

BLEACHER REPORT

VHS Hall of Fame to Induct Class of 2025

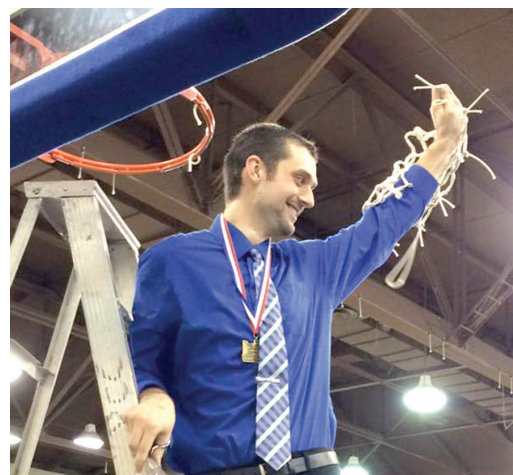


Clay Sullivan (above) and coach David Weller (right) were both part of the VHS 2016 State Champion Basketball team.

The Vernonia Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Committee is pleased to announce the upcoming Induction Ceremony, to be held on Friday, May 9, 2025. The ceremony is being held in the Vernonia High School Commons at 6 p.m. What a great opportunity to get in touch with old friends!

This year's inductees are:

- Basketball Coach Gary Curtis (Coach of the 1977 and 1978 State Championship teams)
- Donald Naeve (Track and Field 3,000 Meter State Champion 1990)
- Bill Hanson (Community Member, VHS Class of 1967)
- Boys Basketball Team (2015-2016 State Champions)
- Clay Sullivan (Boys Basketball member of Championship team and 2018 2A Player of the Year; Track and Field, 3 time [2016, 2017, 2018] 110 Meter Hurdle State Champion; 2016 4x100 Relay State Champion; 2017 2nd



place 300 Meter Hurdles, Long Jump; 2018 300 Meter Hurdle State Champion)

Members of the Induction Selection Committee for this year's induction class were Teresa Williams, Justin Ward, Scott Laird, David Weller, and Stacy Adams.

To RSVP go to <https://tinyurl.com/bddjbban>.

The End of an Era

Senior Clay Sullivan's amazing athletic career at VHS has come to an end

By Scott Laird

The following is an edited version of an article published in Vernonia's Voice in June 2018, celebrating the graduation of Clay Sullivan, who will be inducted into the VHS Athletic Hall of Fame on May 9, 2025, along with the 2016 State Champion Boys Basketball team he played on.

If you've been watching Vernonia High School basketball during the last decade you may remember watching a young elementary aged red head come out onto the court during halftime for the Pop Shot fundraiser to sink shot after shot and win bottles of soda pop as prizes. If you were like me, you might have said to yourself, "That kid is going to be really good one day!"

Well, that kid was named Clay Sullivan and he did turn out to be really good. In fact he turned out to be, not just one of



Clay Sullivan graduated from VHS in 2018.

Vernonia High School's best basketball players of all time, but a great track and field athlete as well, qualifying for the State Championship meet all four years.

On June 2, Sullivan graduated from VHS

and ended an outstanding athletic career with multiple State Championships and a host of other awards and accolades.

Sullivan was a key member of a very talented 2016 State Championship Logger basketball team, and he led the 11th ranked Loggers to an unexpected 3rd place finish in 2018. A four year starter, he finished his career with 2,117 points, good for 11th place on the all-time scoring list of Oregon high school players. In track he won the 110 high hurdles three years in a row, won the 300 meter intermediate hurdles his senior year, and was part of the State Champion 4x100 relay in 2016.

High School Principal Nate Underwood

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- Fundraising Campaign Continues
- Parade of Classes

The Latest Stadium Update

I wanted to give each of our donors and our community members the latest update on where we stand as a Committee on the stadium project and where we are headed. Its hard to believe in just five short years, since I asked for Jim Eckland's help in getting this project underway, we are at the point we are today.

With the cost of materials increasing rapidly and sometimes faster than we can fundraise, the Committee has decided to break Phase II into three sections. They are, and in no specific order; the ground prep section, the seating section, and the cover and press box section.

