

Jarman gives final sports report for the 2009-10 school year

by Athletic Director Gordon Jarman

The spring sports season ended on a successful note for the Vernonia Loggers and Toppers. Some highlights included a softball team qualifying for the state play-offs, two members of the track team earning honorable mention all state, two golfers earning a berth at the state meet, one equestrian competitor at state and a baseball team in the league play-offs. A total of 180 athletes competed at the middle and high school levels in all the sports offerings.

In Equestrian, Brianna Carr represented the team at the state meet held in Central Point. She competed in Barrel Racing and Keyhole event. Although she did not place, she is only a junior and will be back for one more year.

In Golf, Paul Whiteman and Su Min Kim were in the state meet. Neither athlete placed at state, but Su Min did an excellent job competing in her first-ever American Golf season. She is a foreign exchange student from Korea. Both athletes earned the Mickey Bruers memorial golf award, presented annually to the outstanding golfer on Vernonia's team.

In Baseball, the team consisted of a Varsity and JV team. It is the first time in several years we were able to field a JV team. The team's win percentage was over .500 this year and their participation can only

help the Loggers in the future. The Varsity team moved up one notch from last year, ending in 3rd place in league standings and just missing a berth in the state play-offs. With only a few student athletes graduating, the prospects for next year's team look very bright. Vernonia and Jewell School had a co-op arrangement for baseball. Jewell sent three athletes to Vernonia to participate; two played Varsity and one played on the JV team. This Co-op will not be possible next year because the combination of both schools' ADM would push us over the limit for 2A schools that have baseball and make us compete at the 3A level. There were only a few seniors on the team this year but they were very good. Two of the seniors were all league and will be missed greatly as the Loggers transition to a new level of competition.

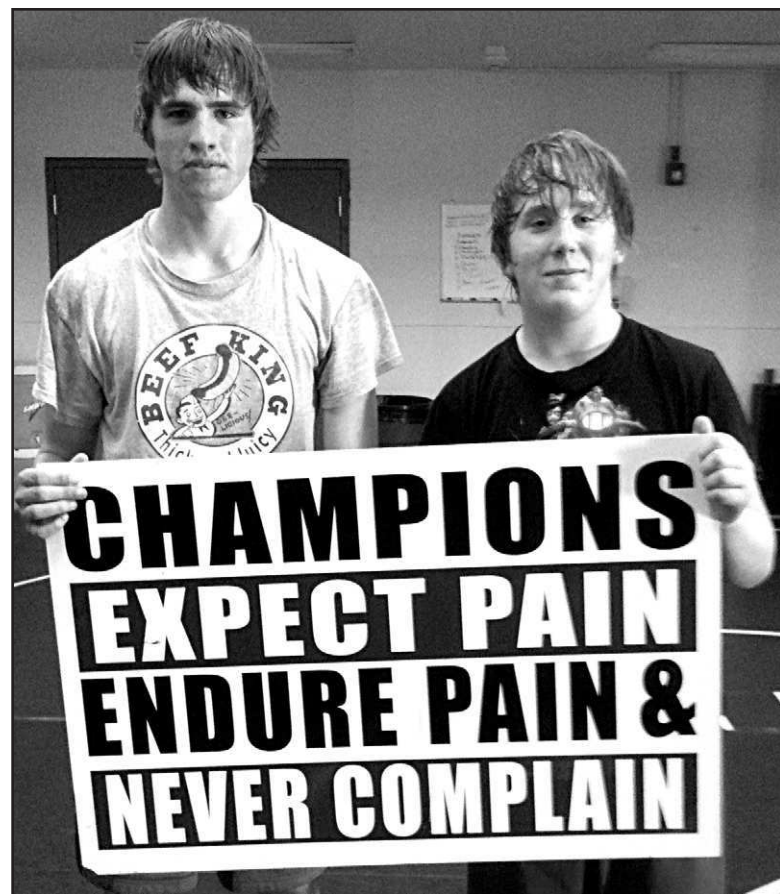
Softball enjoyed the greatest success this spring. Seven Lady Loggers were named all league. The entire infield was either 1st or 2nd team along with a pitcher. There was also an all league outfielder. Playing together and working hard earned these ladies a berth in the state tournament. They lost in the first round after being rained out and playing without much warning on the second day, but their spirits were not dampened and they led in that contest after three innings. The bad news about this group is that, of the seven all league players, six of them are graduating seniors. Overall the Varsity team posted a 13-9 record and the JV team had a 7-1 record. With the loss of so many seniors the JV team will

become very important as we look to replace that talented group of young ladies. Nineteen players started and finished the season.

Track also enjoyed success, but on a limited basis. There were not enough team members to compete for dual meet wins, but there were several outstanding individuals. The girls 4x100 relay team made it to the state meet but were disqualified in their race because of a lane violation. Which was too bad because at one time during the year these girls posted the fastest time in the state. Individually, Katy Stevens (400 meters) and Levi Timmerman (Javelin) were named all state honorable mention for their efforts.

Spring sports at the middle school were remarkable for the sheer numbers of athletes turning out for track and field. Ninety-seven sixth, seventh and eighth graders started the season and finished in the mid-seventies. Track is the only middle school athletic activity offered in the spring and is a greatly needed outlet for these young people. Only two coaches cover this duty and their time and the monies allocated for the program are very well spent. These teams compete in the Columbia-Pacific League which includes several large schools like St. Helens, Astoria, Seaside and Scappoose, as well as our normal high school league public schools. At the district meet with all of these schools, we had three athletes win the district title: Stephanie Castro won district shot-put for the third year in a row, Julianne Fletcher won in seventh grade javelin and Zin_Xmin Chen in

seventh grade boys high jump. Next year we will be competing at the 2A level.



Jacob Stevens (on left) and Jake Barnes, funning around after recent "open mat" session. See article below.

Coaches offer open mat hours

VHS coaches Chris Wolf and Chris Barnes are opening the doors of the VHS wrestling room this summer for anyone who would like to get some mat time. The coaches expect it to be a fun atmosphere and say whoever walks through the door has exceeded their expectations. Barnes said, "It's a well-known fact that kids who are summer wrestlers are winter champions and the coaches

are determined to support the wrestlers."

Open mat hours are 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. The format is simple: a short warm up followed by a 20 minute technique session, then approximately 50 minutes of whatever the kids would like to work on. Usually it's live wrestling and the coaches just run the clock while the kids

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CHS seeks items for garage sale

The Columbia Humane Society is now accepting items for their annual Columbia Humane Society Garage Sale. Donations can be taken to Columbia Self Storage, 755 N Columbia River Hwy, in St Helens, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. or Sundays from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Donations

will be taken until September 19 (except no donations on July 4 or September 5). They will not accept TVs, cribs or car seats, shoes or clothing except for infant/toddler and no home improvement items such as sinks, light fixtures, etc.

Yappy Hour raises funds for CHS

The Columbia Humane Society will hold a fundraiser on July 9, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Dockside Steak and Pasta, 343 S. First St., in Old Towne St. Helens. Ten percent of food and drink purchases will be do-

lated to the humane society.

Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome and there is a canine menu which includes pasta and meatballs for the dog visitors.

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