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Neah-Kah-Nie High School



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Winter 2010 - 2011

Winter Sports Preview



Photos by Dick Diamond

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STUDDED TIRES

Varsity boys look to turn 'positives' into wins

By **DICK DIAMOND**
For the Citizen

Seniors Sam Gray and Jake Corser, along with junior Scott Porter, will be the leaders and the strength of the Pirate basketball team this year.

Gray was second team All-League last year and rotated in his football QB leadership position with Porter. Gray was injured during a defensive play and did not play during the middle part of the season.

Joining this trio will be senior Devante Dickerson, a transfer from Tillamook. According to Steven Sherren, the head basketball coach, "Dickerson will help with his athleticism and speed." Dickerson is also exciting to watch, and gave some sterling performances in football this year.

Joining this quartet will be a host of players from last year's JV squad – juniors Tyson Jacobsen, Wyatt Drake, Bradley Winsted, Jared Darby and Michael Maizel. Rounding out the team will be sophomore Mike Nel-

son.

Two other sophomores, Laird Tuel and Wayne Moore, will "swing" between varsity and JV.

As a result of being "undersized" for basketball – the tallest player being six feet three inches – the team, according to Sherren, will try to spread across the floor and use a motion offense and speed to get open shots.

With his ability and speed on both on defense and offense, Dickerson will certainly be a Pirate force to reckon with.

As the new varsity players gain experience with the speed of varsity play, there will be obvious improvement on the floor.

With one of the largest rosters in years -- there are 10 players on varsity and 15 on the JV squad -- the program is set to take off in 2A over the next few years. All the members of the JV squad are freshmen (six) and sophomores (nine).

Although the team lost its opener to 3A Portland Adventist (PAA), there are several posi-

tive points:

1. This is a disciplined team. These young men have checked their egos in the locker room. They pass the ball well and constantly look for the open man.

2. Porter and Gray will continue to lead the team and probably get more minutes per game in the guard position. This should bring some consistency and stability to the offense.

3. Corser and Maizel will give some needed muscle to the inside, as they demonstrated in the season's opener.

4. Dickerson has speed, and although tried to do too much at times in the PAA contest, he is a quick learner, a team player, and an asset to the program.

5. Having Tim Gienger as JV coach will really help the team. He was a great basketball player while at NKN, and continued to play in men's leagues after college. He's a student of the game.

6. The roster numbers show great promise for the future. Several of the sophomores on the JV squad have a full year of



Varsity boys basketball team in early season action against Portland Adventist Academy. Photo by Dick Diamond

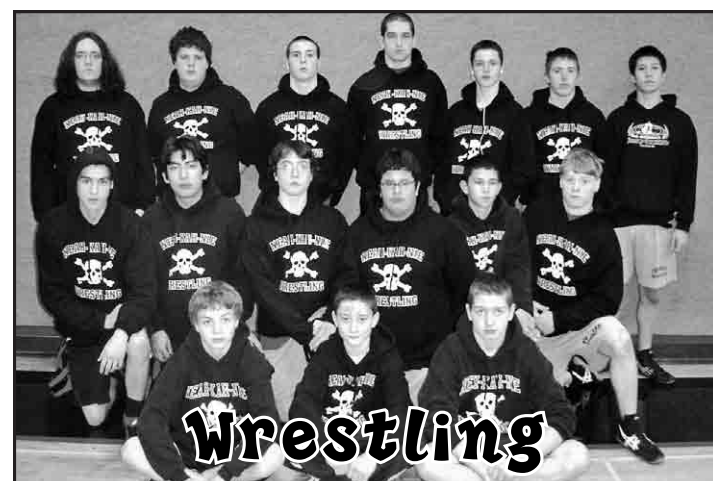
experience at the high school level and will mature in the course of the season.

