

Sports **UPDATES**

Boys Basketball

3/1 - 1st Rd Playoffs: at Baker

Girls Basketball

3/2 - 1st Rd Playoffs: at Astoria

BIGGEST LOSS OF THE SEASON

Snow delays the anticipated start of spring sports

By Rainy Adkins, Jaden Spencer and Billy Christiansen

The horrific storm that struck the greater Eugene area on Sunday night brought the much anticipated spring sport season for track and field, softball, baseball, tennis, lacrosse and golf to a devastating delay. The cancelation will likely complicate training plans for athletes and coaches in the coming state competitions due to the loss of vital early season conditioning.

"You do all the work to get ready [for the season] and then it gets here... and you miss four days," head track and field coach Chase Wells said. The only consolation "is most the other schools in our 4A division are in the same boat," Wells said.

While practices are resuming, the snow is still prohibiting some sports teams to utilize their outdoor facilities. While sports teams wait for snow to melt and for repairs to be made, they are limited to practicing fundamental skills. The softball outdoor hitting cages collapsed due to snowpack. The track, baseball and softball fields cannot be plowed because of damage that could result, but can't be practiced on in their current snow-covered condition.

Some sports have held modified optional practices in the gym: track held an optional practice in the gym on Tuesday, on Thursday lacrosse also practiced in the gym, softball practiced Thursday in its indoor hitting facilities, baseball held an optional practice in their hitting facility with impromptu game of catch in the plowed areas of the Marist parking lot, and tennis has yet to begin practice.

"The weather has presented a challenge for the softball team, delaying tryouts and forcing us inside. However, champions adjust and we will take advantage of the time that we have and continue to get better each and every day," said head softball coach Missy Doerr.

Most sports are holding their official first practices today after school. Golf will start next week.

"Weather, man... weather," head baseball coach Noah Breslaw said, shaking his head.

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE SNOW KIND



The Junior Women's Encounter throws snowballs before dinner and departure on Sunday. Photo by Toni Cooper

Winter Women's Encounter comes to unexpected end due to unfortunate weather

By Kelly Schombert and Mia Graves

The Women's Winter Encounter retreat was off to a great start; the girls were full of energy and once the snow began falling Saturday evening, they even joked about how fun it would be to get snowed in. Until ... Sunday afternoon when it was discovered that two trees had fallen on the back of the library, a branch crashed onto the deck and the power went out all due to the heavy, wet snow that had been falling nonstop for almost 24 hours at St. Benedict's in McKenzie Bridge, Oregon, normally just an hour's drive from Eugene east on Highway 126.

So, around 3:30 p.m. moderator Stacey Baker made a call to Dr. Rick Martin, Director of Campus Ministry, who called Associate Athletic Director Bart Pollard to arrange a bus home.

When I first heard the news that we would be leaving, my heart was broken for the girls. I was so sad

that we would have to leave right as everyone was beginning to truly form new and strong bonds," senior co-rector Daniella Giansante said. "I was in shock because this had never happened on a Marist retreat and I really didn't think we'd be the first to have to go home in the middle of it."

"I was super sad because I felt that I was disappointing everyone. They all said this was the best weekend of your life you know?" junior Jacqueline Potwora said. But staying at the lodge with no heat, no running water, and no electricity was not a good option anymore.

So the group packed up and enjoyed a warm meal before loading the "first" bus. The bus that eventually got stuck in the snow twice even sliding its back wheel into a ditch. The girls then returned to the fireside room in the lodge, still without power, to settle in for the night — so they thought.

"I didn't have a problem with it," junior Kenadi Witschger said. "After being in a bus that tipped into a ditch, I was okay with not being in another vehicle for awhile."

With limited cell phone reception, Dr. Martin was informed that the first attempt to leave had failed. He then called President Suzanne Graf who then called Chris Fudge, Marist Network Administrator and a commander in the Specialty Vehicles Group (SVG) of Lane County Search and Rescue. Fudge, who the girls are now referring to as their hero, immediately put a plan into action in coordination with Oregon Department of Transportation, the Oregon State Police and Student First bus company to get the students and staff home before more snow fell and blocked them in.

After a three-hour trek up Hwy 126, at around 11:30 p.m. Lane County Search and Rescue crews arrived, and Baker announced to

the girls they would be going home after all. A rush to get the girls and their belongings shuttled to the new bus ensued and by 12:30 p.m. the new bus was on its way, escorted by an ODOT crew with a snow plow, SAR and OSP. It took almost six hours, but the bus made it safely to Marist at 5:40 a.m. where parents were waiting on a snow-covered campus.

Baker and the senior team plan to have the girls gather once again to finish the second half of the retreat.

"We all felt an overwhelming feeling of love from everyone who dropped everything to come help us, like our gracious bus driver Phil, and the adults that were with us making sure we were safe every step of the way," Giansante said.

"I really don't think we'd be home yet if it weren't for the efforts of the staff. We'd still be eating tater-tots in the fireside room," senior leader Theresa Britt said.

SNOWMAGGEDON



Senior Skylar Coy, Torrent Adkins and Rainy Adkins prepare to spend the night in the igloo they built. Photo by Rainy Adkins 19'

By Danielle Shojai and Keegan Pond

Eugene started out the week with a blanket of record-breaking snow. The reported foot of snow Monday morning is the greatest snowfall in February that Eugene has seen in

over 100 years. The storm took out power for over 35,000 residents across the Douglas, Lane, Benton and Linn counties, and the City of Eugene called an ice/snow emergen-

Eugene ceases to function due to attack of millions of cold, white invaders

cy, closing schools, parks and roads. On Thursday, Governor Kate Brown declared state of emergency across ten counties, deploying the state transportation department, state police and the Oregon National Guard to assist local communities.

Snow fell again Tuesday evening and continued to prevent students and staff from traveling safely. Although the 4J district opened back up today, the Pleasant Hill, Lowell, Oakridge, South Lane, and Springfield school districts remain closed along with Lane Community College. The University of Oregon closed on Monday and Wednesday with an early release on Tuesday and a late start on Thursday.

This weather has been "snow" easy task for city workers, EWEB,

and the nearly 200 passengers on AmTrak's southbound train which was stranded for more than 40 hours near Oakridge from Sunday to Tuesday, a story which broke national news earlier this week. Interstate 5 was closed South of Eugene on Monday until 4:30 p.m. due to a downed power line across southbound lanes, lasting ten hours and caused a backup 115 miles long.

The citizens of Eugene spent the surprise snow vacation building Igloos, skiing down the street and shoveling driveways for hours on end. The Eugene airport reported a foot of snow Monday with an additional five inches the next day, but history teacher Tripp Nelson measured 16.5 and 8.5 inches outside his home in the South Hills of Eugene.