

PIL ATHLETICS

WINTER WRAP UP

PIL Athletics had a very successful 2022-23 winter season, with teams and individuals placing in the top 5 in state. The youth winter programs saw a year-end high of 1,700+ participants, with basketball teams competing in the Oregon Middle School State Championships in Bend. Nearly one in three PPS students, grades 6-12, participate in PIL athletic programming. Over the past 9 years, the PIL has grown to providing athletic opportunities to over 13,000 student athletes.

(If you would like to donate to PIL Athletics or become a sponsor, please call the office at 503.916.3223. Your donations help support student-athletes)



YOUTH SPORTS

GEORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVES TRAILBLAZER FOUNDATION GRANT

George Middle School has been awarded a \$7,500 grant from the Trailblazers Foundation. The grant will serve to build a George Middle School soccer program and support all of north Portland. Jaeger Vega, PIL Roosevelt Youth Sports Coordinator, lead the Grant writing process and is thrilled to begin the process of getting a program started at George.



The grant will serve to bring families in the community together in a powerful way. George Middle School has a strong Latinx populace, and the grant will broaden ties to the community, which has a large historically underserved population. "We often look for ways and places to gather to celebrate culture and kids. Soccer is more than just a sport for us. Many of our

families immigrated from Latin and African countries, thus soccer also has an important cultural affinity” wrote Vega.

As the neighborhood high school , Roosevelt is included in the broader community as well. As the main feeder school into Roosevelt High School, the need for soccer training and student support is crucial. Roosevelt has a blossoming soccer program, having grew into 7 teams thus far. Coaches are excited to help students learn soccer fundamentals in grades 6-8.

PIL YOUTH BASKETBALL - STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENCE

The Grant Blue 6th grade boys basketball team played in the Oregon State Middle School Basketball State Championships the weekend of March 10th - 12th in Bend, a feat that seemed to be impossible at the beginning of the season. With a season ending 8-13, the team of 13 had a rough beginning, losing to Wells by 20+ in the first two games. “The boys were getting discouraged, thinking we weren’t going to win a game for the whole season. So we got to practice and ran and started to really gel together.” Head Coach Alex Matlock said. 7 of the games were lost by 5 points or less to some of the top youth teams in the PIL.

Members of both Grant 6th grade teams were combined and finished 7th out of 100+ teams. Coach Avery Penny, longtime PIL Youth Basketball Coach with Grant says that “an instrumental piece of running a successful youth program are the “Team Moms” that volunteer their time. They should get recognition as well. You can’t do it without team moms and dads.”

The team also attended a Portland Trailblazers game together where they *really became a family*. “That’s what’s most important to me as a coach and a player – the stronger the bond, the stronger the team. Grant has welcomed me and made me a part of their family and I can’t wait to grow as a coach/mentor for these kids.”



UNIFIED SPORTS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL ABILITIES

When a Beverly Cleary mom was searching for an opportunity for her 7th grade son to participate in athletics, she took matters into her own hands. Her son has Down Syndrome and there were no opportunities for him. "He is an athlete and loves to play basketball and soccer." With no opportunities for kids with special needs, she decided to organize a team herself with the help of a program through the Special Olympics of Oregon (SOOR). SOOR makes it possible for students with disabilities to participate in sports with their typical peers.

Beverly Cleary has an ISC program for students with special needs and therefore, is a perfect fit to start a Unified team. Unified Sports joins people together with and without intellectual disabilities. They practice together and compete together at various other schools with Unified teams. Having an opportunity to participate in athletics is something that will have a lasting impression on athletes, coaches and spectators. The PIL is partnering with the Unified teams and helping provide gym space, equipment and uniforms.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

14 PIL WRESTLERS PLACE AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

PIL Wrestling had a very successful 2022-23 season, with 14 state placers. Below is who placed in the top 3:

GIRLS

Zorina Jon - 2nd Place (115lbs) - Wells

Haley Vann - 1st Place (130lbs) - Cleveland

Isabel Herring - 3rd Place (155lbs) - Cleveland

Vida Boskovic - 3rd Place (170lbs) - Roosevelt

BOYS

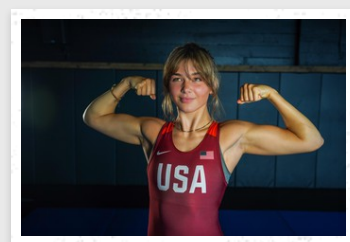
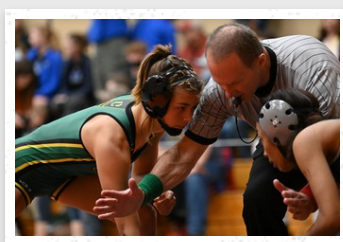
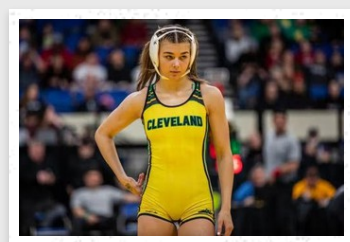
Khtrell Preston - 3rd Place (120lbs) - Jefferson

Logan Medford - 2nd Place (138lbs) - Cleveland

Lane Shaffer - 3rd Place (195lbs) - McDaniel

CLEVELAND'S HALEY VANN CAPS OFF OUTSTANDING CAREER ON TOP

Senior Haley Vann triumphed once again this season to capture her third straight state wrestling title. She finishes her high school career on a streak of 77 straight victories, giving her one of the most dominant individual careers in PIL history. Additionally, Vann graduates as just the second Warrior in school history to become a three-time state champion. Vann has committed to continue her academic and athletic wrestling career at North Central College in Naperville, IL.



