

Vernonia midget team takes baseball skills to state tournament

Vernonia's American Midget boys' baseball team earned a shot at the state title with a regular season record of 11 wins and one loss, to take second place in Western Washington County.

The team started the season with a four game winning streak, defeating Banks, West Union, Farmington and Cornelius. A one run loss to Hillsboro #1, who finished the year in first place, slowed

them very little as they rebounded with an eight game winning streak. The next victims were North Plains, Gaston, Roy, Reedville, Hillsboro #2 and two Forest Grove teams.

Vernonia opened against Colton in State competition, hanging on in extra innings to pull out a 10-6 win.

The next game was a cliffhanger against a good

Cedar Hills team that finished third in the tournament. Vernonia and Cedar Hills were tied 7-7 going into the last inning. Vernonia scored twice in the top of the inning to take a 9-7 lead, but was unable to stop three Cedar Hills runs, finishing on the short end of a one-run difference, 10-9.

The team's final tournament game was a four-run loss to N. Clackamas, 8-4.

The Vernonia team of nine and ten year-old boys finished the year with a 12-3 record—and something even more important. Though the tournament was tough, they were awarded the tournament sportsmanship trophy. Members of the team include Jesse Borst, Kyle King, Matthew Kelly, John Walters, David Koch, Paul Orlando, Josh Staggenborg, Travis Gwin, Bruin Peyton, Tyler

Monnin, Fred Fulmer and Daniel Serafin.

Coaching the team were Jim Kelly, Mickey Borst and Bruce King. The coaches also expressed their thanks to the team for a great year and to the boys' parents for their help and support.

The American Midget team is one of many teams sponsored by local businesses and the Vernonia Summer Youth Baseball Association.

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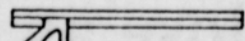


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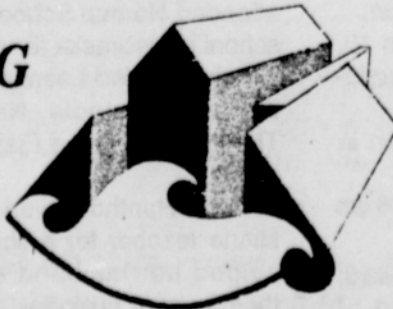
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