

Vikings from 1B

available lanes for the Eagles to land any passes.

It wasn't until 2 minutes into the second quarter that Santiam Christian scored its first touchdown to pull within 8 points after failing the PAT.

However, less than a minute later, the Vikings answered with a 62-yard touchdown run from Blankenship — with Lacouture kicking the 1-point conversion and a 21-6 Viking lead. Near the end of the half,

the Eagles grabbed a 13-yard reception for a touchdown. After scoring the extra point, Santiam Christian pulled back within 8 points, 21-13 to end the half.

But after playing a relentless first half, the Vikings began losing momentum in the second half.

In the third quarter, the Eagles scored once again to come within 2 points, 19-21.

Holding that narrow lead, the Viks received the ensuing kick, with Braydon Thornton returning the ball 90 yards into the end zone. However, officials called a

penalty, denying the touchdown and forcing Siuslaw further back.

Both Blankenship and Loomis had minor injuries in the third quarter, which also seemed to take some of the wind out of the Vikings' sails.

Santiam Christian eventually took its first lead of the game, 25-21, with 4:15 left in the third quarter. After a conversion, the Eagles lead by 6.

The Vikings struggled to get the ball out of their end of the field for most of the quarter. Then, with 47 sec-

onds left in the quarter, the Eagles scooped up an interception for a touchdown and moved ahead 33-21 to end the quarter.

Santiam Christian went on to score twice in the final period, ending the game with a 47-21 win over the Vikings.

The Vikings play again this Friday (March 19), on the road at Harrisburg.

Kick-off is at set for 7 p.m., with KCST's live broadcast beginning at 6:45 p.m. on 106.9 FM.

Siuslaw from 1B

followed in fourth place by Ryan Jennings in 17:47.5, and Jaxson Jensen coming in at 17:48.2 for fifth place.

While sixth place went to Marshfield, the next three to finish were all Vikings. Jacob Blankenship placed seventh (18:33.1), Brayden Linton in eighth place (18:46.8), and Dylan Jensen finished in ninth place (18:54.3).

Johnson remarked upon how his teams have done a phenomenal job adjusting to new norms while still maintaining their dedication and competitive drive.

"It's kind of bizarre," said the coach, "because normally, this is an invitation-driven situation where we're competing against 20 teams, every weekend, and we're being pushed [as a team]. Kids are being pushed individually, no matter where they are on the spectrum of competitive to emerging."

According to Johnson, it's a whole different world going to a meet and having one team to compete against rather than multiple teams — and multiple competitive threats.

"It's a totally different mindset. But I have to give our kids credit, they've really accepted that this is kind of the new normal, and they've put a lot of pride in the fact that we haven't been beaten yet," Johnson said. "I think that's because of how things are. We have to create our own sense of urgency, and the kids have certainly done that. I've been coaching for a long time, and I don't think I've ever been through a situation with a group of kids like this."

Johnson added that, at the beginning of the season, the team wasn't exactly sure what it was training for. A meet or two? A whole season? Dual meets only?

"We didn't know if there was going to be a season,"

Johnson said. "And from the first day we could get together again in November until today, I've had 14 kids who've bought in to our plan, and they've earned every accolade that I can [give] them."

Just days later, it was time for Bandon.

The boys team had a really close meet with Bandon earlier in the year, and the Bandon's girls would have beaten Siuslaw at the Siltcoos Outlet meet just a few weeks ago had they had their whole team.

"We knew that that was going to be more competitive," Johnson said.

Aside from the fact that the first meet with Bandon was very close, Johnson noted that they had plenty of motivation to compete at full speed with the Tigers.

"We have a little rivalry with Bandon. My step-kids go there, my wife used to coach there, and the coach at Bandon is a really good friend. So, we were excited about that opportunity," said Johnson. "I was walking around so happy to be at a meet in the sunshine and seeing how happy these kids are to get out there and put the pedal to the metal."

Pacing their efforts and saving a bit of energy for Friday's meet proved to be a perfect plan for the Vikings with the girls team defeating Bandon 23-32.

Colton and Brea Blankenship finished first and second, respectively, with times of 19:39.59 and 19:56.47. Aside from the two runners who finished first, Siuslaw had all five runners come in with top 10 scores. Freudenthal finished seventh (22:03.59), Lacouture was ninth (22:19.31) and Holbrook finished 10th overall (22:23.81).

