

Vernonia Sports Report

by Ben Schorzman

WRESTLING

Vernonia High School Wrestling is back for another year, and under second year head coach Dominic Nardelli, they are rolling over opponents of all sizes. With the help of coaches Chris Wolf, James Brookins, and Doug Dennis, through the end of December the team is a combined 10-3 in dual meets and they have placed high in all their tournaments.

They started early with a tournament in Banks, featuring some of the top teams from Oregon, including Willamina, Dayton, St. Helens, Toledo, Banks, and new league rival Rainier. On the way to the championship they beat Banks, Toledo and Rainier. The Loggers haven't beaten Banks since before Coach James Brookins, so it was another milestone for a Vernonia team that is quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with in the newly established 3A Lewis & Clark League.

The team's next test was a home dual meet versus 4A Seaside and Camas. In the first match versus Camas, the boys wrestled hard and easily beat Camas 54-24. But the match that the whole team was looking forward to was with the Seagulls of Seaside. For the first time in a long time, Vernonia was not invited back to the Pac Rim Tournament held by Seaside, and the wrestlers and coaches all felt slighted. "There was definitely a lot of motivation for us to go out and kick their butts," were Coach Nardelli's words on the subject. And kick their butts they did, with a huge 60-21 stomping of the Seagulls. We can probably guarantee a return to the Pac Rim next year.

These early successes set the Logger machine rolling,

and the boys went on to place second at the Jefferson Tournament, only 13 points out of first place. The team represented very well, placing 14 wrestlers in the top four. Following this came a strong showing at a tournament in Amity, and then a huge meet at the Northwest Duals at Westview High School. The NW Duals were set up so school class didn't matter and a 6A team could wrestle a 2A team. Vernonia did indeed wrestle bigger opponents, and again proved that Logger Wrestling is on the upswing. With a 5-3 record, the team got a chance to prove themselves against larger teams such as Liberty and Parkrose. Overall they beat Liberty, Banks, Parkrose, Neah-Kah-Nie, and Grant. With these five wins, the boys suffered their first dual meet defeats, all to larger opponents. Tualatin, Century and Cleveland beat Vernonia, but with all of those teams being 6A or 5A, Vernonia should be proud of their strong performance. Coach Nardelli really loves the support from the community as well. "It's nice to go places and compete for the top spot. We're only going to get better. The size of the Vernonia supporters is growing. The community is definitely showing their support. It's nice to see a packed crowd on Dual night. Even down at Jefferson we had a big crowd. It's nice to have a cheering section for those kids."

When asked about surprises from the season so far, Coach Nardelli emphatically stated that there weren't really any. "Everyone has just been wrestling solid. The middle school program has really helped. They've been wrestling tough, and everyone is listening and buying into what this program is all about. Two years

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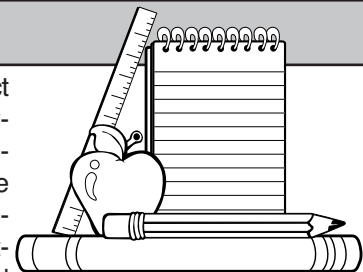
Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a monthly column with Vernonia schools information. It is written by various staff members. This month's column is by Superintendent Kenneth Cox.

A Sense of Community

A new year is upon us and the old one left us

with some distinct memories. Perhaps the most recent event was the wind storm and resulting power outage that occurred



Vernonia Sports Home Game Schedule

Wrestling	Thursday, Jan. 4, against Nestucca & St. Helens at 5 pm
Varsity Basketball	
Boys	Tuesday, Jan. 9 against Warrenton at 7:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 16 against Clatskanie at 7:30 pm
Girls	Same as Boys above except game time is 6:00 pm
JV Basketball	
Boys	Same as Varsity except games at 4:30 pm
Girls	Same as Varsity except games at 3:00 pm

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Classes at Vernonia Community Learning Center

ART 115	Basic Design	17471
BA 250	Small Business Management	17427
RD 115	College Reading	15316
WR 115	Intro to Expository Writing	17426
CED 0552	Spanish Conversation Term I	16619
CED 0861	Drivers Education	13360
CED 0861	Drivers Education – under 17 yrs	16631

Classes at St. Helens High

EC 200	Principles of Economics	17539
MTH 65	Intro to Algebra – Term II	14193
SP 111	Public Speaking	17540
WR 121	English Composition	14194

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