

Young Logger wrestling team balanced with Johnson, Vandehey

The Vernonia High School wrestling team competed in the second league match of the season Jan. 28, at Wahtonka.

Junior Blaine Vandehey continued his winning streak, defeating Wahtonka wrestler Brandon Hansell. Hansell was ranked fifth in state last year.

Senior Justin Johnson controlled his match, winning by a single point, as he wrestled sick. "John Walters is coming along well for a freshman, showing promise," said head coach James Brookins.

Jan. 26 at a league match in Warrenton, the Loggers wrestled in a series of dual matches. Due to finals that week, Brookins said half of the team was gone, and illness and injury kept others out.

The fact that some of his teammates were absent didn't stop Vandehey, as he beat another top-ranked wrestler, 15-4.

"Freshmen John Walters and John Hartman showed excellent development of skills and ethic," said Brookins.

The team placed fifth in the Oregon Classic Tournament, Jan. 21-22, an improvement over the last two years. Last year the team didn't make it to the second day of the tournament,

and in the 1997-98 season, they placed seventh.

"The team pretty much proved what I said early in the season," said Brookins, "that by this time, they would be wrestling near the level of last year's team." Currently, two of the team's wrestlers are ranked number one in state, Johnson and Vandehey.

"If they continue to compete

VHS javees still struggling but show improvement with experience

The boys junior varsity basketball team at Vernonia High School has had fair play this season, winning five of their eight games.

Jan. 28 at home, the Loggers suffered a 63-33 loss to Oregon Episcopal School.

"They pressed us, and we didn't break the press well," said coach Bob Bruce.

Junior Eric Patterson was top scorer with eight.

The javees next game is against Portland Adventist at home on Feb. 1.

"If we don't execute the press break better, we'll get murdered," Bruce commented on the team's future play.

At City Christian, Jan. 25, the Loggers played hard and

at this intensity, we will do very well at the district tournament. I expect several to place at the district tournament this year," said Brookins. "We could have three or four qualify for state." The district tournament is scheduled for Feb. 18-19 at Nestucca.

At the Oregon Classic Tournament, the Loggers surprised Brookins by making it to the

won by a single point in overtime, bringing home a 35-34 victory.

They concentrated their scoring in the first and fourth quarters, with 12 points in the first, and 13 in the fourth.

Freshman Eric Weller's free throw with .0:12 seconds to go

semi-finals and winning the first two matches. Their wins stopped there, but Brookins was pleased nonetheless. "They were there, competing with the top four teams in the state."

"I want to compliment my team," said Brookins. "The first year wrestlers are showing excellent attitudes and skill development this season, Justin

Johnson continues to wrestle excellently, and Blaine Vandehey's development this season is exciting and outstanding."

The Loggers next match is Saturday, Feb. 5 at home against Dayton, Corbett and Knappa. "Watch the reader board in front of the high school for a possible match Friday night," said Brookins.

Weller was high scorer, with 17, and Patterson contributed 11 points to the team's victory.

The Corbett Cardinals upset the Loggers 55-35, Jan. 18. Patterson and freshman Paul Orlando were the leading scorers, with eight points each.

Valentine Dance will benefit the Cabin

You can live up the dreary days of February by taking your sweetheart to a Valentine Dance on Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park.

Music of the swing era is being provided by the Swing

Tones as a fund-raiser for the Cabin. The Swing Tones include several local musicians Bob Ragsdale, Randy Holce and Bonnie Holce, plus former Vernonia resident Sam Hearing. Other musicians will join them for the evening, as well.

Dancing will start at 8:00 p.m. Admission will be \$3.00 per person, or \$5.00 per couple.

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