

Vernonia Sports Report

by Ben Schorzman

BASEBALL

After dropping two against Northwest League opponents two weeks ago, the Loggers looked to get back in the winning track in a double-header against the Portland Christian Royals on April 18. The first game was, literally, a marathon, going 11 innings before being decided on a home run. The Royals jumped out early, taking a 3-0 lead going into the second inning. The Loggers came right back, getting two on Senior Tim Hein's single. But the Royals scored again in the fourth inning, stretching the lead to 4-2. In the top of the fifth, Vernonia got a solo home run from Senior Ben Schorzman to cut the lead to one, but PC answered, scoring three in their half. Down 7-3 going into the sixth inning, the Loggers put up seven runs, led by Freshman Byron Schorzman's two run home run. With the Loggers needing only six outs to get the win, Coach Steve Schorzman called on the Loggers shut down man, Senior Russell Lende. The sixth was a breeze for Lende, who struck out two. The seventh was a different story. After getting a quick out, Tyler Nicholson sent a hanging curve ball over the left field fence to cut the lead to two. Lende managed to get another out, but then a runner on third scored on an overthrow, making the score 10-9 Vernonia. Alex Lemieux got a hit and managed to make it to second base. Then Jesse Severson hit one to right field, scoring Lemieux from second. Then the scorelessness began, with each side getting chance after chance but never capitalizing. Finally, Troy Hernandez put a two out pitch from Lende in the eleventh inning over the fence, winning the game 11-10. The Loggers came out in the second game wanting to get the taste of defeat out of their mouths. Junior Brent Thompson led off the game with a home run. But Sophomore Jeremy Lende couldn't hold the lead, and the Loggers fell 2-1 after five innings because of darkness.

Vernonia came back the next day in a double header against Seaside. Up 8-7 going into the seventh inning, the Loggers self-destructed, losing 8-12. The second game was an

improvement but still not what the Loggers wanted. After seven innings, with the score tied at three, the game was called on account of darkness and both teams left the field disappointed.

April 25 saw Vernonia finally get back on the winning track against the Portland Lutheran Blue Jays. PL is 0-17, but has one of the best pitchers in the league in Junior Scotty Burris. The Blue Jay's woes are caused by a lack of defense, hitting, and the overuse of Burris. (One week he pitched every inning of the three games they played. An arm just can't take that kind of use.) The first game was a nail biter, but really shouldn't have been close. The Loggers clung to a 1-0 lead going into the fifth inning when the Blue Jays scored two. At this point, Burris was throwing a no-hitter but, due to an error in the first inning, a run had scored. Finding themselves down, the Loggers answered, with Ben Schorzman not only breaking up the no-hitter with a single, but scoring a run on a Jeremy Lende double that put the Loggers up by one. PL answered again, tying the game up in the seventh inning. After a scoreless eighth for PL, Vernonia scored the winning run on an error by the third baseman. Burris pitched a great game for the Jays, striking out 15 Logger batters. The second game was better, but still not up to the team's standards. Although the team won 10-4, the Loggers let PL hang around. Russell Lende picked up the win for Vernonia, striking out 13 Blue Jays in five innings.

April 28, Vernonia traveled to Knappa for a double-header. The number two ranked team in the state had no problems, with Vernonia taking themselves out of both games early. Knappa swept the two games 11-1 and 7-1. Davis and Russell Lende took the losses for Vernonia.

SOFTBALL

The Lady Loggers continued their winning ways, extending their winning streak to six games. At Portland Christian on April 18, the game was closer than expected. Up 7-2 going into the bottom of the sixth inning, the Royals came back with six runs, taking an 8-7 lead. With their undefeated league season on the line, the Loggers responded with three runs in the top of the seventh, led by Junior Nandi VanMeter's go-ahead RBI single. Junior Christina Sohler hit well for the team, going 2-3 with two runs scored, a RBI, and two walks. On the mound, Brittney Lindauer went six innings, giving up six earned runs, and striking out nine.

In a possible State Playoff preview, the Lady Loggers hosted an excellent Regis Rams team on April 19. Vernonia's ace, Junior Joreigh Landers, threw an outstanding game, announcing that Vernonia is one of the best in the state. She allowed only one run on three hits, and struck out 15 in the 3-1 victory. Vernonia jumped out early, scoring three runs in the first three innings, led by Senior Kristin Cota's two runs.

The team added three more wins to their record with an easy 10-0 win over De La Salle on April 25, followed by a complete domination of the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates on April 27. In a double-header with the Pirates, the Loggers won the first game 26-0, batting around more than once in the first inning. In two at bats, Landers was 2-2 with a triple and a single and three RBI. The second game was much the same, with Lindauer pitching for Vernonia and getting the 19-3 win.

Vernonia continued their success the next day at Knappa with two more wins. The first win came relatively easily, with Vernonia winning 15-1 behind the strong pitching of Landers.

But the second game was very different. Knappa wouldn't go away after the 14 run beating, and stayed with Vernonia the entire game. It took some good hitting and some excellent pitching by Lindauer for Vernonia to get the 5-0 win.

TRACK

With two meets remaining before Districts, the track team is continuing to improve. Behind the solid performances of Junior Colton DeWitt in shot put, Junior Nicole Franz in the 3000, Senior Laura Brookins in the three throwing events, and foreign exchange student Rob Champion in the Long Jump and 200, and 100 meter sprints, the Loggers are hoping to sneak a couple more people into the State meet this year.

Champion has been the real success story for the team this year, placing in the top three in the 200, and 100 meter sprints every time. Even in the Long Jump, an event he's never done before, he jumped an 18'7", which is a state qualifying jump. Another pleasant surprise is Sophomore Michael

Calhoun. After a very successful Cross-Country season, Calhoun has cut his 1500 meter time to 4:51, 13 seconds better than his personal best. "Michael will eventually become one of the best 1500 runners in years at Vernonia," were Coach Byron Brown's remarks about the sophomore. Franz has also kept up her dominance from last year's State qualifying fun, winning most of her races so far this year.

Coach Brown is very impressed by this year's group of kids and says they are very talented with lots of potential, "It's been a pleasure to coach this team. The real challenges will come in the next two weeks. Our athletes have a lot of pride and I'm sure they will do their best."

GOLF

The golf team has played in a lot of meets this season, but due to some conflicts in scheduling, I haven't been able to get results. The next paper will have top finishers and team scores.

Cub Scouts get to meet the birds



Elizabeth, from the Audubon Society, with Hazel the owl.

A special visit from the Portland Audubon Society fascinated Cub Scout Pack 201 and their families, April 19. Following a slide show presentation about Birds of Prey, the scouts

were able to observe and touch various wings, talons and skulls.

The best part of the night, according to the boys, was meeting Hazel, a four-year-old Spotted Owl who was rescued around the age of one. She is a permanent resident at the Audubon Society. At the end of the presentation the boys were given the opportunity to sponsor Hazel with part of the proceeds from the visit. The monies will help with her care and diet of mice.

Each youngster was also given a couple of owl pellets collected by rural Vernonia resident Jim Prpich, from his resident barn owl.

**2nd Town Hall Forum
Long Range Planning for
Vernonia Schools
May 16, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
at Vernonia Middle School**



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