This project has been moving ahead

steadily. We have completed Phase I. We have a restroom and concession stand to serve our outside activities. We are proud of our community and our donors and sincerely thank them for stepping up and enabling this project to move forward. We are in reach of starting Phase II but as I stated earlier, the cost of the project continues to increase and the Committee needs your continued support.

If each of you could contribute one more time the same amount that you have in past contribution's we could keep our start date of June 2026 for Phase II a reality. Your contributions could enable us to reach out for matching grants that could fit our project and enable us to complete Phase II.

This is truly a community project, not a school project or a Boosters Club project, and even though we work in collaboration with those two entities, and the building site is on school grounds, this is a Vernonia community project that each of you can be proud of when it is completed.

The Vernonia track and field team is scheduled for a home meet on May 15 – we hope you can come out and support your hometown team.

Once again I want to thank you all for your support.

Gordon Jarman,
Chairman Stadium Committee

Logger 2024-25 Winter Sports Report

It was a good winter season for Logger sports, with both the girls and boys basketball teams qualifying for the District Playoffs, and the wrestling team sending four wrestlers to the State Championship tournament.

Wrestling – After a rough showing at the pre-district meet, the Vernonia team bounced back and took 3rd place at the District Tournament. Four Vernonia Wrestlers qualified for the State Championships on February 28-29: Ethan Martin at 144 pounds, Noah Bateman at 157, and Hansom Forster at 285 who finished in 3rd place in their weight classes, and Cannon McLeod who won the 175 pound division and brought home his first District Championship.



Ethan Martin

"After placing last at the district league meet a couple of weeks ago, Saturday [at the District Meet] was a testament to the grit and resilience of our wrestlers," said Logger first year head coach Mickey Buehrer.

After losing to a wrestler from Waldport at the pre-district meet senior McLeod came into the tournament ranked 2nd at 175. "Cannon dominated his bracket and executed his game plan perfectly," said Buehrer. McLeod pinned the Waldport wrestler in the second round and won his bracket.

Sophomore Martin faced a tough match against the #1 seed at 144 and lost 10-4, before pinning his next two opponents and securing his 3rd place finish and a spot at state.

Bateman's journey to state at 157 was a bit unconventional. After battling an injured ankle for several weeks, and missing some other practices, he overcame those setbacks and nearly defeated the #2 ranked wrestler before battling back to pin the Colton wrestler in the second round and earn a trip to state. "What an incredible performance!" said Buehrer.

Forster has been dealing with an injury all year. After losing to Knappa, Forster came back strong, pinning Colton in 38 seconds, before pinning a strong opponent from Nestucca and securing his spot at State.

At the State Championships, Martin received a bye in the opening round in the 144 pound bracket before defeating the #3 seed in his quarterfinal match with a pin in 3:20. Unfortunately Martin had to forfeit his next two matches because of an injury, and his tournament was over.

At 157 Bateman also received a bye in the opening round before losing a 13-7 decision

in the quarterfinals. Bateman also had to forfeit his match in the consolation round to end his tournament.

At 175 McLeod entered the tournament as the #4 seed, but lost by fall in his opening match in 3:53 before losing his consolation round match, also by fall, in 3:36, which ended a distinguished four-year career as a Logger wrestler.

At 285, Forster the only Logger wrestler to place, going 2-2 in the tournament. Forster opened his day with a pin in 3:14 but lost his quarterfinal match by fall in 1:19. In the consolation bracket, Forster defeated Camden Demase of Knappa in a 4-1 decision, before losing his final match by fall in 1:17 and taking 5th place.

Girls Basketball - The Lady Loggers finished the regular season in 4th place in the Northwest League with a 9-5 record.

The #4 seed Lady Loggers advanced to the 3rd place game at the District Tournament with a 42-28 win over Faith Bible on February 20. On February 22 Vernonia faced Nestucca with a spot in the State playoffs on the line but fell 53-38. It was a close game through three quarters, which saw the Lady Loggers come out strong; Vernonia led 21-19 at halftime, and trailed just 35-34 heading into the fourth quarter. But a limited bench saw the intensity of the game catch up to the Vernonia girls down the stretch, and when sophomore Layla Abbott fouled out with three minutes left in the game, followed by senior Avery Wolf

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Senior Stars: Cannon McLeod

Recognizing excellence in our Logger student/athletes

Cannon McLeod has been a three-sport athlete all four years of high school, and has steadily improved to become a team leader, especially in his senior year.

