

SHS from 1B

“We battled as best we could,” explained Perry, “keeping it close towards the end of the second quarter, but their relentless pressure eventually got the best of our team.”

Thornton picked up another 9 points in the third quarter, in addition to 2 steals and 2 rebounds. Hart also had a rebound and 4 points from the low post, Terry picked up 2 points and a rebound, and Izacc Mattson had 2 rebounds and 2 points. By this point, the Spartans had stretched the

lead to 17 points, picking up 2 points and the buzzer and bringing the score to 42-59.

The Viks kept fighting throughout the fourth quarter, with Thornton picking up several more steals, and Hart going hard, crashing the boards for rebounds, but Marist was able to pull out the win in the end 48-79.

“I’m proud of the guys that continued to fight to the very end,” said Perry. “That shows character, and as a coach that’s what I’m really trying to instill in my players.”

“Some games just aren’t going to be in our favor on the scoreboard. That’s just

the reality of sports. But if we can look each other in the eye and know we each gave it everything we had, then we can hold our heads high. I look forward to getting to play Marist again in a short time.”

The Viks played Marshfield at home on Thursday (after press deadlines.)

Their next game is this afternoon at Elmira, starting at 1:30 p.m.

Lady Viks

The girls’ team then followed on the court, and the Lady Spartans gave the Lady Viks quite a fight as well,

defeating Siuslaw 52-14.

Said coach Ashlee Cole, “We had one practice with everyone back on the court, and our first game. They are still figuring out how to gel as a group. I am looking at this game as our baseline, and I expect us to only improve.”

For this first league game, the Lady Viks were finally able to vet their complete lineup, with Brea Blankenship, Gracie Freudenthal and Jane Lacouture joining the team after the track season’s close last weekend.

Freudenthal scored Siuslaw’s first 2 points at the

low post just before the end of the first quarter, but Marist had already put a great deal of points on the scoreboard, ending the quarter ahead 18-2.

Lacouture picked up a foul shot and a layup for the Lady Viks, and Blankenship was able to score 4 points off of jump shots in the key. Combined with another layup from Freudenthal, who also had 3 rebounds in the quarter, Marist led 31-11 at the half.

The Lady Spartans pushed ahead in the third quarter, holding Siuslaw to 1 point in the quarter, scored by Lizbeth Garcia-Galvan at

the foul line.

The Lady Viks picked up 2 more points in the fourth from Haylee Cole, but Marist pulled further ahead, and finished the game winning 52-14.

“We know what we need to work on,” explained Cole, “and we will keep working on those things and get better with every game and practice.”

The Lady Viks also played at home on Thursday (after press deadlines) against Marshfield.

Their next game is away at Elmira this afternoon, starting at 3 p.m.

Siuslaw from 1B

our victory was assured.”

Next up, Siuslaw competed against Siletz Valley/Eddyville Charter. Said Wartnik, “That’s a group of tough kids, and we had great matches. They won a couple of good matches, we won a couple of good matches, and on the strength of our numbers, we won that dual 36-12.”

LaCosse had another solid match, pinning Siletz/Eddyville’s Michael Sweat in 4:00, as did Jennings, who defeated his opponent Tanner Clark by injury in 1:50.



Elijah LaCosse takes the upper hand in his well-fought match.

The Viks’ big matchup of the night was Cascade. According to Wartnik, “Cascade has tended to be the second powerhouse in this region behind Sweet Home, and they’re down; they lost a couple of great kids last year. A lot of it is because of COVID; if it hadn’t happened, I think that their team might be stronger than it is.”

comer to the team this year, is already having a great deal of success on the team, and the Pettersons make up one of two pairs of siblings on Wartnik’s team this year. The coach also has Hayden and Dayne Muller on the team, and enjoys the opportunity to work with both pairs of siblings.

“It’s really special, I love having those families involved,” said Wartnik.

Newlan also had a strong win against Waldport, pinning his opponent in 1:40.

Regarding the event in general, Wartnik said that it was an overall success.

“It was the first time we had ever run a live result match on Track Wrestling,” he explained, “so we were ‘wrestling’ with all kinds of technical and logistical issues for the tournament. It was a learning curve, but our kids did very well.”

