

Girls and boys Del Norte basketball off to a hot start

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The Del Norte High School girls' basketball team is off to a strong start, winning its first four games by comfortable margins.

And the Warrior boys' basketball team squad is doing surprisingly well, too, considering much of that squad is still playing football.

After winning its season opener over Hoopa Valley, 60-34, on Tuesday, the Del Norte girls rolled to the championship at the Yreka Miner Classic this past weekend, improving its overall record to 4-0.

The Warriors easily won their first-round game Thursday over Modoc, 65-37; outlasted a solid Henley High School team of Klamath Falls, 61-54; then claimed the tournament championship against Brookings-Harbor, 55-46.

The Del Norte girls are coming off their best season in school history, going 24-4 and winning Big Five Conference and Humboldt-Del Norte League championships in the process.

Tuesday, the Warriors will host Hidden Valley High School near Grants Pass, in Thunen Gymnasium.

Meanwhile, the Del Norte boys' basketball team is off to a 4-1 start despite featuring a roster that includes several players who will be on the junior varsity squad later in the year.

As many as six Warriors who will be playing on the varsity are still involved with the Del Norte football team, which will play for a state championship on Saturday.

Nevertheless, Del Norte opened the basketball season by crushing Hoopa Valley last Tuesday, 78-37. The Warriors then played four games in three days this past weekend at the Yreka event, beating Mount Shasta, 59-50; Yreka, 48-37; and Etna, 70-35.

Grants Pass gave Del Norte its lone loss of the year, 53-39.

The Del Norte boys are led by 2018-19 all-conference selection Omar Banuelos, back for his senior season, and returning starting point guard Damian Dowd.