

Vernonia Sports Report

by Ben Schorzman

WRESTLING

The wrestling team finished a mediocre year with the continuation of an amazing streak. After a disappointing eighth place finish at the district playoffs, the Loggers are still sending one wrestler to the state tournament. Junior Dylan Burch placed third at 140 pounds to qualify. "It was pretty intense," Burch said, "But I knew from the start that I was going to beat the guy."

This continues a streak of sending at least one person to state since Coach James Brookins started coaching in Vernonia. The 2A State Tournament will be held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem on Thursday, February 16, through Saturday, February 18.

Though the rest of the team didn't make it to state, there were still good things happening. Senior Burdette Robb, and Sophomores Tommy Carr and Tyler Corey each placed fourth, one spot out of state. Sophomore Tyler Bernardi, and Freshmen Luke Tankersley and Katelyn Robb each placed sixth. Junior Willie Hansen, who wrestled at 171 pounds, said he was disappointed with the way he wrestled, but the team did well. "I think that, overall, we did great and the season went pretty well." With a young group (only four seniors), next year is looking even better. They now have one year of experience, and I would look for the Vernonia High School



Senior wrestlers; left to right are Wert Russert, Rob Champin, and Burdette Robb. Not shown is Rusty Campo.

Wrestling program to be dominant for years to come.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Playoffs – a magical word to any high school athlete who has ever dreamed of winning a state title. But for the Vernonia High School boys basketball team, that word hadn't entered their minds until the last week of the season. They were 1-21, 0-12 in league, and were dead last in the Northwest League. With two games left to play, the Loggers were just looking to win their last home games of the season. Then came the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates and a crazy format for the Northwest League District Playoffs. The Pirates had only one win in league, and were second to last in the West Division. So?

Well, in District playoffs, the top four teams from each division in the Northwest League compete. There are only five teams on the west side. That meant that the Loggers were only one win, and three Pirate losses from being tied with them for fourth place.

The Pirates only win in league had come against Vernonia earlier in the season at Neah-Kah-Nie in overtime. All of a sudden, Vernonia's home game against Neah-Kah-Nie on February 7 had some meaning. Win, and they split the season

series with them, which under Northwest League tie-breaker rules means a playoff game at a neutral site.

The Loggers came out ready to play, behind a very strong performance from Senior Tim Hein. Shooting from all over the court, and frustrating the Pirates' two big men, Hein scored 34 points. Every time Neah-Kah-Nie rallied, Vernonia stopped them, and the Loggers won 54-38. With one game left to be played, all the Loggers could do was try and beat Portland Lutheran, and wait. Neah-Kah-Nie still had two games to play, February 9 against Portland Adventist, and February 10 against Riverdale.

On Senior Night, Hein, Adam Randall and Ben Schorzman, the three senior members of the team, played in their final game at home against Portland Lutheran. A win would put them one game up on Neah-Kah-Nie, who lost against PAA. But, in a disappointing game for the whole team, the Loggers lost 74-64. Hein and Schorzman put up big numbers in their final games, with Hein scoring 30 points, and Schorzman hitting five three-point field goals, and finishing with 21 points.

That Friday, February 10, the Loggers practiced, getting ready for a game if Neah-Kah-Nie lost. But the game would

never happen. That night, the Pirates took care of business, beating Riverdale by 10. Their hopes gone, all the Logger players could do was think about what could've been and all the chances they had during the year to get just one more win. The Loggers put themselves in that spot and, with all the close games coming back to haunt them, they were once again at home, watching other teams go to the playoffs. People said they didn't deserve being in the playoffs, but when an opportunity presents itself, all you can do is take advantage of it. They might not have been undefeated in league, but they played hard. Who knows? What if they had won and made it to the playoffs? Someone once told me that it isn't the way you start, it's the way you finish, and a game out of the playoffs isn't too shabby, even if you have only one win in league.

NOTE: The Loggers lost to Portland Christian 86-25, 1/27/06; Warrenton 48-38, 1/31/06; Corbett 50-45, 2/3/06; and Clatskanie 83-43, 2/4/06.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hoping to finish their season strong and roll into the playoffs, the Lady Loggers had big games coming up with division

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Hurry! Sweetheart Sale Ends February 22nd Valentine's Day Items 15% off All Clothes & Shoes 20% off

Quarter Clothing Sale Friday & Saturday February 24th & 25th

All clothing in the theater alcove will be priced at 25 cents per piece.



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DONKEY BASKETBALL

Is back Feb. 17th

At 7pm Vernonia High School gymnasium
\$6 adults, \$5 students, \$4 children

Proceeds to this years Prom, brought to you by the VHS Junior Class

This years teams

- ☞ Vernonia Fire Dept. Volunteers
- ☞ Vernonia Community
- ☞ VHS Students
- ☞ VHS Staff

And, don't miss the Zack Rumbolz Memorial Scholarship Fund Taco Feed from 5 - 7pm Middle School cafeteria.


