

Tough early season challenges Loggers to learn more while losing

Vernonia's Loggers faced the tough Warrenton Warriors on Greenman Field Oct. 16., and suffered a 41-14 loss.

"We've played five of the top ten teams statewide and I'd say Warrenton's the best of those," said Logger head coach Bob Bruce. "I'd rank them first, or second behind Amity."

The Warriors dominated the first half, both offensively and on defense—effectively shutting down Vernonia's passing

conversion run, put the score at 34-14.

"Rushing-wise we did better, 227 yards, and we met an offensive goal—we had only four '3 and outs' [instances where the Loggers played three downs and were forced to punt]," said Bruce. "Our last three games are win-able."

Jesse Walters didn't make his usual numbers against Warrenton due to a dislocated finger, but Bruce is optimistic about his chances of seeing

(3 catches for 167 yards) for a touchdown. Don Benedict's kick put the Loggers on the board with seven.

Walters opened the fourth quarter in fine form, running a kickoff back 75 yards into the Royals' end zone, bringing Vernonia within five points of P.C. The Royals stretched the scoring gap back to 11 points at the quarter's halfway point.

Aultman found Walters again, with a 61 yarder, and

The Logger defense has grabbed four interceptions, two by Walters, and one each by Craig Enneberg and Mickey Buehrer.

DeWitt turned a fumble recovery into a touchdown, and Ray, who shares the highest

average of tackles per game with Johnson (6.6), is credited with two fumble recoveries.

Landers and Curtis Golson are second and third number-wise in tackles, with averages of 5.6 and 5.2 per game, respectively.

Lady Braves show improvement

The Banks High varsity volleyball team handed Seaside a loss in two games Oct. 15, in Seaside, 15-9, 15-7.

"We had excellent tip coverage, Seaside never had a successful tip on us and they tried a lot," said head coach Suzanne Alley. "Our hitting errors went way down also—something we've been working on all season."

Banks' ladies are showing poise and maturity on the court in this second half of the '98 season. After their close, and disappointing, loss to Scappoose in Banks on Oct. 13 (16-14, 14-16, 12-15), Alley led a team discussion on playing tough in the face of adversity, along with tip coverage drills. The team put those skills into practice at the Seaside match.

Oct. 13, the Lady Braves won the first game by the narrowest of margins and led 14-9 in game two, but let the lead, and the game, get away from them. When Banks came out tentatively for game three, Scappoose took advantage and a 14-5 lead. The Lady Braves fought back, with contributions from Melissa Olson, a key component of Banks' offensive system, but it was too

late to pull off the win.

"Val Duyck, Dasha Wakefield, Carrie Bayless, Cait Vandehey and Sara Riggle, alternately, make up our serve receive unit," said Alley. "They had only five errors out of 120 service receptions against Scappoose and Seaside."

Alley is enthusiastic about her team's performance, notably middle blocker Riggle, who she describes as "doing a tremendous job", and Adrienne Bent, who is credited with 10 solo blocks in the last two matches.

Wakefield and Duyck are continuing their consistent outside hitting, and team leadership.

Banks' ladies pulled off a decisive win in a non-league match at Newport, Oct. 5, 15-4, 15-5.

The Lady Braves hosted Clatskanie Oct. 7 and lost in three games 2-15, 15-13, 4-15.

10/15 @ Seaside
W15-9, W15-7.
10/13 vs. Scappoose
W16-14, L14-16, L12-15
10/7 vs. Clatskanie
L2-15, W15-13, L4-15
10/5 @ Newport
W15-4, W15-5



Vernonia Logger Don Benedict moving the ball in the Warrenton game, Oct. 16 on Greenman field. Working to clear the way for him are offensive linemen (l. to r.) Blaine Vandehey, Chad DeWitt, and Charlie Ray.

game with heavy pressure on quarterback Ryan Aultman.

Vernonia received the second half kickoff, and steadily moved the ball from their own 30 yard line to Billy Church's touchdown at the seven-minute mark. 34-6.

The Loggers' next series began late in the third quarter. Vernonia took possession on downs at their own 25 yard line. Church (99 total yards) and Justin Johnson (89 yards, 1TD) fought for every yard to advance the drive downfield, and into the fourth quarter.

With 10:00 left to play, Brad Bricker caught a nice toss from Aultman for a first down on Warrenton's 12 yard line. Thirty-five seconds later, Johnson punched into the end zone—breaking Warrior tackles every step of his eight yard run up the middle of the field. Johnson's encore, a two point

action at Neah-Kah-Nie on the 23rd.

Chad DeWitt led Vernonia's defense with seven tackles and two assists, followed by Josh Landers (6), and Charlie Ray (5 tackles, 2 assists).

The Loggers lost at Portland Christian, Oct. 9, 25-20.

"Neither team came out intense," said Bruce. "The team's practice attendance has affected execution, but I think the strength of our schedule will help in our final games."

The Royals scored on their opening drive and neither team reached an end zone again until the second half.

Logger fans have come to expect big, exciting plays—in this game they weren't disappointed. With a minute left in the third quarter, Aultman (190 yards passing, 2TDs) shot an 86 yard pass to Jesse Walters

Benedict kicked the PAT to put another seven on the board for the Loggers. Unfortunately, Vernonia didn't have time to make up the last five points.

"We've set new goals, offensive and defensive, for the rest of the season," said Bruce. "This has been an emotionally exhausting season, but I'm hopeful about the rest of the season."

The Loggers have accumulated some impressive season-to-date stats, compiled after their first five games.

Offensively, they are averaging 21.4 points and 262 total yards per game.

Aultman has completed 43 passes for 943 yards and 13 TDs, many of those to Walters, who is the leading receiver with 583 yards after 23 catches and 9 TDs. Landers leads in rushing, 47 carries for 193 yards.



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