

# VHS Sports Report

by Gordon Jarman, Athletic Director, Vernonia High School.

With the completion of the Spring Sports Dessert, held May 30 in the Vernonia High School Gym, the spring version of Vernonia Athletics comes to a successful end. The sports of Track, Golf, Baseball, Equestrian and Softball were all represented in post-season play. Several individual athletes were recognized as all league performers on Wednesday night they were: Tim Prpich for golf, Colton DeWitt for track, both first team all-league, as well as McKenzie Carr and Stephanie Carr who set a team record in the Bi-Wrangel event for the Equestrian Team and represented Vernonia at state competition in that event.

In baseball Senior Brent Thompson and Sophomore Byron Schorzman were first team all-league and Juniors Jeramey Lende and Cody Davis were second team all-league selections. In softball the loggers placed several girls on the various all-league teams. Joreigh Landers, Brittany Lindauer, Miranda Nutting and Christina Sohler were first team honorees, while Brittney Paden and Nandi Van Meter were second team all-league selections. To round out the all league representatives for the Lady Loggers, Danielle Robb was selected as an Honorable Mention all league performer and Head Coach Lindsey Dunkel was selected as co-coach of the year for the league. In a fitting reward for her outstanding career at Vernonia, Joreigh Landers, for the fourth year in a row, was selected as the player of the year for the Lewis & Clark League.

### Team Reports:

In Golf, Tim Prpich won a trip to the state tournament by finishing in the top of the District One Golf Tournament. Tim was the first golfer from Vernonia in several years to qualify for state and, being only a sophomore, he will be back for the next few years to lead the resurging Loggers golf program. The golf team finished with twenty athletes, the largest turnout in many years. Coach Rod Devine looks forward to next year's team with several returning lettermen and younger golfers with experi-

ence vying for the Varsity team.

In Track and Field, Colton DeWitt was first in the Lewis & Clark League, District One track meet in the shot put. His effort put him in the state track meet, held at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, May 18 and 19. Competing in the state meet was a first for Colton and he represented the Loggers well, placing ninth, just 0.5 inch short of the eighth place finisher and a state medal. According to Head Coach Byron Brown, this year's turnout was one of the largest in many years for Vernonia. With several underclassmen returning, such as Matt Hunt, Blake Moeller, Samantha Lee, Caleb Rice and Kevin Cook, the future for Track and Field at Vernonia looks bright.

In Baseball, the team struggled the first part of the season and was plagued by a smaller than normal turn-out. They rallied during the second half of the season, behind the pitching of Cody Davis, the fielding of Byron Schorzman and the batting of Brent Thompson, to place fourth in the league and earn a spot in the league play-offs. They faced a tough team the first round. Rainier had beaten the Loggers three times during the regular season. In the playoffs it looked as if Vernonia would turn the tables on the Columbians, leading ten to two after four innings. It was not to be, however, and the home town Rainier nine came back to

score twenty runs and emerge with a twenty-two to twelve victory. That ended the season for the Loggers. There were some bright spots this year – the fielding of Luke Johnston and the hustle of Bud Normand, Jeff Paleck and Patrick Peets were among those highlights. However, the emergence of freshman sensation Alex Lende as a pitcher was one of the better performances this year. Coach Steve Schorzman has several talented young ball players returning and looks to be in the league play-offs again next year and perhaps make it to the next round, which would be the state play-offs.

In Softball, the Lady Loggers continued their domination of the softball ranks at the three A level. They started strong and finished strong. The Vernonia team finished the year third in the conference which put them in the league play-offs at Clatskanie and, after dismantling Warrenton in the first game of the playoffs, they defeated the host Clatskanie team, earning a spot as the second team representing the Lewis & Clark League in the state tournament. In the first round of the state tournament the hometown team hosted a strong Umatilla Vikings team. They soundly defeated the Vikings and moved on to the second round of the state play-offs to compete against Valley Catholic on the Valiant's home field. The game was very tight

throughout the contest, but the fourth inning proved to be the Loggers undoing, as some timely hits and some untimely errors allowed the Valiants to score four runs in the inning and, after seven complete innings, the final score was Valley Catholic 4 and the Lady loggers 0. That ended the season for the Lady Loggers, who graduated several seniors who were instrumental in providing the spark that set the stage for continued softball success for

future Logger teams. These seniors will all be missed as they move on to their future, which for the younger Vernonia softball teams, looks great with returning players picking up where these departing Loggers left off. Vernonia will be looking for a new head coach to lead future teams as Head Coach Lindsey Dunkel announced her resignation to take a teaching job in her home town of Scappoose for the upcoming year.

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