

Winter Sports Awards banquet recognizes athletic achievement

The Vernonia High School Winter Sports Awards banquet was held March 29, in the VHS gym.

Following introductions by Athletic Director Jane McCellan and Principal Mike Durbin, the athletes were recognized with awards and certificates for participation and achievement.

Travis Hightower was named Most Outstanding Player in boys' varsity basketball. Most Inspirational Player was Bryan Dinger and Most Improved was earned by David Koch.

Others receiving recognition, with Certificates, Pins or Letters, were Kelly Baska, Jason Busch, Kyle Cota, Brian Collins, Eric Weller, Darcy Kunkel, Eric Patterson and Brad Bricker.

Weller also received a Most Outstanding Player award for his performance on the junior varsity team. The jayvee Most Inspirational award went to Josh Ward, and Everett Brown was named Most Improved.

Also recognized for their efforts were Eric Patterson, Darcy Kunkel, Keith Rondo, J.P.

Allison, Jiri Burda, Charles Gendron, Matt Peters, Paul Orlando, Alex Dinger, Matt Kelly, David Koch, Eric Lee, Shawn Robertson and Russell Gregg.

No one was surprised when Erica Hobart was named Most Outstanding Player on the varsity girls basketball team. Kelly Kofstad was named Most Inspirational and recognition for Most Improved was Amy Spry.

In addition to Hobart, fourth year varsity awards went to seniors Casey Weller, Bridget Titus and Kirsten Hyde.

Other awards went to Alexis Posley, Kendra DeWitt, Elisabeth Brookins, Rose Peets, Megan Peura and Trisha Titus.

The Most Outstanding

award on the jayvee girls basketball team went to Kim Normand; Most Improved was Jessica Allison, and Nicole Swayze was Most Inspirational.

Other jayvee players recognized were Jessica Jackson, Jessica Allison, Heather Foster, Audrey Isaacson, Brittany Kerns, Trisha Titus, Sommer VanMeter, Bethany Green, Elena Majbova, Ani Militzer, and Hanna Seidel.

In his fourth year of wrestling, Justin Johnson was named Most Inspirational. Blaine Vandehey was named Most Outstanding. Joel Mack was Most Improved and, with John Walters, shared the hon-

ors for Outstanding Freshman Wrestler. Another special award, "Mr. Hustle", went to Brass Sears.

Additional recognition went to Jared McWhirter, Jesse Templin, Luke Ellis, Kohei Nagashio, Aaron Stewart, Jeremy Brennan, Jake Corey, Oyl Satrulee, Josh Landers, Marilyn Schmidlin, Charles Hanson, Jon Hartman, and Kendall Graham, plus statisticians Randee Parker and Nicole Koch.

Cheerleader Andrea Pinedo was recognized for four years on the team. Other awards went to Christie Brown, Jennifer Bernardi, Nichole Luke and Jennifer Meglen.

Peets attends HOBY conference

Vernonia High School sophomore Rose Peets joined more than 190 other high school sophomore leaders from throughout Oregon in Portland, March 16-19, for the Oregon Youth Leadership, Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminar (HOBY).

HOBY brings together a select group of high school sophomores to interact with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education and the professions, to discuss present and future issues. The intent of the activity is to provide the youth with a unique forum for learning about the American incentive system and democratic process, and for broadening their understanding of their leadership potential.

The seminar challenges them to think about the world around them and how they, as future leaders, could do to pos-

itively influence business, government, and society. It also helps them understand that their goals and dreams are important and that leaders have extreme responsibility in whatever walk of life they pursue.

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership was established by the popular actor Hugh O'Brian following a visit to Africa where he was inspired by a meeting with Dr. Albert Schweitzer.

"...Schweitzer said to me... that the most important thing in education was to teach young people to think for themselves," O'Brian says. "From that inspiration, and with the support of others who believe in youth and the American Dream, I started HOBY to seek out, recognize, develop and reward outstanding leadership potential among our nation's youth."

For further information call David Schafer, 503-682-3343.

Lady Loggers start softball season with 1-2 record

The Vernonia High School Lady Logger softball team has already had their ups and downs this season, most recently a 12-2 loss to Portland Lutheran on March 31.

Head Coach Dana Hyde said it "...was their third game in a week, and the girls seemed a little lethargic."

The girls came home March 30 with a 12-8 win over the Rainier High School girls softball team.

"There was excellent base stealing in this game," said Hyde. "Jessica Allison, Wayland Graham and Kirsten Hyde all were able to steal bases while sliding home."

Although Rainier scored six

runs in the first inning, the Lady Loggers weren't intimidated. There were several outstanding plays during the game, including what Hyde called "excellent fielding" by Nikki Gwin, who took a hard-hit grounder to the foot but still managed to throw the batter out at first.

"Nikki was on the ground," said Hyde. "That was one of those plays where you don't think it's going to happen." But it did.

Another outstanding play was made by leftfielder Jennifer Grady. With the bases loaded and two down, Grady's game-ending catch secured the win.

In the season opener, March 28 against Portland Christian, the Loggers lost a tough game, 23-0, but Hyde is proud of her team. "The girls hustled and handled the game well. For the most part, they kept their spirits up, and accepted that Portland Christian was a good ball club."

Young Logger team is ready to play ball

The Vernonia High School baseball team has begun their season with losses, but head coach Dave Doubrava has confidence in his team.

"With hard work and time, we will get closer to where we'd like to be as a team," he said. "We have a very young team, and it is improving."

The Loggers lost to Corbett on March 30 at VHS with a score of 21-1. Kohei Nagashio scored the team's single run.

In the season opener at Gervais on March 16, the Loggers came home with a 12-8 loss.

"This game was like a scrimmage for us, because we didn't have an umpire," Doubrava said.

VHS scored all eight of their runs in the second inning.

"This was a much better game for us," said Doubrava. The Loggers play next at home, April 14, against the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates.

Slow start for VHS boys golf

The Vernonia High School boys golf team most recently competed against Columbia Adventist at the Vernonia Golf Course, losing by 20 strokes on nine holes.

"The conditions were not favorable for low scores, and some of the boys were nervous," said head coach James Brookins.

Steven Potter and Brass Sears stroked the Loggers' lowest scores, each with 45; Bryan Dinger had 47, and Alex Dinger had 48. Other scores included Matt Brookins with 54 strokes, Joey Strand, 58; Jesse Borst, 66; and Brian Collins with 94.

The boys next match will be April 7 at Tillamook.

More girls wanted for VHS golf

The Vernonia High School girls golf team was scheduled to meet the Tillamook High School team for their first match of the season March 13, at the Vernonia Golf Course. It didn't quite work out that way.

"The girls have been working really hard," said coach Joe Strand. "A single Tillamook golfer showed up for the match, but the girls played anyway."

Liana Traylor's 72 strokes led the team, followed by Alexandria Hayes with 75, and Megan Peura at 79.

The next meet, again with Tillamook, will be April 7 at Tillamook Golf Course.

The girls' first league match is a tournament at Mint Valley Golf Course in Longview, on April 13.

According to Strand, four girls are enough to be considered a full team, but the Lady Loggers are looking for at least one more player. "That way," he said, "we can be sure that we'll have four players at each match, even if one of the girls doesn't show up."

Experience is not necessary, Strand emphasized. For anyone who is interested, practices are Monday through Wednesday at Vernonia Golf Course. Thursday is an open day, unless there is a match or tournament.

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