7. Although the varsity has

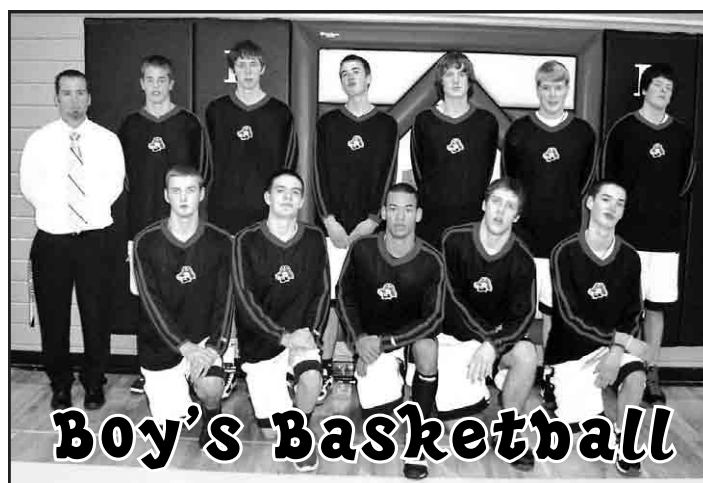
three outstanding seniors on the squad, the remainder of the roster is composed of underclassmen.



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By DICK DIAMOND For the Citizen

Those who missed the cheer show at the Pirates home football game against Portland Christian missed a real treat.

Young ladies and a gentleman from two elementary schools strutted their stuff before the packed stadium.

The elementary students, 11 from Garibaldi Grade School and nine from Nehalem Elementary, performed under the direction of Cheer coach Virginia Cole and her high school cheer squad.

At Saturday clinics before the game, the "Little Pirates" worked some routines with the varsity squad and performed them at the game.

Mascot Petey Pirate joined in the festivities at the game as well as at the clinic.

The brainchild of Cole, most of the organization and planning for the show is done through the

senior project by one of the varsity cheer members. This year it was Captain Lauren Meiter.

Cole's idea is to build a base for cheer, which is a recognized athletic activity by OSAA and many colleges.

In addition, the activity as envisioned by Cole will help to build a sense of community within the school district.

Competitive cheer is a growing activity. To say it's not a sport is to ignore the training regime and physical ability necessary to be involved.

Assemblies were held at the elementary schools, and the Pirate cheer squad picked the music and decided on the dance routines.

Some of the songs and routines came from Outdoor School. Not only did the mostly freshmen girls love the event, but the youngsters from the elementary schools clearly loved getting an opportunity to show off with the "big kids."

The Neah-Kah-Nie cheer squad is embarking this year on a program of competition cheer. There is a desire to have more "stunting."

Those who have been to football games will be able to attest to the increased skill of

the cheer team and the fact that there is finally interest from the male side of the student body, adding to the opportunity to engage in serious stunting.

This summer, Cole took the squad to a clinic at Forest Grove and has paired up with that school in working on competition cheer.

Competitive cheer is a growing activity. To say it's not a sport is to ignore the training regime and physical ability necessary to be involved. The same training regime in dance routines in the world of Broadway and other venues such as the Olympics is no less than that of any other sport.

OSSA recognizes cheerleading competition as any other activity. It has rules, sanctions competitions, and has the state divided into the same classifications as any sport or activity, 6A through 3A/2A/1A. In addition, there are female teams and coeducational teams. The national competition is fierce and the trophies are just as prized as those in football or baseball. Usually, the national cheer competition is filmed and shown on one of the ESPN channels.

Beyond the cheer squad, Cole has also established a dance team at the high school. The 20-member team continues to grow, entertains at basketball games, and provides yet another activity to encourage participation in campus activities.