Cannon has excelled in the individual sports of cross country, wrestling, and track and field.

Cannon has some good athletic genes running through his family – his father Tim McLeod was a multi-sport star athlete in football, wrestling, baseball, and track and field, and his aunt, Teresa “Tweedy” McLeod Brucken still holds three school records: 13.04 seconds in the 100 meters in 1979, as part of the 4x400 relay in 1979, and as part of the 4x100 relay in 1981.

In cross country this past fall, Cannon helped lead the Logger’s team to a berth in the State Championships; the team finished 8th out of 12 teams competing, with Cannon leading the way by finishing in 42nd place. At the Vernonia Fall Sports Banquet, Cannon was named team MVP. During his junior season, Cannon was also

a team leader and was named the team MVP.

In wrestling, Cannon qualified for the State Championships as a junior and senior; this season he won the District title at 175 pounds.

In track and field Cannon has qualified for the State Championship meet in all three of his previous seasons, and is one of the top ranked middle distance runners in the State this year. Last season he was part of the Logger 4x400 relay which placed 2nd in the state. He also finished 3rd in the State in the 800 meters. As a sophomore Cannon qualified for the State Championships in the 400 meters. This season the 4x400 relay team easily has the fastest time in the State early in the season with Cannon running the anchor leg, and it looks like he also has a good chance to compete for the State title in the 400 meters.

Cannon says his favorite of the three



sports he competes in is definitely track and field, “because there’s always something going on, so you’re never bored. There’s always something happening. And you get to hang out a diverse group of friends, both boys and girls.” He says his favorite moment during his VHS athletic career (so far) was placing 2nd last year at State in the 4x400. “That was when we had the best group of guys – there was a lot of chemistry between us and we worked well together, and that year was just really fun.”

Cannon says he thinks a covered Logger Stadium seating area would help make spectators more comfortable when they come out to watch Logger sports teams, and that it could increase support and help grow interest in track

and field in Vernonia.

After graduation Cannon says he has decided to try and join the U.S. Marine Corp.

Logger 2024-25 Winter Sports Report *continued*

a minute later, it was over for Vernonia. The Lady Loggers got scoring contributions from a number of players with senior Momi Leininger leading the way with 11 points, followed by Abbott with 9, while sophomore Morgan Dennis added 8, and Wolf and junior Brylie Hewitt chipped in 5 each.

Boys Basketball – The Logger boys saved their best play for the end of the season, closing out Northwest League play with three straight wins, and assuring themselves the #5 seed in the league playoffs with a 6-8 regular season record and an 8-16 record overall.

A highlight of the season was Senior Night at home against Nestucca on February 11, with three players recognized – Gage Erhardt, James Busch, and Jarryn Marine. And it was certainly a night to remember



Avery Wolf

as the Loggers knocked off the 3rd place Bobcats 70-69. Nestucca came out shooting hot and led by as many as 15 points early in the first half, before the Loggers battled back to bring the deficit down to just 7 at halftime. The Logger shooters came out on fire for the second half and several 3-points shots by junior Jessie Ashley and freshman Josh LaBelle quickly gave the Loggers a brief lead. The game remained a seesaw affair until Nestucca gained a 5 point lead with just three minutes remaining. But Vernonia fought back, tied the game, and took a

lead on Erhardt’s two free throws with just a minute left, and held on to win the game. The Loggers were led by Ashley who hit five 3-pointers and added six free throws to score 21 points. LeBelle also hit five 3-point shots and scored 15. Erhardt celebrated

Senior Night with 16 points, including those clutch free throws that won the game, and Marine added 9 points.

At the District Tournament the Loggers fell against #4 Faith Bible 56-49 on February 17.



Gage Erhardt

The End of an Era *continued*

notes that, in addition to being a great athlete, Sullivan also is an Honor Student with a 3.5 GPA. "It's not all that often that you have a student that's the best basketball player in the state at his level, but also a multiple state champion in track and field," said Underwood. "As a fan of high school athletics I've just really enjoyed the last four years and watching him compete. I really appreciate what an elite athlete Clay is. One of most memorable experiences as an educator is watching the boys team win the state title in 2016 and the way the whole community came together."