Johnson described watching his girls team's progress with great pride, saying, "Riley and Brea are so fun to watch. They're so different. Brea's not very tall, and

Riley's super tall," he said. "Brea's like a tiger and Riley's like a kitten. They work so well together and they have so much energy. Gracie, Brea and Riley have been through so much with our teams, and we've been super successful."

In addition, Johnson has a great deal of respect for the two freshman on the girls team, with-out whom the Lady Viks could not qualify to compete with official scores.

"Jane and Corduroy [have been] thrust into this situation where they're freshmen. "We have five girls on the team; if we have four girls, the team is incomplete. So, they knew from the very first meet of their freshman year that they matter all the time. That's a lot of pressure to come into."

The boys team was just as hungry for the win and finished victorious as well, defeating Bandon 16-43. The boys had six of their nine runners come in with top 10 spots. Securing first, second and third, respectively, were Chad Hughes (16:40.12), Ulrich (16:52.18) and Kyle Hughes (17:09.03).

Coming in fourth with a time of 17:09.59 was Jennings, followed by Jaxson Jensen in sixth at 17:55.50,

and finally Jacob Blankenship with a time of 18:19.50.

Johnson said he was especially pleased to see Jennings' performance at the Bandon meet. "Ryan, who's a stud athlete, came out yesterday and had a different mindset. He came out and said, 'I'm going to throw down today.'"


Johnson also voiced his respect for three of his boys team members who pull double duty for the season.

"Jaxson and Dylan Jensen and Brayden Linton also play soccer," Johnson explained. "I have a lot of respect for somebody who's under that much pressure."

Johnson said that, as a whole, each member of both teams has committed themselves to the program beyond just showing up for practice and race days.

"November's when we could get together in person [for the first time]," he said. "But they were running on their own before that. There's no rest for distance runners, it's a year-long, life-long daily grind."

The Viks return to the course Saturday at Marist for the Sky-Em League preview. Women race at 11 a.m., followed by the men's race at noon.




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HAVE FUN! BEACH SAFE

BEWARE THE SNEAKER WAVE
They're called sneaker waves because they appear without warning, often surging high up on the beach with deadly force, and are impossible to predict. Sneaker waves also carry a large amount of sand that can saturate your clothes, weighing you down and making escape difficult if not impossible.
How to play it safe: Never turn your back on the ocean.

WATCH THOSE LOGS
The ocean is strong enough to pick up even the biggest log and plop it down on top of you. Some logs may look small, but even the tiny ones can be waterlogged and weigh tons.
How to play it safe: If you see a log in the surf or on wet sand, stay off it.

RIP CURRENTS
Rip currents are strong currents of water that rush out to sea. They are stronger than even the best swimmer. These currents can swiftly sweep unwary beachcombers and waders off their feet and out to sea. Rip currents may appear as dark, choppy water. Any time you see debris and foam floating out to sea, chances are you have found a rip current. Avoid the area.
How to play it safe: Parents keep your kids close when playing in the ocean. If caught in a rip current, **don't panic**. Swim parallel to the beach until you are out of the current, then head for the beach.



KNOW THE TIDES
Incoming tides isolate rocks from headlands and the shore. Avoid the temptation of strolling out to an interesting rock without knowing when the tide rolls back in. Free tide tables are readily available at state park offices, information centers and many shops and motels.
How to play it safe: Stay off rocks and small, enclosed beaches. Know when the tide is coming in by [visiting the tidetable website at the Hatfield Marine Science Center](http://weather.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html) <http://weather.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html>

HIGH WAVES CAN REACH YOU
Tides and waves can sweep over rocks, jetties and headlands, knocking you off and carrying you out to sea.
How to play it safe: Assume nothing is "high enough" and avoid exposed rocks, jetties and headlands during strong wave action (like during and after storms).


BEWARE OF HIGH, STEEP CLIFFS
Assume that all cliff edges are unstable. Wet trails or soft sand and earth can make for unstable footing. Rocks can be slippery even when it isn't raining.
How to play it safe: Make sure you wear proper footwear, and stick to the trails. Stay behind guard fences and railings, and don't get too close to the edge.

HEADS UP
Standing at the base of an Oceanside cliff can be dangerous, especially if it has an overhang. In some places, winter storms and high waves have eroded the shoreline, increasing the chance of collapse and slides.
How to play it safe: Beware of falling rocks, and don't climb on bluffs and eroding hillsides. Don't walk along the base of cliffs unless absolutely necessary.

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