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Veteran wrestlers lead the way

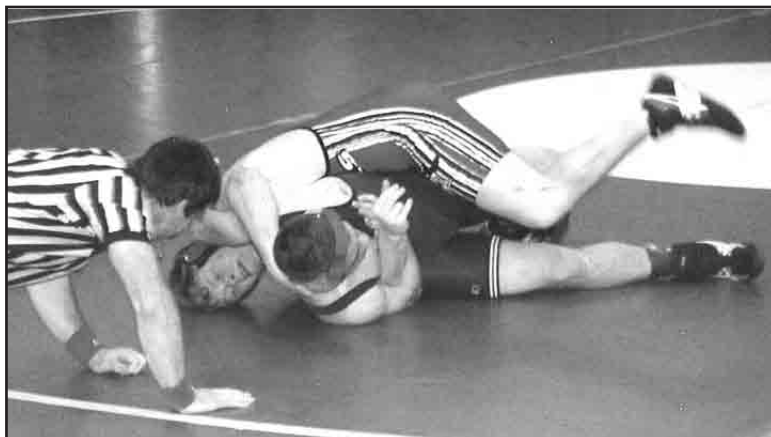
By **DICK DIAMOND**
For the Citizen

Head Coach Dan Kamerer has a bevy of wrestlers from newbies to state qualifiers from last year.

Leading a squad of 16 with every weight class covered will be two state qualifiers from last year: juniors Austin Cherry (160/171) and Ben Purcell (135), both of whom should provide outstanding leadership for a veteran team.

Joining Cherry and Purcell will be district placers seniors Charlie Griffith (189), Jacob Grelck (140/45) and Ben Lee (145/52). Including Cherry and Purcell, the junior class is well endowed with district placers Eli Culver (125), Christian Panlilio (140/45), and James Dotson (152/60). With five wrestlers who are veterans placers of district tournaments and state experience, Kamerer's "tough" job will be working these matmen at their best weight class.

Additional veteran wrestlers from last year include freshmen Logan Romig (103) and Matt Clayton (103/112), both who have had junior high wrestling experience, sophomore Trent Chambers (215/285) and junior



The Pirates' James Dotson in action at the NKN Invitational held Dec. 4. Photos by Dick Diamond

Anthony Borjes (215).

Team newbies include freshman Rey Corrales (119), as well as juniors Alex Kammerer, (135/40), Jefferson Serrano (135/40) and Josue Perez (285).

"With all this experience, especially as district placers, this will be crucial at tournaments where wrestlers are seeded and not randomly drawn," said Kamerer, who is assisted by John Longfellow.

Neah-Kah-Nie is in a new district this year and at the 2A level. Among top teams along with the Pirates will be Vernonia, Central Linn and county rival Nestucca.

It will be more difficult to get

to state this year. Under the new format decided by OSAA, only first- and second-place wrestlers at the district from each weight class will be "ticketed" to state, with some third-placers trying to get in through a "wrestle back."

"Basically, during a district tournament, the wrestler who earns third place and hasn't wrestled the second placer during the tournament, can challenge the second placer in a 'wrestle back,' Kamerer explained. "If the third-placer beats the second-placer in the 'wrestle back,' he earns the trip to state."

Now, that should be exciting!

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BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 2	PAA	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	Seaside JV only	6:00 p.m.
Dec. 8	Warrenton	3:00 p.m.
Dec. 10 & 11	Kennedy Tournament	3:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	Vernonia	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Faith Bible	5:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	Amity	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 22	Clatskanie	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 27 & 28	Driftwood Classic (East Linn)	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 4	Nestucca	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	Riverdale	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 13	Knappa	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 15	Delphian	1:00 p.m.
Jan. 18	Gaston	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 21	Portland Christian**	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	Faith Bible	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	Vernonia	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 29	Riverdale Warrenton - JV Girls only	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 1	Delphian	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 3	Knappa	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	Nestucca	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 10	Gaston **	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	Portland Christian	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 15	Tie Breaker	TBA
Feb. 17	Playoffs	TBA
Feb. 19	Playoffs	TBA