CLEVELAND WRESTLING COACH JEFF ZERBA RETIRES AFTER 33-YEAR TENURE

Zerba grew up in Milton-Freewater, a small eastern Oregon town with a strong wrestling community that introduced him to the sport. Zerba went on to McLoughlin high school, where he developed into a standout athlete, capturing two state championships early in his career.

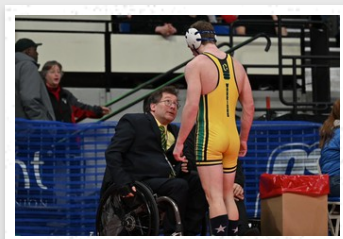
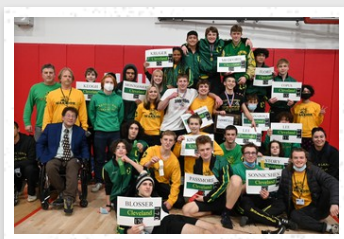
Then, during a competition in his junior year, Zerba suffered a dislocated neck and was left paralyzed. Instead of backing away from it, Zerba leaned on his experience in wrestling and ultimately decided to rededicate himself to the sport.

"In many ways, I think (the injury) kind of propelled me into the sport a little bit more," Zerba said, "The fact of the matter was that the skills that I learned during wrestling, the hard work ethic, the perseverance, setting goals... Just how brutally hard and brutally tough wrestling is, kind of put me in a position where I kind of took on my disability in the same way. And I think being a wrestler really carried me through some tough times and some tough challenges."

Zerba started at Cleveland in 1991, and a few years later was hired full-time as a health teacher and head wrestling coach. Since then, coach Zerba has built Cleveland into the most successful wrestling program in the PIL, capturing 12 straight district titles for the Warriors.

"I've been fortunate over the years to be able to work with a lot of great people and assistant coaches," Zerba added. "This community has been really open, really have made me feel comfortable. I've been really happy to start and finish my career here at Cleveland High School."

Thank you Coach Zerba for the impact you have made on student-athletes! You will be missed.



LINCOLN BOYS BASKETBALL TAKES HOME THIRD IN STATE

Lincoln won the PIL league title in their second season under head coach Heather Seely-Roberts.

The Cardinals relied on their experience in PIL play to propel them to a successful run in the OSAA 6A state playoffs. Lincoln earned victories over David Douglas, Cleveland, and Gresham en route to the semifinals, where they fell 89-69 to West Linn.

In the third-place game, a trio of Lincoln seniors delivered spectacular individual performances to cap off their high school careers with this impressive team achievement, defeating Barlow 94-74.

Moroni Seely-Roberts led the Cardinals in scoring with 34 points and 12 rebounds. Malachi Seely-Roberts filled up the stat sheet with 20 points, 8 rebounds, and 9 assists. While Graham Eikenberry delivered a double-double of his own, finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds.



2022-23 PIL BASKETBALL ALL-LEAGUE

GRANT GENDRILLS PLACE 4TH AT STATE

The Grant Gendrills competed in the Show division at the OSAA Dance and Drill State Championships on Friday, March 17th, in Salem. Their show routine this year was titled "All In Good Time" and was inspired by the surrealistic art of Salvador Dali. Parent volunteers constructed an elaborate set with Dali's art in mind using both natural and man-made pieces; dancers performed in costumes mimicking Dali's painting, "Woman with a Head of Roses". Between costuming, head pieces, sets, and choreography, the whole show took just under 3 months to come together and was their biggest collaboration to date. The team performed beautifully for the final time and placed 4th in the competitive division.



PIL SWIMMING - DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2023 PIL District Swimming Championships were held at Dishman Pool on February 10th and 11th. Lincoln Girls took home the championship trophy, with a team total of 363 points. Grant came in 2nd, with 222.5 points and Wells took home the 3rd place trophy with 198 points. On the boy's side, Grant received 1st place with 274 points, followed by Lincoln with 267 points. Cleveland finished 3rd with 176 total points. The first place winner in each individual and relay event at the District Meet automatically qualifies for the OSAA State Championships. Participants from each of the teams listed above participated, while some finished within the top 10.



Lincoln Girls - Champions



PIL District Championships



Grant Boys - Champions

PIL ATHLETES PLAYING SPORTS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The following athletes have committed to playing sports after high school - additional names will be added after spring sports have concluded.

Malaya LeSueur - Benson Girls Basketball - Fresno State University

Eleionna Brown - Benson Girls Basketball - Hofstra University

Isa Hensley - Benson Girls Basketball - Colorado School of Mines

Sean Christopher - Cleveland Boys Basketball - Oregon Tech

Jackson Cooper - Cleveland Boys Basketball - Oregon Tech

Owen Combs - Franklin Baseball - Mt. Hood Community College

Dylan Iwanaga - Lincoln Football - Linfield University

Carson Wacker - Lincoln Football - Lewis & Clark College

Trevor Dix - Lincoln Boys Cross Country - Ithaca College

Alexander Rhodes - Lincoln Boys Soccer - University of Puget Sound

Zack Andoh - Lincoln Boys Soccer - University of California Berkeley

Kennedy Fletcher - Lincoln Girls Soccer - University of Arizona

Noel Hendrickson - Lincoln Girls Soccer - Clark University

Leeza Burke - Lincoln Girls Soccer - UC Santa Cruz

Henry Alexander - Lincoln Boys Cross Country - Williams College

Eva Novy-Hildesley - Lincoln Girls Cross Country - University of California Berkeley

Graham Eikenberry - Lincoln Boys Basketball - St. Andrews School (Rhode Island)

Henry Fovinci - Lincoln Baseball - Whitworth University

Colton Schmokel - Lincoln Baseball - Centrailia Community College

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