



Two-time State 2A Champion from Vernonia, Justin Johnson, 119 pounds, is ready to pin 125 pound Knappa opponent Chase Roe.

Logger wrestlers ready for District meet

With less than a week until the district meet, Feb. 18-19 at Nestucca, the Vernonia High School wrestling team is focused.

"We will wrestle hard this weekend," said head coach James Brookins. "If we can place eight or nine wrestlers at the district tournament, I will be happy," he added.

Three VHS wrestlers are ranked in the top 10 in state. Senior Justin Johnson and Junior Blaine Vandehey are ranked first in their respective weight classes, and senior Jared McWhirter is number 10 in the 130 pound class.

"We are eagerly looking forward to state," said Brookins. "We've lost some wrestlers due to injuries or grades, though, and that will keep us from placing in the top three."

The Loggers faced Knappa,

Culver and Willamina on Feb. 12. "This was a good warm-up for districts and state," said Brookins.

Vandehey and Johnson continued their winning streaks, while freshman John Walters had wins as well.

Vernonia hosted the Corbett Cardinals and the Knappa Loggers in a double dual meet, Feb. 5.

"We wrestled very well," said Brookins. "In the matches we lost, the boys either led at some point or went against top ranked wrestlers."

"You can look right down the line-up of VHS wrestlers and see a whole team of boys who are wrestling with a year more experience than they had coming into the season," said Brookins. "We have a lot of

good first year veterans. These wrestlers aren't beginners anymore."

Mary Ann Miller returns to 1500 meter competition after time off

After a six-month hiatus, Vernonia runner Maryanne Miller is off and running the 1500 meter again, and very fast at that.

She competed in the Eugene Indoor Meet January 22, placing fifth in a field of 31 runners. This might be impressive if all the runners were from 2A-size schools such as Vernonia, but such was not the case.

Oregon high schools are divided into classifications which are determined by the total number of students in grades 9 through 12. Schools like Jewell, for instance, have no more than 109 students and are classified 1A; 2A schools such as Vernonia have from 110 to 300; 3A is 301-824; and 4A schools have 825 or more.

So, why was Miller's achievement awesome? First place went to Laura Horman from Jesuit, a 4A school with 1100 students; in second place was Mandi Fitz of The Dalles

(3A); third place, Eleanor Gordon of South Eugene (4A), and fourth place, Andrea Schwartz of Tigard (4A). Some of the other competitors were from Rogue River, Thurston, Coquille, Roseburg, Crater, North Medford, Sherwood and Wilson. It's not often a 2A runner can compete so well at this level.

On February 5th, at the Portland Indoor Meet, Miller placed second in the 1500 meters (metric mile) with a time of 5:04. The only runner to beat her time was Miranda Vorres of On The Run Track & Field Club of Washington. The 22 other runners, all from 4A and 3A schools in Oregon, were unable to beat Maryanne's time.

If you happen to see this small, blonde runner training, honk or wave a bit of encouragement...and if you see an old man chasing her, it's probably her coach, Mel Nice, just trying to keep her in sight to give her a few pointers.

PCC board will meet in Scappoose library

A sign-up sheet for those who wish to offer comments or testimony on any item will be available at the entrance. If a person with a disability needs assistance in order to attend or participate in the meeting, please notify Judy Schwartz at 503-977-4334 at least 48 hours in advance.

The Board of Directors for Portland Community College has scheduled its February 17 business meeting at the Scappoose City Library, 52469 SE 2nd Street, Scappoose, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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