** Varsity boys will play before the varsity girls.
Bold red type denotes home game.

WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 4	NKN Invitational <i>Newport, Santiam, Seaside</i>	10 a.m.
Dec. 11	Warrenton	10 a.m.
Dec. 17	Dual <i>Banks, Taft</i>	TBA
Jan. 7 & 8	Alsea Bay Classic at Waldport	1 p.m.
Jan. 15	Battle at the Beach at Taft HS	10 a.m.
Jan. 19	League Dual <i>Eddyville, Perrydale, Siletz, Nestucca, NKN</i>	5 p.m.
Jan. 21 & 22	Pac-Rim at Seaside	3 p.m. & 10 a.m.
Jan. 29	Gervais Invitational	10 a.m.
Feb. 2	League Dual at Knappa <i>Monroe, Knappa, NKN</i>	5 p.m.
Feb. 8	League Dual at Vernonia <i>Central Linn, NKN</i>	5 p.m.
Feb. 12	NKN Wrestling Tournament <i>Banks, Taft</i>	10 a.m.
Feb. 18 & 19	Districts at Central Linn	TBA
Feb. 25 & 26	State - Memorial Coliseum	TBA

Bold red type denotes home match.
Times given are for the beginning of the wrestling match.
Weigh-in times precede the match 1-1/2 to 3 hours.



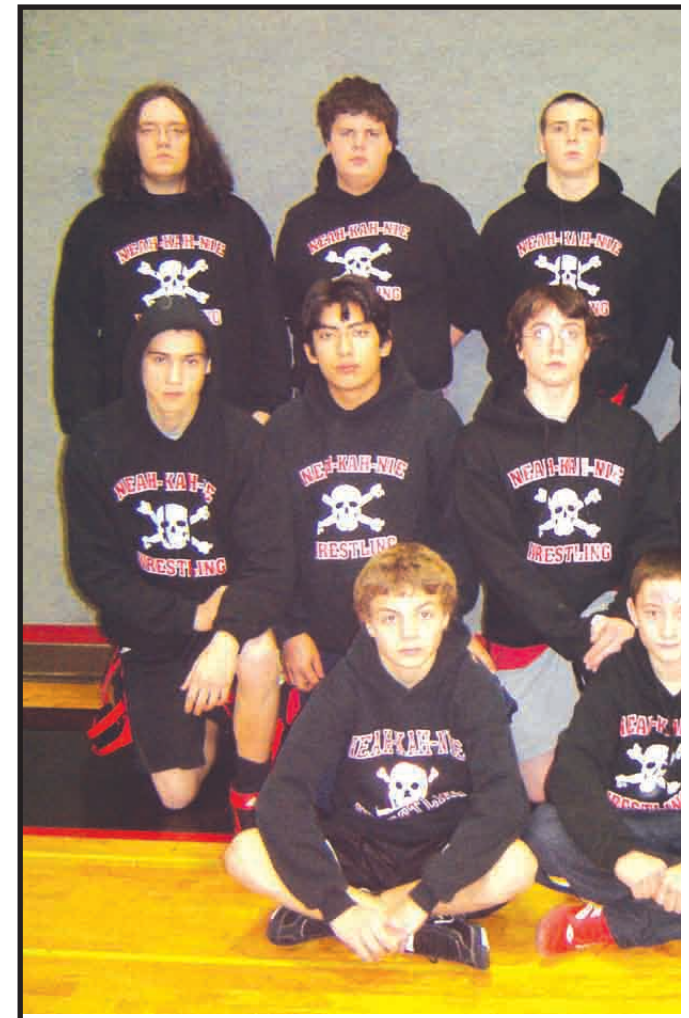
Boys Varsity Basketball

Front row, left to right: Tyson Jacobsen, Jr.; Scott Porter, Jr.; Davante Dickerson, Sr.; Sam Gray, Sr.; and Wyatt Drake, Jr. Back row, left to right: Coach Steve Sherren; Bradley Winsted, Jr.; Jered Darby, Jr.; Michael Maizel, Jr.; Wayne Moore, So.; Mike Nelson, So.; and Jake Corser, Sr.



