

Sports

Loggers struggling with inconsistent basketball performances

The Vernonia High School varsity boys basketball team has played well this season despite losing in the tournament at Regis High School, December 28 and 29. The Loggers played City Christian and Harrisburg.

Against City Christian, the Loggers were without four

players - Daniel Gregg, Frank Spry, Billy Church and Eric Paterson - which hurt the team and led to a 49-60 loss.

"They [the Loggers] forced plays that were not there. Impatience to get the ball in also contributed," said head Coach Scott Finlay. "The City Christian team was smaller and played hard," he added.

High scorers were seniors Jason Busch with 11 points, Kelly Baska with 10 points, Travis Hightower with eight points and Brian Robertson with seven.

The Loggers lost to Harrisburg in a battle for third place. Despite the 48-61 loss, Finlay said, "They played much better than they had the previous day, and were better at taking care of the ball."

Hightower led in scoring, with 21 points. Baska followed with 11, and Busch contributed seven.

In a tournament at Neah-Kah-Nie, VHS played Eddyville on December 17, then met Mohawk for the championship on the 18th.

The Loggers swamped Eddyville, 84-38. "The score was 20-14 in the first quarter, and

that was as close as it got," said Finlay. According to Finlay, the Loggers outsized the other team and appeared to intimidate them. "Our big players were our big scorers, because Eddyville didn't know what to do to stop us."

High scorers were Hightower with 21 points, Spry with 17, and Busch with 15. Bryan Dinger and Robertson helped the effort with eight points each.

The championship against Mohawk was a hard-fought game that ended with the Loggers on the wrong side of an eight point deficit. The final score was 51-59.

"The guys didn't adjust to what the other team's defense was giving us," said Finlay.

The problem, Finlay ex-

plained, was that the team was forcing the ball to the inside when it wasn't open, causing too many turnovers.

Baska brought in 16 points for the team while Hightower had 10. Spry and Billy Church added eight points each.

At home on Dec. 15, the Loggers won a close game against Portland Lutheran, 64-55. "They played decently in spite of a 25 percent free throw rate. If our free throw rate had been higher, the game wouldn't have been so close," said Finlay.

The third quarter was a big one for the Loggers as they out-scored Portland Lutheran 25 to 12. Baska's aggressive play opened things up for the team. Hightower brought in 23 points with Baska and Spry contributing 11 points each.

Lady Loggers show improvement

The Vernonia High School Lady Loggers varsity basketball team traveled to Neah-Kah-Nie Dec. 17 for a two day tournament, then competed at Regis High School on Dec. 28 and 29.

The Regis tournament resulted in a double loss for the Lady Loggers. The first game, against City Christian, was 36-79.

"Although we placed fourth in the holiday tournament," said senior Kirsten Hyde, "I think it was a challenging experience that only made our team better."

Senior Erica Hobart was the team's high scorer, with 10 points for the game.

"City Christian is last year's state champion," said Hyde. "I think they will be our toughest opponent. They will bring back most of the players from last year's team, but if we have enough determination and play our game well enough, we have a chance at beating them," she said.

The game against Harrisburg was also a loss, but it was

a closer game, 55-59. High scorers were Hobart with 20 points, and Hyde with 10. Senior Alexis Posley bucketed eight, while senior Bridget Titus and sophomore Kelly Kofstad had seven points each.

At the Neah-Kah-Nie tournament Dec. 17 and 18, the Lady Loggers played extremely well, and have the trophy to prove it!

In the first game of the tournament, against Eddyville, the Loggers won 45-28. Hobart was again high scorer with 15 points, while Hyde had eight, Posley earned six, and senior Casey Weller added five more.

Facing host Neah-Kah-Nie in the championship game, Vernonia won by 19 points, 52-33.

Posley's 19 points topped the scoring, with Titus close behind at 14. Other leading scorers were Hobart with 11, and Kofstad with 5.

"We are making progress day to day," said Hyde. "With our team's closeness and athletic ability, I think we have a chance to go to state."

Johnson back in winning form after football injury

The Vernonia High School wrestling team participated in two tournaments during winter break, at Neah-Kah-Nie on Dec. 30, and Warrenton on the 18th.

The team placed fifth overall, in the Neah-Kah-Nie Holiday tournament, and senior Justin Johnson, in his first meet since being injured late in the football season, resumed his winning ways, placing first in the 119 pound class with a 3-0 record for the tournament.

Senior Curtis Golson and junior Luke Ellis wrestled against each other to determine who would take third place in the 215 pound class. Golson defeated Ellis to place third.

The team placed sixth at the Warrenton tournament Dec. 18. Again, Logger competed against Logger as junior Blaine

Vandehey faced senior teammate Jesse Templin in the championship round. Vandehey and Templin placed first and second, respectively.

Freshman Casey Waltz earned third place in the 103

pound class, while freshman John Walters took home third place for the 135 pound class. Ellis placed second in the 215 pound class.

The team competes tomorrow, Jan. 6, at St. Helens.

Vernonia PTA gears up for 2000

The first meeting of the Vernonia PTA for this school year is scheduled for January 10, at 7:00 p.m., at the Head Start Building, 500 California Avenue.

All past and present members are strongly encouraged to attend. Organizers would like to see a large number of parents involved in this association, and memberships will be obtainable at this meeting.

Under consideration are some important issues facing our children, especially safety concerns, including ground cover and lead-based paint, and generally improving condi-

tions in the schools and their surroundings. Some members are also concerned because there is no longer a full time secretary in the Lincoln Grade School office.

Also on the agenda is an address by Kim Sebring regarding preparedness in the event of catastrophic school violence.

Conversational Spanish class

A non-credit conversational Spanish class is offered by Portland Community College, beginning Thursday, January 6, 2000. A certificate of attendance will be offered.

The class will meet Thursday nights through March 9, with instructor Wilfredo Martir. Students may register at the first class meeting in Modular 2 behind Vernonia High School.

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