Among Sullivan's basketball career highlights:

- In 2016 as a sophomore he helped the Loggers win their first State Championship since the late 1970s and was named First Team All State.
- In 2017 the Loggers finished 6th at the State Tournament and Sullivan was named Second Team All State.
- In his senior year Sullivan was named Player of the Year for the Northwest League and led the underdog Loggers to a 3rd place finish at the State Tournament, including a first round upset of league rival, and 3rd seeded, Knappa. His 82 total points led the three game tournament and his 13 three-point baskets set a new 2A record. He was once again named First Team All State and was named the 2A Player of the Year. His 769 total points and 25.6 average per game for the season ranks 6th all-time for Oregon small schools.

Among his track and field accomplishments:

- In 2015 as a freshman at the State Championship he took 4th place in the 110 hurdles and finished 6th in the long jump.
- In 2016 Sullivan won the 110 meter hurdles at the State Championship and also won a second gold medal as

part of the 4x100 relay team that set a state meet record. He also took 4th in the 300 hurdles and 8th in the long jump.

- In 2017 he defended his title in the 110 hurdles, while finishing 2nd in the 300 intermediate hurdles and the long jump.
- In 2018 he won the 110 hurdles for the third time and also won the 300 hurdles. He added a 3rd place finish in the long jump and a 4th place finish in the triple jump.

"Clay is such a great natural athlete," says Vernonia track coach Byron Brown. "Anyone who knows anything about track can't believe this, but he's never been coached in the high hurdles, and almost never practices it, because we have not had an adequate track facility. It's a highly specialized event. And he's a three-time State Champion in that event – that tells you everything you need to know about what a natural athlete he is. He's also so in control of his emotions. I know he gets nervous, because everyone does, but he never shows it. He's always loose and relaxed and then he just goes out and takes care of business."

Sullivan says his personal favorite moments from his high school athletic career obviously include the 2016 State Championship. "Beating Knappa this year was by far the best moment though, even better than winning state," said Sullivan.

Logger Athletic Director Gordon Jarman also had high praise for Sullivan. "I've been here since 2004 and he is the best athlete we've had here during that time, and we've had a lot of really good athletes," said Jarman. "He and his parents have worked hard to get him to this elite level. A guy like Clay doesn't come along very often."

2024-25 VHS Winter Sports Awards

Girls Basketball All League Awards

1st Team:

Avery Wolf

2nd Team:

Momi Leininger

Honorable Mention:

Layla Abbott

Defensive Player of the Year:

Momi Leininger

Team Awards

MVP:

Momi Leininger & Avery Wolf

Most Improved:

Julia Busch & Morgan Dennis

Boys Basketball All League Awards

2nd Team:

Gage Erhardt

Honorable Mention:

Josh LaBelle

All Defensive Team:

Gage Erhardt

Team Awards

Varsity MVP:

Gage Erhardt

Varsity Most Improved:

Jessie Ashley

JV MVP:

Josh Labelle

JV Most Inspirational:

Kelan Busch

JV Most Improved:

Sam Hough

Wrestling

MVP:

Cannon McLeod

Most Improved:

Kylan VanLom

VHS Athletes of the Winter Season:

Momi Leininger

Gage Erhardt

Vernonia Logger Stadium Campaign

Parade of Classes

At the urging of a few VHS Alumni, and just for fun, we have compiled a list of classes whose members have stepped forward in making contributions to the Logger Stadium Campaign. We have assigned one point for each dollar contributed. If a married couple are in different classes, we split their points to each of their class. As of March 15, 2025, here are the top 21 classes:

#1	Class of 1967	\$418,875	#12	Class of 1979	\$2,600
#2	Class of 1963	\$ 18,700	#13	Class of 1970	\$2,500
#3	Class of 1954	\$ 17,360	#14	Class of 1964	\$2,200
#4	Class of 1966	\$ 11,600	#15	Class of 1955	\$1,775
#5	Class of 1965	\$ 11,054	#16	Class of 1969	\$1,625
#6	Class of 1962	\$ 9,072	#17	Class of 1961	\$1,700
#7	Class of 1978	\$ 6,650	#18	Class of 1962	\$1,600
#8	Class of 1973	\$ 6,398	#19	Class of 2004	\$1,500
#9	Class of 1960	\$ 6,390	#20	Class of 1957	\$1,030
#10	Class of 1959	\$ 5,075	#21	Class of 2000	\$1,000
#11	Class of 1977	\$ 4,225			

Total Revenues from these 21 Classes: \$532,930

WE DID IT! WE COMPLETED PHASE I OF THE LOGGER STADIUM PROJECT!