Boys JV Basketball

Front row, left to right: Branson Laszlo, So.; Andrew Smith, Fr.; Alejandro Quintana, Fr.; Nick Smith, Fr.; Coby Jacobsen, Fr.; Brad Watson, So.; and Casey Ngirarois, So. Back row, left to right: Coach Tim Gienger; James Tice, So.; Akshar Patel, So.; Craig Grasseth, Fr.; Nathan Imholt, Fr.; Laird Tuel, So.; Austin Buckmeier, So.; Cody Sampson, So.; and Tanner Repass, So.



Wrestling

Front row, left to right: Matt Clayton, Fr.; Logan Ron Culver, Jr.; Jefferson Serrano, Jr.; Alex Kammerer, Jr. Back row, left to right: Anthony Borjes, Jr.; Trent C Ben Purcell, Jr.; Jacob Grelck, Sr.; and Christian Par Not pictured: Head Coach Dan Kamerer and Assiste



Sports



Wrestling Squad

Front row, left to right: Manager Nevada Brekke, Fr.; and Ben Lee, Sr. Middle row, left to right: Eli [Name], Jr.; Josue Perez, Jr.; Rey Carrales; and James Dotson, Chambers, So.; Austin Cherry, Jr.; Charlie Griffith, Sr.; and [Name], Sr. Back row, left to right: Assistant Coach John Longfellow.



Girls JV Basketball

Front row, left to right: Manager Nevada Brekke, Fr.; Carmen Medina, Fr.; Samantha Finlay, Fr.; Sara Peterson, Jr.; Carly Persons, So.; Taylor Winer, Fr.; and Dana Moore, Fr. Back row, left to right: Manager Jena Cadwallader, Sr.; Kristina Burdick, Fr.; Destiny Canaday, Fr.; Belen Martin, Sr.; Tasha Mabe-DeRoest, Fr.; Rachel O'Quinn, So.; and Coach April Crissman-Lee.



Girls Varsity Basketball

Front row, left to right: Manager Nevada Brekke, Fr.; Shelby Porter, Jr.; Shelby Grelick, Jr.; Rachel Porter, Sr.; Carly Person, So.; Manager Jena Cadwallader, Sr.; and Manager Miguel Mendoza. Back row, left to right: Coach Corey Douma; Brianna Edginton, Sr.; Erica Lee, Sr.; Alexis Anderson, Jr.; Rachel O'Quinn, So.; Dana Moore, Fr.; Kristina Burdick, Fr.; and Coach Ken Alcorn.

Lady Pirates ready to compete in some serious basketball

This team executes well, doesn't panic, and plays like a well-oiled machine

By **DICK DIAMOND**
For the Citizen

With the return of senior Erica Lee to help Alexis Anderson in the low post, the Lady Pirates, under the tutelage of coaches Corey Douma and Ken Alcorn, are ready to play some serious basketball in the 2A Northwest League.

Lee is one of the toughest players in the area and always the first to take a charge. Anderson, a junior, is maturing as one of the finest natural athletes the Lady Pirates have had recently.

(Although it's Principal Heidi "The Buck Stops Here" Buckmaster who still holds the girls javelin record at NKN.)

With senior Rachel Porter at point guard and Shelby Grelick at the other guard, the Lady Pirates will have strength and experience in the back court as well as height and toughness in the middle.

Senior Brianna Edginton will round out the starting five.

Junior Shelby Porter, back from an injury last year (along with Lee) will be the sixth Lady

Pirate off the bench. In addition to these players, sophomores Rachel O'Quinn and Carley Parsons will be joined by freshmen Dana Moore and Kristina Burdick to round out the varsity squad. These last four will also "swing" between varsity and JV.

Grelick's credentials include a "dead-eye" from the three-point range. She also tied the record for one-game assists with April Lee, who held the distinction from 2005-06. Her back court mate, Porter, is also a three-point expert, which helps keep their opponents from closing under the basket. Porter holds the record in percentage (36.4) over the past five years for three-point shots.

