



Vernonia vs. Banks. (l-r) Banks' Nigel Warren, Vernonia's Brian Robertson, Jason Gregg, Bryan Dinger and Charlie Ray, all working for the rebound.

Braves shoot well; Loggers miss outside and lose

Vernonia High School boys varsity basketball team lost at home Dec. 16 to the Banks High School Braves, 71-41.

"It was a fun game for our kids," said Braves Head Coach Richard Warren. "The team did a lot of things fundamentally well, and played with intensity from beginning to end."

Banks' Glen Vanderzanden grabbed the opening tip-off and the shot turned into a rebound for Vernonia's Greg Schmidlin. The start of a game-long trend, Schmidlin couldn't get inside the Brave defense to shoot. After a whole minute of action, neither team had scored.

The Loggers' height kept Banks' shooting outside. Matt Hutchins turned that into a strength in the first quarter,

tossing in three three-pointers and giving the Braves the shot in the arm they needed to pace the game.

"Banks played well," said Logger coach Scott Finlay. "And we allowed them to play super."

Banks' tight defense was brutal to the Loggers, and it looked like everything the Braves put up, fell in.

"We hadn't been shooting very well and finally got on track in this game," said Warren. "Hutchins shot great."

Midway through the second quarter, Vernonia dug in and worked to gain control, but couldn't turn their efforts into points, trailing 42-20 at half-time.

The Loggers came out of

the locker room ready to make it happen. Jason Busch snagged some defensive rebounds, and Jacob Shetler powered inside the Brave defense to help Vernonia narrow the scoring gap going into the final quarter.

"We knew Schmidlin would score big, so we tried to shut down everyone else," said Warren.

Banks poured it on in the fourth quarter, stealing passes and rebounding all over the floor, outscoring the Loggers two-to-one. Vernonia countered with a fierce attack but couldn't overcome the lead the Braves had built up.

"We succumbed to their pressure," said Finlay. "There were times when we made good plays, but we didn't counter what they did well."

High Scores: Banks; Hutchins, 24 points, Ackerman, 19 points. Vernonia; Schmidlin, 19 points, Shetler, 8.

Preseason helps Braves prepare

Banks High School boys varsity basketball team faced the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates Jan. 2, and won 87-58.

"Everyone worked hard and kept their focus and concentration," said head coach Richard Warren. "We got everything working and made less mistakes."

The Braves had some trouble getting inside during the first quarter, until Luke Vandomelen ignited the team. Banks dug in and played a solid game, giving up only eight turnovers, and taking advantage of Neah-Kah-Nie's 28 in the game.

Banks also overcame the Pirates' rebound edge (21-10) in the first half to dominate across the board in the final two quarters.

ters.

High Scores: Steve Olson, 17 points, Dusty Kalhar, 15 points, Vandomelen, 11.

The Braves lost a close one at Willamina Dec. 18, 66-64.

"We didn't come out and get on track," said Coach Warren, "allowing them to get into a rhythm."

Early foul trouble, benching some starters, and poor first half shooting had Banks down by 12 at the half. They turned things around and were tied with :05 left in the game.

"The kids could've won if they'd played a whole game," said Warren.

Scores and stats from the Jan. 6 game at Yamhill-Carlton will appear in the Jan. 21 issue of *The INDEPENDENT*.

VHS girls earn split at Clatskanie

Vernonia High School girls varsity basketball team faced Knappa's Lady Loggers in the Clatskanie Tournament on Dec. 23 and won, 47-35.

"The girls shot well and stayed with their offense," said Coach Jim Krahn.

Vernonia held a small lead at halftime, 24-21, then took control in the third quarter, outscoring Knappa 13-6.

In the second half, Vernonia's Lady Loggers consistently got the ball inside to their bigger girls. A lot of that inside action belonged to Maria Nicolau-Ferregut, who scored 16 points in the game. Amy Barton and Ellie Prpich also posed a big second-half threat to Knappa.

Hustle Player: Denise Titus. High Scores: Nicolau-Ferregut, 16 points, Barton and Prpich each with 9.

In the first tournament game, on Dec. 22, Vernonia

lost to Clatskanie, 54-21.

"We had three girls sick with the flu and they tried to play through it," said Krahn, "but physically, they were not healthy."

Illness played a role in the Lady Loggers' lack of focus, and that hurt them against Clatskanie, a good 3A team.

Dec. 16 Vernonia's ladies lost their rematch with Banks' Lady Braves, 67-47.

"Banks is a good team," said Coach Krahn, "and we let their press take us out of our game more than we should have."

Vernonia failed to execute on offense and didn't stay in their zone defensively, explained Krahn.

High Score: Prpich, 27 points.

Scores and stats from the Jan. 6 game at Alsea will appear in the Jan. 21 edition of *The INDEPENDENT*.

Lady Braves winning consistently

Banks High School girls varsity basketball team brought home a win over North Marion on Dec. 19, 67-47, to post a 5-2 record going into league play.

"I'm very pleased," said head coach Karl Kemper. "We've outscored three teams by a combined 77 points this week. It looks like we're peaking at the right time. I think we'll do really well in league."

The Lady Braves trailed 19-18 midway in the second quarter, but came back to lead 30-24 at halftime.

In a stellar performance, the girls outscored North Marion 21-12 in the fourth quarter.

Val Duyck turned in a career-high 20 points to go along with her eight rebounds. Dasha Wakefield and Amy Williams shared high scores of 11 points each.

Dec. 17 saw the Banks girls win against Willamina, 67-27.

"It's tough to play back to back nights," said Kemper, "but they played with energy and enthusiasm."

The Lady Braves played their own game against a young and inexperienced Willamina team.

Banks' entire bench saw court time, with 12 players putting points on the board.

April Beardsley and Val Duyck each scored nine points, and four players — Mari Duyck, Kelly Chambers, Wakefield, and Brandy Williams — added eight points each.

Banks won the re-match against Vernonia's Lady Loggers on Dec. 16, 67-47.

"We controlled the whole way," said Kemper.

The Lady Braves shot to an 11-0 lead and maintained their intensity throughout the game. This, and good shooting gave them the win.

High Scores: Val Duyck, 13 points, 9 steals and 8 rebounds; Wakefield, 11 points, 8 rebounds; Amy Williams, 10 points, 4 steals; Brandy Williams, 9 points.

The Lady Braves face St. Helens Jan. 6, travel to Seaside Jan 9 and host Scappoose Jan. 16.

BANKS-MANNING MERCHANTS
ARE READY TO SERVE YOU

STRASSEL'S AUTO REPAIR & HYDRAULIC HOSES

2-4-6 Spiral Wire • Flange Head • Suction Hoses
Adaptors • 3/16" to 2" • Bulk Oil Products
 276 SUNSET, BANKS • 324-9808

SUNSET LAUNDRY

Wash...\$1.00 Dry...25¢
180 S. Main Street, Banks Oregon

BANKS HARDWARE

JANUARY SPECIAL \$3.17 32 oz. professional strength DRANO PLUS

636584 • While supplies last
OPEN M-F 8-6, SAT 8-5, SUN 10-4
150 Main Street, Banks • 324-9026

MUSIC INSTRUCTION

- Harmony
- Theory
- Jazz Theory
- Improvisation

Private Lessons
Beginner to Advanced
All Instruments
\$10 per 1/2-Hour

Bob Ragsdale
429-2929

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS