

Sailors from 1B

minute of the quarter, and that gave them the momentum from there.”

The Warriors led 11-5 going into the second quarter, where Siletz extended its lead even more.

“I don’t think we handled the pressure very well, which led us to struggle initiating the offense, and our transition defense was pretty poor,” Wolgamott said.

By the end of the first half, Siletz was up 27-14.

The Warriors continued to hold their ground in the third quarter, keeping the 13-point spread and finishing the third up 36-23. However, the Sailors still weren’t so far behind they couldn’t come back.

“One thing I know about this team is they don’t quit no matter what,” said Wolgamott. “They proved that

again Tuesday. I still liked our chances going into fourth quarter; if we could just get a few stops, and then a few baskets, I felt like the momentum would have shifted a bit.”

Wolgamott switched up his team’s defense from a 2-3 to a 3-2, putting more pressure on the Warriors’ guards, and utilizing the strength and speed of JJ Neece up top. Unfortunately, as momentum picked up and the team got more aggressive, with just over 4 minutes left, Neece fouled out — the fifth coming from a charge that resulted from skillfully stealing the ball and taking it up the court on a fast break.

Said Wolgamott, “JJ was aggressive going to the hole, and I’m never going to be mad about that.”

The Sailors were at a major disadvantage forced to play the remainder of the game with only four men on

the court against Siletz’s five. “At that point, we just had to try our best to compete,” admitted Wolgamott, “and I felt like they did. We just couldn’t get any closer, and they were able to extend the lead.”

Despite the loss, Wolgamott is optimistic about the remainder of the season.

“I felt like we saw what we need to work on to compete in this league,” he said. “I still like our chances to be a top team in the league, but we’ve definitely got a way to go. But the boys are resilient and they’re up for the challenge.”

In two weeks, Mapleton will have two additional players on the team. But for now, as Wolgamott explained, “We’ve just got to keep our head above water.”

Neece led the team in scoring with 13 points, with Jeremy Bender and AJ Moso each picking up 8, and

Keevyn Walker picking up his first 3-pointer as a high school athlete.

“I was really pleased with him, the way he competed his very first game in high school,” said Wolgamott. “He definitely has this poise and calmness about him when he’s on the court, and you don’t see that with a lot of freshmen, especially starting their very first varsity game.”

In all, Wolgamott is looking ahead and staying focused on the prize.

“We have the talent to compete. We don’t have a lot of depth, but the five we have on that court — I feel very confident matching up against any other team’s starting five.”

The Sailors played Thursday night at Eddyville (after press printing deadlines.)

Their next game is away, at Triangle Lake, this Monday (May 24) starting at 5:30 p.m.

Siuslaw from 1B

last year.

Siuslaw qualified eight wrestlers for state, including two girls — one of whom, current Siuslaw junior Hayden Muller, came home with a fourth-place medal.

On the boys side, of the six who advanced to state, then-senior Matthew Horrillo placed third, and current senior Elijah LaCosse also placed third.

“So, we have a returning medalist on both the girls side and the boys side this year. It’s a lot of great leadership,” Wartnik said.

In addition to Muller and LaCosse, Wartnik has several other athletes returning who performed well last year and are showing great promise this year.

“We had a conference champion last year, Christian Newlan (senior), at 185 pounds,” he explained. “Ryan Jennings (senior) placed

third at conference last year, he was one win away from medaling last year, and he’s looking great. We have Mason Buss (sophomore), he placed second at conference last year, and again, another really strong competitor.

Another team member includes highly touted Yoskar DeLaMora (sophomore), who placed sixth last year in the region.

Aside from these front-line wrestlers, Wartnik has a team full of athletes who come ready to cause a ruckus this season.

“Hunter Petterson (sophomore) placed fourth in conference last year, and he’s a strong performer,” said Wartnik. “We have Cayden Gray (sophomore) in the lightweights with Yoskar, and he’s looks like he’s going to have a strong year. John Corser (junior) and Michael Schick (senior) are in the middle weights, they’re doing a great job, they’re training hard and growing.

“JC Gentry (junior) is going to join Christian Newlan in the upper weights, he’s doing a great job, and so is Cort Waggoner (freshman).”

The Viks also have several freshmen this year who could factor in substantially. Among them, Dayne Muller and Brayden Linton.

Wartnik said he also has a strong team building on the girls’ side as well.

“Rosa Velasco-Mendez (freshman), I think is going to be a real treat,” he said. “We just have a really balanced, fun team. Lucian Murphy is a sophomore, another hard worker, and Arianna Brown (junior) is one of our hardest workers. She has been training all year, and she should be a great compliment to Hayden on the girls’ side.”

At this point, Wartnik has three girls and 14 to 15 boys.

This year will be slightly different as far as the scheduling of competitions, in that there will not be tournamen-

ts as there would be in a normal season.