In the pre-league opener against 3A Portland Adventist (PAA), the girls were a bit overwhelmed with PAA's shooting ability, but Grelick, Porter, Anderson and Edginton all showed their talents. Grelick hit two treys and Porter was five-for-six at the charity stripe. Grelick, Rachel Porter and Edginton were the high-point ladies with 12, 10 and 8 points respectively.

Shelby Porter showed why she is the "go-to" Lady Pirate off the bench. She and her sister each pulled in five rebounds and Anderson was high with six. Anderson also was the "stopper" and had the most defensive stats (rebounds, steals and blocks). Unfortunately, Lee suffered a knee injury in the first quarter and didn't see much action.



Photo by Dick Diamond

The Lady Pirates varsity team poses for the camera before its game with Portland Adventist Academy.

All told, there are 17 Lady Pirates on the roster (varsity and JV) with seven freshmen, two sophomores and four juniors.

The discipline taught to the Lady Pirates by Douma and Alcorn shows. The team executes well, doesn't panic, evades the trap play and plays like a

Douma was particularly pleased with the performances of Lee and Shelby Porter, he said.

This year, the Lady Pirates will play in the 2A Northwest League.

"Portland Christian will be very tough and Gaston has a good core coming back from last year," Douma said. "We have the ability to be very competitive."

In the format for state 2A basketball this year, four teams will make the playoffs from the Northwest League. Each regular 2A league will have one opportunity to send four teams to the playoffs within the four-year block of alignment.

The following year, another league will have four playoff teams and the Northwest League will have three. This holds true for the boys as well as girls team.

Unlike volleyball, there will be no western and eastern division. Each school will play the other two times.

Anyone who has watched Douma-led teams since 2005 knows this: they never give up.

well-oiled machine. Anyone who has watched Douma-led teams since 2005 knows this: they never give up.

Douma said the team had a very good summer camp, playing more than 25 games. At the Joseph camp in July, they competed against some top 2A and 1A teams and held their own.

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Leo Club's 'little things' make big impact

By **KATHLEEN ELLYN**
For the Citizen

Some 30 needy families in the area will be getting a double-dose of Christmas cheer this year when members of the Neah-Kah-Nie High Leo Club finish packing up the Christmas gifts they will deliver.

The Leos also helped provide the contents of North County Food Bank's Christmas food boxes that were part of a collaborative effort to include good protein in the mix.

Thanks to an effort begun by Bill and Peggy Campbell last year, cans of Coho salmon donated by the Waterhouse Falls Hatchery, canned by Tillamook Bay Boat House, sporting labels designed by Brad Gerards' graphics class, and packaged by the Leos will be in those food boxes.

"The Leos have packaged 4,200 7.5 ounce cans and will be finishing up another 2,000 cans in the near future," reports Leos advisor Jim Cox.

That's a lot of goodwill, but it's just part of what the Leos do – and the students in the Leos don't consider it a big deal. The good works they do are "little things," according to Brianna Edgington, the Leos' student



president.

"Being a part of Leos provides a really great opportunity to get out and help people and be involved with your school," Edgington said. "I like it because we're helping people at all times."

The Leo's collaboration with the Food Bank is historic: The Leo's sponsor the Home for the Holiday's Bazaar at the high school each year to raise money to purchase foods not donated through their regular canned

food drives and to pay for the Christmas gifts; a list of Christmas gift requests is provided by Neah-Kah-Nie School District family resource manager Fredia Tosch.

This year the Bazaar boasted approximately 40 vendors and Leos collected \$1,200 total in booth fees. The homecoming week coin drive also brought in over \$1,000, which was split between the Leos and student council.

Much of that money will be used to purchase new gifts for needy families. The Neah-Kah-Nie honor society joined the Leos to pack and wrap those gifts this week.

Another Leos project is the upcoming blood drive. Edgington shrugs off the organizational work of that project and again emphasizes the little things members of the club enjoy providing. "The things that we do are so small that we have a good time doing the little things – like holding people's hands when they're giving blood," she said.

This is just the spirit the Lion's Club hopes to foster in its junior organization – and the example the Lions Club sets is not lost on Edgington.

"I'd love to take the opportu-

nity to join Lions, later on," she said.

"The Lion's Club does really great things for our school by donating money. We always want to thank them for that – they help out a lot."

Check the high school website www.neahkahn.k12.or.us for many more Christmas gift collection drives sponsored by the Lions Club and other groups.

The website will also publish the date of the upcoming blood drive. Look for Leos members along the roadside after Christmas break as they begin a new project – cleaning roadsides in both directions from the High School at Rockaway Beach.

"I'm excited about that,"

Edgington said. "I love how clean we keep the highways."



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Pirates dominate, and intimidate, in speech & debate

By **KATHLEEN ELLYN**
For the Citizen

Cross swords with the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates' speech and debate team at your peril. They may sail with a skeleton crew of just 12 to 15 active members, but the streamlined team knows how to cut down the opposition and come home with the treasure.

All nine of the members who went to the October Sam Barlow Invitational came home finalists – and they were competing against schools with 2,500 students, some fielding as many as 60 debate students.

"Our kids have some high expectations," admitted coach Rick Morton. "It was a nice start. I don't think we did as well at Clackamas Holiday Edge where we competed against 39 other teams – the largest and best speech teams in the state. We took nine competitors and four made it to finalist."

Well, even a Pirate can have an off day, and the debate team just shakes off performances in which they fail to dominate teams four times their size.

"When I lose, I always can take something away from the experience," said Marliana Isbell, a team co-president (with Kelsey Filosi).

"Everybody gets better every week," Morton said. "We have

four more tourneys before district at which the team historically does very well -- never finishing lower than 5th at the 1A-4A level in the last 12 years."

One of those leaders is Isbell, who recently won traveling papers to attend the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs United Nations Educational Pilgrimage for Youth Conference. Her subject for the winning speech was the viability of the current goals and directions of the United Nations.

Intimidated? You ought to be.

"For me, discovering speech was discovering my passion," Isbell said. "It allows me to express myself and discuss issues that we don't cover in a

normal school day."

The Odd Fellows are impressed and they're sending Isbell to New York, Washington D.C. and Ottawa, Canada next June. It's a two-week all-expenses-paid trip.

Not surprisingly, Isbell is interested in politics, economics and law – she can clearly go in any direction her interests take her with these skills.

"I use the skills that I learn in speech and debate daily," Isbell said. "Socially, speech gives me an advantage over most of the students at my school. I am able to hold a conversation about an array of topics, and catch references that most kids my age don't."

And then there's the winning.

"When I win, it is the best feeling in the world," Isbell said. "Being such a small school, it is always so amazing to see that we do so well against schools that have huge teams. I think that the one-on-one attention we get with the coaches is really what helps us do well."

That sort of recognition warms the cockles of a Pirate captain's heart. Morton, who is filling in for regular coach Holly Lorincz, was a member of a speech and debate team "three decades ago. Those memories are hazy at best," he said. What he had that was current was a record of motivating a lot of kids in sports, a history of writing on the job, and a keen interest.

"I mentioned my love of speech and debate to Judy Marvis, student counselor at Tillamook High, and her husband Bryan Marvis, advisor for the Tillamook speech team, and they referred me to NKN High when the position came up," he

See **SPEECHIES** on page 11



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Fall sports recap: Pirates gain valuable experience

By **DICK DIAMOND**
For the Citizen

Junior Shelby Porter and Senior Jerry Creasy led Dan Kameron's cross country team to some outstanding times this year.

Porter's time of 22:27 for the 5000 meters (5K) was a personal best. Her teammate, sophomore Willa Childress, ran 28:59 for yet another personal best. Porter was picked for the district's third team. This year, the district was comprised of 1A/2A/3A teams.

Jerry Creasy led the Pirate team of seven runners at district. His time of 18:18 was his best on the course and a 10th-place finish, earning him a spot on the district's second team.

Creasy and Daniel Woodward are the only seniors on the Pirate squad. Woodward, along with freshman Rey Corrales, sophomores Branson Laszlo and Wayne Moore, and juniors Ben Purcell and Alex Kammerer, all showed great improvement over the season.

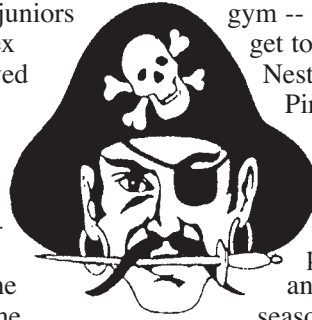
For Corrales, Kammerer, Laszlo, and Woodward, personal records (PR) were recorded for the year, with most of the times under 23 minutes. With a few minutes shaved off here and there, the boy's team could be headed to state within the next few years.

Lady Pirate Volleyball was a treat. The young ladies battled

for first place in the western division throughout the season. As always, they fought until the last, when -- in the last game of the season, at home, in a packed gym -- the opportunity to

get to state was lost to Nestucca. The Lady Pirates just ran out of fuel at the end. Another loss against an eastern-division rival proved too much, and the Lady Pirate's season was over.

For Jacque "Jacs" Vandercovering, the new head coach and a standout player while at Neah-Kah-Nie, it was a great year. She brought a sense of discipline and "old school" attitude to the team and the kind of



teamwork that fans were treated to showed her impact.

There were some very bright stars on the football team, but a number of injuries brought an end to the hopes of new coach Scott Ross and his assistants.

There were some electrifying running performances from junior Scott Porter, who rotated between running back and quarter back when Sam Gray got injured. Devante Dickerson also had some great moments in running and receiving, and was outstanding on defense.

Sophomore Tanner Repass had the most "touches" as running back. His presence, along with Porter's and Austin Cherry's, will be felt next year in the backfield.

Senior Charlie Griffith,

juniors Anthony Borjes and James Dotson and sophomore Zak Krumenaker were the names constantly broadcast over the PA system for their defensive stops, with Cherry, Repass, Porter and Dickerson making plays at the corners and safety.

Finally, for the first time in years, the Pirates had a kicker in the person of Tanner Repass. Ross had been working with him since August and, with Ross' schooling and Repass's tenacity, the effort paid off.

With three coaches in four years, each teaching a new system, the Pirates struggled this season.

The only win of the season came in the last game, a homecoming contest against Vernonia.

SPEECHIES: Where everyone's a finalist

Continued from page 10 said.

Looks like the new coach was a good fit. As Isbell recalls, "I will never forget our first tournament of the year, the Sam Barlow Invitational. We all went in to it not knowing what to expect, only having a few prac-

tices under our belts. But in the end, we came out with every single person a finalist, and all but one placing. The bus ride home we all sat in the back of the bus, and were full of energy. I feel like that bus ride we all became a lot closer, and changed from just a random

group of people doing the same activity to a little family. I love my team and coaches, they make me complete."

Want to be part of the energy? E-mail Morton at rxdrivin@gmail.com. The team's next competition will be the PSU Viking Invitational Jan 21-22.



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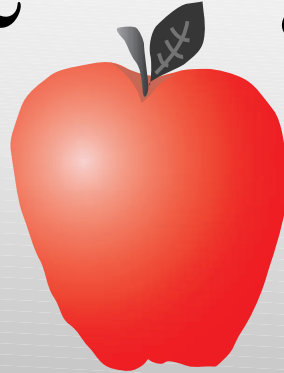
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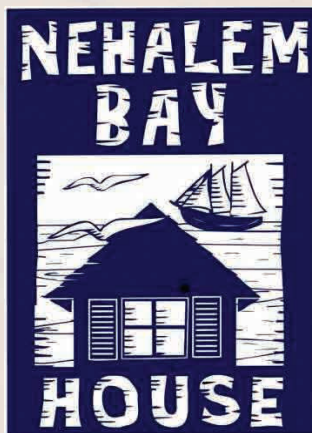
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