

Vernonia High School coaches enthusiastic as fall sports start up

By Mike Weber

After two weeks of practicing for 2000 fall sports events, Vernonia High School athletes begin their regular season competition Thursday and Friday. All three Logger squads will start the year on the road and with expectations of having successful teams.

The boys and girls cross country teams, coached by James Brookins, begin with their first meet of a nine event schedule Thursday at 5:00 p.m. at Portland Adventist. The volleyball team, coached by Doug Tesdal, opens the season with a game at Corbett Thursday. Following another road contest Sept. 11 at Portland Adventist, they'll open at home Sept. 12 at 6:00 p.m. against City Christian.

After having one of their best years in recent history in 1999 with a 6-4 record, the Logger football team is hoping to build on that success and maybe make the state playoffs

again. The season-opener is Friday at 7:30 p.m. against Wahtonka High School in The Dalles. Vernonia has posted two consecutive victories over Wahtonka, including a 22-6 win in 1999. Head coach Bob Bruce is hoping to have continued success against the Eagles and hopefully start the season with a victory.

"It's always fun in the opener because you get to hit somebody else other than your own teammates," said Bruce, 43, a fifth-year head coach. "I think we'll have a good chance to start the season 1-0, because we've had success against Wahtonka. Warrenton and Knappa are the two best teams in the Northwest League, but I think if everything goes well for us, we could also be a top contender."

Vernonia qualified for the playoffs last year for the first time in 14 years and took second in the league at 4-1 behind Portland Christian. They lost 11 seniors to graduation though

and just five 1999 starters return for the Loggers, including Blaine Vandehey, Bobby Lokken, Brad Sears and Matt Kelley. Five players from Jewell join Vernonia's squad this year, including 5-foot-11, 215-pound senior fullback Mitch Wood. Vandehey, a 6-foot, 180 pound senior returns for his second year as the Loggers starting quarterback. Lokken, a junior tailback/linebacker, will likely get most of the carries in the Loggers I-formation, two-back offense. Sears, a 6-foot-4, 210 pound junior returns this year playing center and defensive end.

"I'm cautiously optimistic and I'm not quite sure how much success this group is capable of having, but I'm sure that the guys from Jewell will provide us with lots of help this year," said Bruce. "Lokken, Wood and Kelley will probably combine to gain most of the rushing yards."

"The strength of our team is the offensive line, since we

have lots of big guys and we'll have a pretty tough defense too. You just never know how well things are going to work out, especially early in the year, because injuries are always a factor during the course of the season."

The Loggers first of three home contests is Sept. 15 at 7:00 p.m. against Nestucca. The J.V. squad starts Sept. 11 at Knappa, followed by a home game Sept. 18 against Clatskanie.

Brookins takes over at the helm of the cross county team after former coach Melvin Nice retired following the 1999 season. Senior Colin Plewes is likely to be the top returning runner on the boys squad since he's expected to run the 5000 meter races in nearly 18 minutes. Other athletes who are also capable of posting times under 20 minutes include sophomores Sean Robertson, Josh Ward, Marshall King and Brookins son, Ben, a freshman.

"Plewes has just recovered from an injury and I think he's healthy, because I've seen him out rollerblading recently. If we have a couple of guys run under 20 minutes, then we might be able to qualify for the state meet," said Brookins, who also coaches golf and wrestling.

"It's tough though, competing against Oregon Episcopal and Catlin Gabel, because they recruit athletes from all over the Portland area," said Brookins. "The success of the team depends on how well the freshman and sophomores progress. They've been running 13-miles at practice and they still appear to be energetic after that workout. It's a young team with a good future and I'm really looking forward to coaching cross country for the first time, so it should be lots of fun."

Brookins daughter, Elisabeth, is the senior captain of the girls squad and also a top runner who earned second-team all Northwest League honors in 1999. Newcomer Pernille Rasmussen, a senior exchange student from Denmark, is also expected to perform well. Sophomores Lacy Schilling, Kim Normand and freshman Mallory Baker will also help contribute to the team speed.

"Elisabeth is a proven workhorse who will certainly run fast and I also expect Normand to come on strong," said Brookins. "We have a pretty good girls squad and they have the potential to be a very competitive team."

Although there aren't any home events on the schedule, Athletic Director Jane McClellan is currently in the process of trying to add an invitational meet at Vernonia. Brookins

Please see page 6

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Longview



Community Calendar

AUGUST 2000	SEPTEMBER 2000	OCTOBER 2000	NOVEMBER 2000	DECEMBER 2000
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

VERNONIA

Al-Anon	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	Noon, Lew's Place
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Girl Scouts	Thursdays	6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
Narcotics Anonymous	Thursdays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 429-4074
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	4th Thursday	For location call 429-2401
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors	1st Thursday	For location call 429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Comm. Dev. Corp.	2nd Tuesday	Noon, City Hall
Vernonia Grange	2nd Friday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 429-1204
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	8:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	1st Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Assoc.	1st & 2nd Thurs.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Firefighters Assoc.	1st & 2nd Wed.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Rescue	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Wednesday	10:00 am, 755-2346 for info.
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Grange Hall

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Brown Derby
Citizen Participation Org.	3rd Monday, odd months	7:15 p.m., City Hall
Friends of the Library	1st Saturday	10:00 a.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
TOPS	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Tri-City RFPD Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
COLCO Transportation	2nd Friday	10:30 a.m., Courthouse
County Council of Seniors	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
County Fair Board	2nd & 4th Mondays	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
County Parks Commission	3rd Thursday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Emergency Comm. Dist. (9-1-1)	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Courthouse
Historical Society	4th Wednesday	Noon, location call 429-3713
Traffic Safety Commission	1st Wednesday	7:00 a.m., Village Inn

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410