Next up - Phase II – We are already working to raise the estimated \$1 million to construct the covered seating area so Logger fans can sit together in comfort to enjoy the games and cheer on their teams.

A BIG thank you – We couldn't have done it without the support of everyone who has donated to this worthy project so far!

Haven't donated yet? – Please consider joining your friends, neighbors, and classmates who have stepped up to help build a new Vernonia Logger legacy.

Let's Go Loggers!

If you wish to receive this newsletter electronically please email: mtman6672@yahoo.com.



Yes, we can help build Vernonia Logger Stadium

____\$25 ____\$50 ____\$100 ____\$250 ____\$500 ____\$1,000 ____Other \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address for receipt _____



Make checks payable to: Vernonia Boosters, Memo: Stadium
Mail to: Vernonia Boosters, PO Box 73, Vernonia, OR 97064

Vernonia Logger Stadium Campaign

Our Donors as of March 15, 2025

STADIUM CLUB

\$100,000 AND ABOVE:

Randy Holce (67)

Bill Hanson (67)

Total: \$418,100

PLATINUM LEVEL

\$50,000-\$99,999:

Ford Family Foundation

Total: \$50,000

DIAMOND LEVEL

\$25,000-\$49,999:

Vernonia Education Foundation

Vernonia School District

Total: \$55,280

GOLD LEVEL

\$10,000-\$24,999:

Columbia County Economic Team

Michael Cowan

Boxer & Pam Cox (63)

Jim & Kathy Eckland (62/65)

Mr Electric - Ben Pelster

Dick* & Kathleen Gwin (54)

Samuel S Johnson Foundation

Marsha Krieger King (66)

Total: \$105,880

SILVER LEVEL

\$5,000-\$9,999:

Fred Bender* (60)

Gwin & Sons Logging (77&79)

Teri Bellingham-Holm (78)

Kathi Medges-Knowles (73)

Mel & Marguerite* Nice

Stimson Lumber Co

Vernonia Lions Club

Wauna Fed CU

Total: \$42,325

BRONZE LEVEL

\$1,000-\$4,999:

American Legion Post 119

Bellingham Logging (65)

Larry & Jan Bernardi (55&59)

Dado & Janet Briones (69&67)

Jason Busch Trucking (2000)

Marian Mathews Clark (63)

Suzi Connor (63)

John G Crowston (52)

Marv Crowston (62)

Bryan & Katy Dennis (2004)

Sheri Dooney

Greg Duyck

Elsie Berg Freerks (65)

Ginger Johns

Gary Johnston (63)

Lloyd Johnston (65)

Thomas & Joanie Jones

Bob Mathews (61)

Linda Sue Maxon (70)

Darlene Welch McLeod (65)

Jim Mullins (62)

Roger & Pat Ostrander (59)

Sandra Rogers

Judy Ruiz

Leonard* & Betty Schmidlin(62&64)

Kelly Smith Birthday Fundraiser (77)

Mike Pihl Logging

RSG Forest Products

USG Products

Vernonia Dental

Weyerhaeuser Company

Ziply Fiber

Total: \$54,029

PAUL BUNYAN CLUB

\$500-\$999:

Ken & Odean Anderson (47&53)

Joyce Bautovich (65)

Nick* & Leann Berg (64)

Cash Sales for Raffle Tix

Class of 2024

Carol Cole Davis (69)

Marion Christianson

Pat & Brenda Dean (82)

Kathy DeWitt (74)

Deborah Banta Dustman (73)

Marvin Eby* Family Trust (51)

Jerry Hanson (66)

Jamboree Booth/Misc.Cash Donations

Wayne Larson (61)

Brandi Littler

Bill* & Donna MacDonald (53)

Larry & Claudia Oblack (63 & 66)

Carol Ray (57)