Wednesday (May 26), Siuslaw traveled to Sweet Home for yet another dual meet. The Viks defeated both Junction City and North Marion, falling only to Sweet Home.

“We had some tough losses yesterday,” noted Wartnik. “A couple of my better kids lost some hard-fought matches. And I’m not going to say that it was all because they were fatigued, but none of the other teams wrestled four times in six days.”

Senior LaCosse alone had matches in the double digits after Tuesday night’s finish.

“Elijah racked up 13 matches in those four days, which means he was averaging three matches a tournament,” said Wart-

nik. “He wrestled five times on Friday, three times Tuesday, and we didn’t get out of our gym Tuesday night until 10 p.m.”

“Then we came back yesterday and wrestled at Sweet Home, who is by far the toughest team in our region. Last year, I think they took second place at the state tournament. But they usually have 10 or more team members place at the state tournament, where we on average will have one or two kids place at the state tournament. So, we’re wrestling a lineup that is stacked.”

According to Wartnik, the team hoped to secure three wins against Sweet Home over last year’s two as a measure of success.

“When you consider the exhibition win of Cort Waggoner at 220, and a victory by Hayden Muller in a matchup of two returning state placers in the women’s division, we got four wins. Ryan Jennings won at 170 pounds, and we got a win from Christian Newlan at 220 pounds.”

Although Sweet Home won the dual overall 72-12, the Viks doubled last year’s match wins in the meet.

“I think that the guys wished they could have wrestled better,” said Wartnik, “but I was just thrilled

with their performance and their effort level; they give us what they had.”

Siuslaw next faced off against Junction City, who they defeated 36-25.

“It was on the power forfeits,” said Wartnik. “We had a bigger lineup than they had. They won the two big matchups of top kids — Carson Henderson beat Elijah LaCosse 12-5, and Emmett Henderson, Carson’s brother, beat Mason Buss 9-0.”

“Those are disappointing for Elijah and Mason, but it’s alright; again, it’s just part of the journey. We were worn out, we wrestled with what we had, and that’s what the score was yesterday.”

In addition to LaCosse and Buss, Hunter Petterson also had to face returning state champion, Evan Potter.

“Evan has won two state championships in the last two years,” said Wartnik. “He’s an amazing, great wrestler. Hunter competed; he got pinned, but he fought well, and we just knew Potter [was going to be] dominant. So, losing those three hard fought matches, we still won the dual 36-25.”

Siuslaw’s final dual meet for the night was against North Marion, a large but

inexperienced team this year, who the Viks defeated handily 51-12.

“We had a chance to put Hayden Muller into the men’s lineup,” explained Wartnik. “We knew that their wrestler was someone that was within Hayden’s range, and Hayden is also getting more fit.”

“I don’t tend to throw girls into the men’s lineup very often,” said the coach. “I need to be confident of the preparation of our women, and that there is a kind of a physical parity. Hayden did great, she ended up winning by pin, and that was one of the more exciting matches in that dual.”

In addition to Hayden Muller, Corser had a great

match as well.

“We ended up getting a good win from John Corser, who wrestled up one weight [class] to compete,” said Wartnik. “It gave us a solid team performance. We really wrestled well, and we had a more seasoned team; as Sweet Home is dominant versus us, we are dominant against a school like North Marion at this time. It was a good dual, we had quite a night.”

In addition to four competitions in six days, on Wednesday night, the Viks dealt with a minor travel issue on the way to Sweet Home.

“There was an incident on the bus, we hit a pothole and had a tire blowout,” said the coach. “We didn’t get to the tournament site until it was supposed to start, and we were set to be there an hour early. It was hot, and our kids, after hitting the pothole, were ‘emotionally adrenalated’. But I think that we did fine; we did good last night, and I’m proud of our kids. Just nonstop, they’re doing a great job and they’re getting better.”

At this point, Wartnik and his team has a few days of well-earned and much-deserved rest, and the coach is proud of their performance thus far in the season.

“As I look back over this six-day, four tournament stretch, I praise my kids,” said Wartnik. “They held together, they wrestled courageously, they learned what it’s like to have a grueling stretch.”

The Viks will get this week off, then return to the mats next Tuesday in Veneta to wrestle Elmira and Philomath.

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