“It just seems smarter, because you keep the numbers down, less likelihood of anyone contracting COVID,” he said. “So, that’s kind of the vision, and at the end of the year, we’ll have a couple of tournaments, hopefully qualify some people for state, go to state and just make the most of every moment.”

For Wartnik, the biggest joy is the opportunity to work with his seniors for their final year at Siuslaw.

“For me, this year is just a gift from God to be able to enjoy these people one more time,” he said. “I’m glad that COVID didn’t shut us down.”

The Viks’ first meet was last night at Sutherlin (after press deadlines) and again today at the Marshfield Invitational at 2 p.m.

Siuslaw’s first home meet is this Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Viks from 1B

how we want to play this year in our shortened season.”

One thing the Vikings have going for them this year is size and depth. “Luckily, we’ve got a very deep team,” said Perry, “and, like I said, most of those guys are coming back from the team last year. They are similar concepts as we ran before, so they’re not going to have to be playing catch up too much.”

Siuslaw has a full — albeit shortened — schedule this season with 14 games scheduled, which is 10 fewer games than normal.

“But it’s 14 more than I thought we were going to have, so we’re super thankful for that. And I’m just really happy for the seniors we have on our team that are going to get an opportunity to play basketball,” said Perry.

Perry has a very mature team this year, and they are poised to do quite well.

“As far as returning guys, we’ve got Braydon (Thornton) coming back, who was a first team all-league player in basketball as a sophomore,” noted Perry. “We’ve got Brody Terry, Jacob Foskett and Liam McClellan, who were all honorable mention.”

Perry added that there are other players on the team just as valuable that maybe weren’t recognized by the other coaches in the league last season as an all-league player.

“There are a lot of juniors that played a lot of JV time last year that I expect to put in big varsity minutes for us this year,” Perry said.

This last week’s games are all non-league preseason games, with next week kicking off league play. Siuslaw’s first game was on Tuesday

night (May 18), where they hosted Pleasant Hill at home.

According to Perry, “Pleasant Hill was a very talented team that is going to cause some difficulties for every team they play this year. Our press put them on their heels, and we were able to play our style of up-tempo [ball] to establish a strong half-time lead.”

The Viks were up 37-26 at the half.

“In the second half,” explained Perry, “we started making mental mistakes that allowed Pleasant Hill to get back into the game. We were making silly fouls that would result in them getting to the free throw line and scoring points without making them work for.”

By the end of the third quarter, the Billies had cut the lead, but the Vikings were still up 50-43. Then, at the end of the game, what should have only been a 2-point shot for the Billies was called as a 3-pointer, allowing Pleasant Hill to tie the game and send it into overtime.

“The end of regulation was a wild one, and probably one of the weirdest basketball situations I’ve been in,” noted Perry. “The call being reversed, and then reversed again to send us to overtime. The referee knew he made a mistake, but they had to live with the call that was made — so, we played an extra 4 minutes.”

Fortunately, Siuslaw did not relent, and took the victory at the game’s end, winning by 1 point, 72-71.

“This is a game that we may have lost last year with a younger team,” explained Perry, “but all of our players have been in these crunch time situations, so we were able to deal with the pres-

sure.”

Thornton was player of the game, scoring over a third of the team’s points with 23, in addition to 5 rebounds, 3 assists and a whopping 12 steals. Terry put up major points for the Viks as well, scoring 19.

The following day (May 19), the Vikings returned to their home court to face North Bend’s Bulldogs.

Siuslaw came out of the gates strong on defense, Thornton picking up 2 steals less than a minute into the game. Terry was the first to score for the Viks, followed shortly thereafter by Thornton, and the team continued to dominate for the remainder of the quarter, finishing 14-6.

The Vikings kept the pressure on for the remainder of the half. Junior Avery Hart nabbed 3 rebounds and 7 points in the second quarter, dominating the boards with Foskett, who also picked up 2 rebounds in the quarter.

One of the more skillfully

memorable plays of the game occurred with just over 2 minutes left in the half, when Mattson stole the ball, setting up a successful alley-oop assist to Thornton, who — 10 seconds later — stole the ball and passed it off to junior Harrison Hubner for a layup, scoring the Vikings 4 points on fast breaks in a matter of seconds.

The boys continued maintain control throughout the fourth quarter and were able to finish the game defeating the Bulldogs soundly, 64-34.

Thornton came away with 16 points, Terry with 11, and other members of the team contributed a great deal as well. Izacc and Skyler Mattson each picked up 5 points, as did senior Tyrone Krohn, Avery Hart scored 9, and junior Aiden Jefferis scored 7 for the Viks. McClellan picked up 3, while senior Clay Kramer and Hubner each picked up 2 points.

The Vikings’ next game is Tuesday, on the road at Marist, beginning at 5:45 p.m.

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