John & Betty Roady (77)

Stella Stern Saturn (46)

Vernonia Boosters (Food Booth)

Vernonia's Voice

Earl Wantland* (49)

Brian Wilson (78)

Total: \$13,965

CENTURY CLUB

\$100-\$499:

Absolute Marble & Granite

Patty Wells Adsit (54)

All Inn Pub (78 & 82)

Anonymous Donor

Randy Aultman (62)

Ken & Helen Bateman (65)

Steve & Diane Bateman (61)

Duane Bates (79)

Joann Beamish

Gordon Blackburn (66)

Susan Smejkal Brill (73)

Ed & Dawn Buckner (76)

Martha Bush (64)

C&C Logging, LTD

Michael Calhoun (2008)

Amy & Frank Cieloha (91 & 89)

Chris & Kala Cota (80)

Kyle & Ingrid Cota (02)

Ray & Jennifer Cota (87)

Norm Crawford (73)

Gordy Crowston (75)

Brett Costley

Rick Davis (73)

Milton Dennis (77)

Barry & Catherine East (81)

Owen Eneveldson (59)

Phil Eggert (65)

Jack & Tobie Finzel

Dan* & Fran Fletcher (57)

Jim Fletcher (62)

Lynn Fulgham

George Gans

Sue Garner (73)

Bev & Larry Goodreau

John & Kathy Griffith

Mary Andrus Gross (66)

Larry Hickman* (59)

Rick Hobart

Jack & Glenda Holsey (62 & 61)

Betty Hart

Cathy Howard (59)

Dana & Tony Hyde

Mackenzie Carr Ivie (2008)

Gordon & Kelly Jarman

Mary Kay Johnson

Gerry Brady Kelly (66)

Jerry & Dolly Keenon

Carolyn Heath Ladd (58)

Steve & Marilyn Landers (71)

Cathy Barker Lekas (64)

Marylyn Good May (54)

Gerald Millis (51)

Stuart Munro (76)

Terry Newton

Delbert & Mary Jane Nyman

Carol Ostrander (58)

Randy Parrow (76)

Jim Peters (57)

Chris Quigley

Jeff Reck (73)

Ken Roberts

Bud & Marcie* Robertson (67&69)

Lillian Schmidlin (59)

Ken* & Penny* Smejkal (55&58)

Maxine Oblack Stark (54)

Randy & Vicki Tovey (74)

Arnie & Mary Tolonen

Don Tunnell (58)

Nate Underwood

Sue Vandehey

Tammy Smith-Vanderzanden* (75)

Susan Wagner

Gene Wall (50)

Caroline Garlock Wallace (59)

Jeff Walton-Vernonia Springs

Delores Webb (52)

Pete Weisel

Larry Welch (60)

Teresa Williams

Diane Paul Wilson (59)

Otis Wilson*

Total: \$15,180

BLUE & GOLD CLUB

\$25-\$99:

J&W Benson

Dean Bernardi (78)

Mary Steen Boeger (63)

Brett Bunke

Rick Bush* (55)

Ann Bergerson Carson (66)

Necia DeWitt* (42)

Fred & Pat Drips (54&53)

Brad Eckland (78)

Bruce Elam

Steve Frischman

Rick Fulton (53)

Ilene Grady*

Sally Harrison* (59)

Frank & Penny Hill (78)

Carl* & Betty* Holsey (55)

Clint Holsey (75)

Ron & Alice King \$25

Marion & Diana Knoll (58&62)

Jim Krahn

Randall Larson (68)

Terry Larson (65)

Tom Lawler (68)

Ronda Smith Lennon (74)

Jim Lindsey (64)

Jim McKenzie

Tim & Allison McLeod (80)

Gaynelle Scott Nielson (64)

Cory Parsons

Dennis & Marilyn Pederson (66)

Patricia McEntire Peterson (60)

Kristen Landers Schleich (68)

Larry Shirk

John & Danna Sorensen

Kelly Sparks

Scot & Julie Thomas

Joseph Wojno

Melissa Zavalas

Total: \$1,597

231 Total Donors = 75% are VHS Alumni

(00) VHS Class

*Deceased since donating

Individual donor's totals available upon request.

Levels Total: \$763,763

Thank you for your continued support!