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Expanded baseball program nears completion; one team earns a berth in state level competition

"We had a great season, despite having the first three weeks of the season wiped by spring monsoons," said Ron Svenson, president of the Vernonia Youth Summer Baseball Association.

The unbeaten, local 13-15 year-old team ended their regular season as West Washington County National Senior Champions, with a record of 12-0. They will play at the state tournament starting Friday, July 27, in Aloha Park. Their first game will be at 6 p.m. Ray Allen and Tim Williamson coach the team.

Both National Midget

teams and the American Junior team were strong contenders for state tournament berths. This season also saw the formation of an 11-12 year-old girls' softball team that competed with teams from the Forest Grove-Hillsboro area. The National Junior team showed considerable improvement and won four out of their last six games, Svenson said.

Eight Junior Midget teams, more than ever before, put a premium on field use, he added, but the season was made even more enjoyable because everyone worked

hard to cooperate.

Thirteen businesses sponsored the fourteen teams this year, allowing the VYSBA to purchase new equipment for the approximately 160 youngsters in the program. Additionally, 2 1/2 sets of game uniforms were purchased and an inventory plan was established for replacing equipment and uniforms on a timely basis.

The school district and the city were very helpful regarding field use and maintenance, Svenson said.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed being VYSBA president this year," he added enthusiastically. "It has been a great year because of the cooperation of everyone involved."

"Our teams have been very competitive with teams from all the towns of Western Washington County."

"I want to express my thanks to all those who made this season a smooth and successful effort. Special thanks are due Terri Parker and Marilyn Landers."

"Most of all, thanks to the kids whose positive attitudes and hustle made all of our efforts seem worthwhile," Svenson concluded.

Team sponsors and coaches were: Vernonia Sentry Market, Chris Cota; Vernonia Realty & Insurance, Bob Green; Old Time 5¢ & 10¢, Kelly Hillyer; Vernonia Mini-Mart, Mario Leonetti;

Western Auto, Debbie Taylor; Farmers & Merchants Bank, Rocky Miner; BCH Logging, Mark Busch; Vernonia Golf Course, Randy Cherry and Steve Landers;

Vernonia Federal Credit Union, Ron Svenson and Jim Walters; Holce Logging, Dawn and Ed Buckner and Scott Scharringhausen; Koch Trucking, Karl and Liz Koch; Oregon Natural Gas Development Co., Ray Allen and Tim Williamson;

West Oregon Electric Cooperative sponsored two teams, with Greg Schaumburg coaching one, Jim Kelly and Randy Aultman coaching the second.



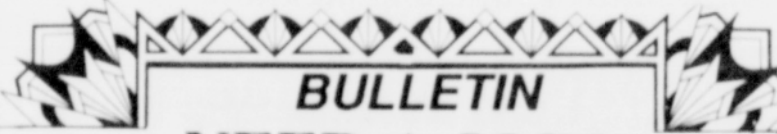
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