

Basketball at Gaston gives team a bit of normalcy in spite of mud

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they raised quite a bit of money, which is awesome," said Vernonia boys head coach Ted Aubin. "The support and everybody coming to our aid has been very, very appreciated by the whole community."

Gaston won the varsity girls game, 27-26, while Vernonia rolled in the varsity boys affair, 88-68. But the big story of the night wasn't the outcome of either game.

Gaston raised nearly \$600 at the gate and another \$75 with a 50-50 raffle. Reeve Woodward, a teacher at Gaston High, won the raffle and donated his portion to the fund as well. In addition, the school's senior class, under the guidance of Rich Horton, donated a portion of their concession sales, bringing the grand total to just over \$900.

And for good measure, Olietti threw in several pairs of Nike

basketball shoes, some of which, according to Jarman, have already been given to players who lost their belongings in the flood.

"When I talked to Tim on the phone, he said, 'If you guys can get over here we'll donate the gate receipt to you,'" Jarman said. "The whole thing was just a really nice gesture."

Olietti, not one for self-flagellation, was quick to deflect credit to the fans who came out

and donated money to the fund-raising effort.

"We just decided we would like to make some kind of donation," he said. "It sort of grew from there."

The impact is still being felt, as Portland Adventist will be doing a similar fund-raiser for their home game against Vernonia on Thursday. Meanwhile, Scappoose High School opened its doors to Vernonia students starting Tuesday.

"You're going to face adversity in life just like in basketball," Aubin said. "Mental toughness is how quickly you forget about the previous play and focus on the next one. We're not going to forget what happened in the flood, but let's put that aside and get focused on games and having some fun together."

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