

## Vernonia Sports Report

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 should it be taken this way. His goal is to make Vernonia into a respected name again in basketball, and it takes more than smiles to do this. Change takes hard work, passion, and a drive to succeed, all things that Coach Aubin has. Over the past few years the program has lost this drive, not by the fault of any coach or player, but the mindset is there in a lot of players. A team needs to buy into what a coach is teaching them, and they need to buy into the team aspect and put the team ahead of themselves. A coach can only do so much, and then it's on the players. Once the Loggers realize what it takes to be successful, the sky's the limit. Until then, mediocrity awaits. And that's definitely something Coach Aubin doesn't want.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

On the girls' side of the court, a new face is on the bench. Head Coach Dan Utter has taken over for former coach Doran Lower. With Utter, the girls are also seeing a youth movement, with freshmen and sophomores seeing action. Sophomore Trisha Levenseller has even cracked the starting lineup, and brings hard work and hustle to the team. Senior Joreigh Landers is still up to her scoring ways averaging 17.6 points a game, and seniors Brittney Lindauer and Nandi Vanmeter have asserted themselves as scoring threats. Performing very solidly at running the point, senior Christina Sohler provides reassurance late in the games when turnovers can be costly. Juniors Jennifer Castro and Shandee Cota, first time varsity players, also see minutes.

Their non-league schedule started early, on November 28, with a match up versus the Amity Warriors. A close fought game, the end result was in favor of the Warriors, 38-35. Four days later, the girls opened the Catlin Gabel Tournament with a loss to the Dayton Pirates, 32-28. The next day in the third place game, the Loggers rebounded with a 52-45 win over the Delphian Dragons. Following the win, Vernonia played Gaston at home on December 6, beating them easily, 49-28. But any

thoughts of a winning streak were soon dashed after a heart breaking 39-37 loss at home to the Faith Bible Eagles. This loss started a six game skid that took the girls through the end of December. They saw losses to Rainier by 42, Portland Adventist Academy by 25 and a four-point loss to the OES Aardvarks, putting them 0-3 in league.

After Christmas came the Cougar Classic hosted by Gervais High School, December 28-29. In the first game, the Loggers played the Gervais Cougars but, after spotting the Cougars an early lead, they couldn't quite pull it out, losing by nine. Their opponent the next day would be new league opponent Catlin Gabel, who lost to Clatskanie. The game proved to be very exciting, and the girls played some of their best basketball of the season in the first 26 minutes. The problem was that games are 32 minutes long. Up at halftime by five, the girls came out the second half and pushed their lead to as much as 12. They started the fourth quarter up 10 points, but the Eagles made a run and cut that lead to two points. The rest of the quarter was spent trading buckets, with the lead margin for the Loggers going between two to tied. Then, with under a minute left and up two, Vernonia made a costly turnover that ended in a foul and put Catlin Gabel at the line, where they hit both

shots to tie the game. On the next possession, the Loggers saw a poor pass get stolen and the Eagles take it all the way back for a lay-up. Catlin Gabel would add another point on a free throw. Christina Sohler hit two free throws, but Joreigh Landers' half court shot at the buzzer fell short and Catlin Gabel pulled out the 41-40 win.

The new month and New Year brings hopes of a new start in league play. The team is 2-8 (0-3), and the Lady Loggers look to turn around their losing streak in the newly established Lewis & Clark League. This will be tough for a team that depends heavily on Landers for scoring, so they must develop new, consistent scoring options to help with the offense. And just like on the boy's team, being smart with the ball and not making costly turnovers will keep the girls in games more often than not. Coach Utter is optimistic though, "We are improving all the time, hopefully that improvement will show up soon in the form of wins. The girls are working hard and are learning how to show the consistent effort needed to win."

## What happened in Banks in 2006?

- January 28 - International Soup Festival
- February 4 - Banks Boy Scouts hold pinewood derby.
- March 14 - City Council votes to hire a City Manager.
- April 27 - Public meeting held on Apple Valley Airport expansion plans.
- August 1 - City increases garbage rate.
- August 18-20 - Banks Bar-B-Q, Truck & Tractor Pull.
- October 14 - All You Can Eat Crab Feed.
- December 2 - Banks Union Point Cemetery annual dinner.
- Three panels interview five candidates for city manager position.
- December 12 - Council hears panel recommendation to offer city manager job to Don Whitman, the candidate from Kansas.



- December 14 - Windstorm (see picture at left)
- December 16 - Free Holiday Concert for the community.

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