

Vernonia High School Sports Report

By Ben Schorzman

Basketball

Games have started for the Loggers, with games for both Boys and Girls against Catlin Gabel and Banks, Boys' games against Amity and Scappoose, and a Girls' game against Southwest Christian.

The season opener was on November 29, at Catlin Gabel. The girls came close, but could not pull it out, losing 35-32. Junior guard Joreigh Landers led the team in points with 16. Senior post Laura Brookins also had a good game, getting 10 points. In the boys' game, the victor was decided in the last minute, with the Eagles and Loggers trading three-pointers. Senior guard Ben Schorzman put the Loggers up 34-32 with a three, with 40 seconds left. Then the Eagles hit a three pointer in the next possession, making the score 35-34. Unable to score again, the Loggers lost 36-34. Seniors Tim Hein and Schorzman led the team in scoring, each with 13 points.

December 1, the boys' team traveled to Banks. In a blowout, the Braves won 52-14. Hein led the team with 7 points; Junior Brent Thompson had 5 points. The next night, both teams played their home-openers, the girls against the Banks Braves, and the boys against the Amity Warriors. In the girls' game, a technical foul by Coach Doran Lower shifted the momentum from Vernonia to Banks, and the Braves won 39-35 on late free throws. In the losing effort, Landers had 23 points to lead all scorers. In the boys' game against Amity, the Loggers showed some resolve, coming back from nine points down – twice. Down nine at half time, the boys' came out and scored nine straight points, and tied it up with two three pointers by Schorzman. But immediately after, the Warriors answered with three 3-pointers of their own to take the score back up to nine. It would remain nine until late in the fourth quarter. Led by junior guard Brent Thompson, the Loggers held Amity scoreless the last three minutes, and cut the lead down to two points. With one second left, Hein was fouled in the act of shooting, but hit only one of two free

throws. Final score: Amity 37, Vernonia 36. Hein and Schorzman led the team with 12 points each.

December 6, the Lady Loggers got their first win of the season against Southwest Christian, defeating them 58-39. The girls led at half time 25-8, and even though SW Christian came back a little in the third quarter, the Loggers put them away in the fourth. Landers led the team with 16 points, followed by Senior Mackenzie Bassett with 10 points. The boys faced another 3A team, this time playing the Scappoose Indians. The Loggers were beat 66-38, with Hein getting 14 points.

Next up for both teams is Gaston, on December 9, followed by a tournament at Gervais, December 17-18.

Wrestling

Under new head coach Dominic Nardelli, the wrestlers have done very well in the first two weeks of the season. December 2 they traveled to Banks and wrestled in the Banks Tournament. Junior Willie Hansen, at 171 pounds; Junior Mike Potter, at 119 pounds; Sophomore Tyler Bernardi, at 125 pounds; and Senior heavyweight Wert Russert all won matches. As a team, the Loggers were 1-2, losing to Rainier and Willamina, and beating Banks.

December 8 the team held a dual meet with Seaside and Amity in Vernonia. Vernonia wrestled Amity first, followed by Seaside wrestling Amity, then Vernonia wrestling Seaside.

In team scoring, the Loggers won against Amity by 10 points, 43-33. Mike Potter, Burdette Robb, Willie Hansen, and Tyler Corey helped out the team, with each of them winning by pins. Against Seaside, after all matches, Seaside and Vernonia were tied at 42. Under the tie breaker rules set up for dual meets, statistics from the first round determined the winner. Vernonia won on statistical criteria, because they had more takedowns in the first round than Seaside.

The team competed in a tournament December 10 at Scio, then hosted another home meet today, December 15.



Above, Sam Sears (left) and Dalan Lee, Advanced Art students at Vernonia High School, were part of a crew last week painting holiday scenes on business windows around town.

Zoo offers WinterZooVenture Day Camps during winter breaks

Winter break at the zoo is sure to be an adventure for kids four years of age through fourth grade when they attend WinterZooVenture Day Camps December 19-22 and 27-29. The Oregon Zoo's winter camp program is designed and led by the same professional staff that oversees the summer program. Proceeds help fund the zoo's conservation and education programs.

Each day's activities focus on a unique animal theme. During "How Do They Do That?" children discover how animals climb, fly, glide, dive and survive in the wild world. "Some Like It Cold" has campers examining how animals (like polar bears) are built for winter. During "Short Days, Long Nights" campers discover the differences between nocturnal animals (tigers and bats) and daytime animals (elephants, zebras and monkeys).

Camp activities include guided trips through the zoo that allow kids to explore various areas in detail. In addition, touchable animals are on hand to make special visits to campers each day. Games, crafts and stories with zoo animal themes add to the daily experiences.

Children may attend one day, a few days or all seven days. Half-day sessions for four-year-olds through kindergartners take place from 9:00 a.m. to noon or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fees for zoo members are \$12 per day, and \$14 per day for nonmembers. Full-day sessions for first through

fourth graders begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Fees for zoo members are \$27 per day, and nonmembers are \$32 per day.

For registration or more information about WinterZooVenture Day Camps, visit <www.oregonzoo.org> or call 503-220-2781.

The zoo opens at 9:00 a.m. daily and is located just off Highway 26. It is also accessible by MAX light rail line and visitors who take the bus or MAX receive 50 cents off zoo admission. General admission is \$9.50 (12-64), seniors \$8 (65+), children \$6.50 (3-11), and infants two and under are free. A parking fee of \$1 per car is also required.



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