.

“We welcome it, for sure,” McBride said. “In football (the drop to a 2A league) was huge, just being able to play the right kind of teams. If you can imagine us trying to play Rainier.”

In basketball, “Just not having to play the De La Salles and PAAs, those top-tier teams every night. In the past, our kids could play good, but lose by 20 in every one of them.”

And in a fairly even league, eight wins could win league.

“I look at our schedule, and there’s games that we could lose, but I don’t look at any of them and say ‘we can’t win that game,’” McBride said.

“Rainier will be an interesting team. They lost two extremely talented kids,



The Daily Astorian
Austin Little, right, and the Warrenton boys are hoping for a return to the postseason.

WARRENTON BOYS

Coach: Nate McBride, 6th year
2017-18: 1-23 (0-16 league)

but they’re really physical and they play hard. (Joey) Tripp’s a great point guard, and (Easton) Crape has started since he was a freshman.

“Clatskanie has some injuries and a kid or two that’s moved away. They will still be pretty good. They’re not real big, but they’re athletic.

“The league will be pretty even and balanced.”

New league opponents Taft and Willamina finished 3-11 and 7-7, respectively, last year in the West Valley League.

There’s also not a single player in the new Coastal Range League who was a first-team all-league player last year. Last season’s Lewis & Clark all-league squad had one player each from De La Salle, Catlin Gabel, Portland Adventist and Oregon Episcopal, and one senior each from Clatskanie and Rainier.

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