

Narrow win sends Fishermen to state

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The South Umpqua and Astoria football teams battled hard for 47 minutes, 48 seconds Friday night at CMH Field.

And it all came down to one 32-yard field goal attempt by the Lancers with 12 seconds left.

The result? The Fishermen left the field with their first playoff victory in five years, 7-6, while South Umpqua is now 0-2 in Play-in games on the North Coast over the last three years.

Jaret Remington's late field goal attempt had the distance, but it drifted wide right, and Astoria moves on to the sweet 16 for the first time since 2010.

"I didn't know," Astoria coach Howard Rub said Remington's field goal attempt. "From my angle, it looked like it had a 50-50 chance to sneak inside the post. The snap was a little high and (the kick) got pushed. His head went down right away, and that was an indicator that he missed. It was close. Really close."

Outgained by a wide margin, the Fishermen spent much of the night trying to stop a tough Lancer offense.

South Umpqua rolled up 356 yards in total offense and 20 first downs, to Astoria's 206 yards and 11 first downs.

But, as so often happens, playoff football comes down to turnovers and penalties. And that's where the Lancers lost it.

South Umpqua — which lost a 2013 Regional Play-in game at Seaside, 50-47 — finished with three crucial turnovers, and the Lancers were penalized six times for 60 yards.

Friday's game lasted just under two hours.

Each team had only three offensive possessions in the first half, Astoria had just three first downs in the second half, to South Umpqua's 10.

"Only three possessions in the first half, and



Astoria players including Luke Crews, No. 58, and Trystan Smith, No. 72, celebrate after a 7-6 win against South Umpqua Friday.

not much better the second half," Rub said. "We're disappointed that we didn't finish some drives and execute some drives, but it was just that kind of night. They were in the same boat. They can be a pretty explosive offense at times.

"If you win the turnover battle and play solid defense, you give yourself a chance," he said. "Between the weather and the fact the teams were evenly matched in a lot of different areas, just made it that type of game."

Astoria's lone scoring drive of the night came midway through the first half.

After stopping the Lancers on downs, the Fishermen took over and drove 63 yards in 10 plays, capped by an 8-yard scoring run from Carter Wallace with 9:19 left in the second quarter. Andrew Schauermann added what turned out to be the game-winning point, and Astoria had a 7-0 lead at halftime.

Meanwhile, the Lancers' opening drive of the game ended with a lost fumble



Astoria's Ryker Helmersen tries to avoid a tackle by South Umpqua's Nathan Thompson in the third quarter.

at the Astoria 18-yard line; and South Umpqua's third possession of the first half reached the Astoria 23, before the Lancers were flagged for an unsportsmanlike conduct, followed on the next play by an interception from Fishermen junior Ryan Palek.

"The turnover on their opening drive was huge,"

Rub said. "They put together a pretty good drive, and it was big to get the turnover and turn it around."

"The one drive we mounted in the first half was good. We executed a play fourth down and did a lot more positive things than negative."

After back-to-back interceptions midway through the second half, the Lancers

drove 53 yards in nine plays, with Shawn Riggsby scoring on a sweep from 1-yard out. The snap from center on the point-after attempt was dropped, and the Fishermen kept a 7-6 lead.

Astoria's best drive of the second half was its first drive, when the Fishermen marched 29 yards to the Lancer 46-yard line, before turning the ball over on downs. That was as far as the Astoria offense would get in the second half.

South Umpqua's last possession started at its own 11-yard line, with 1:46 left and no timeouts.

Two Nathan Thompson-to-Tristin Gross pass completions moved the ball to the Astoria 30, and a face mask penalty on the Fishermen later in the drive moved it to the Fishermen 15 with 22 seconds left.

Thompson threw an incomplete pass on third down, and Remington missed the fourth down field goal attempt.

South Umpqua's Kyler Merritt rushed for 110 yards



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Astoria's Wyatt Dietrich celebrates after a South Umpqua missed field goal sealed the win for Astoria.

on 22 carries, while Wallace finished with 119 yards on 28 attempts.

"You can't say enough about the character of the kids to win a game like this," Rub said. "On both sides. The South Umpqua kids played their hearts out. It was what you would expect from a Play-in game of some evenly matched teams."

With starting quarterback Fridtjof Fremstad out with a separated shoulder, the Fishermen will go with Ryker Helmersen through the rest of the playoffs.

"We didn't throw down field a lot, but Ryker did a great job and actually had a couple great audibles in our run game that made some big plays," Rub said.

"Clay (England) and Carter did a great job on both sides of the ball tonight," he added. "Ryan Palek had a nice night, Samboy Tuimato played really well, and up front in general our offensive line did a decent job."

After the game, Rub said he was "99 percent sure" Astoria's next opponent would be Mazama (winners of seven in a row), but instead, the Fishermen will travel Friday to North Bend, where Astoria defeated the defending state champion Bulldogs 22-20 Sept. 11.

The winner will play either North Marion or Sisters.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Astoria's Carter Wallace scores a touchdown in the second quarter of the football game against South Umpqua Friday.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Astoria's Ryan Palek, No. 81, recovers a fumble in the first quarter of the football game against South Umpqua Friday.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Astoria's Carter Wallace, runs in the third quarter. See more photos from Friday's game online at www.dailyastorian.com

Vernonia wins Logger Bowl

The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — After suffering through a combined 1-13 league record over the past three seasons, the Vernonia football program completed its amazing turnaround Friday night at Knappa, where Vernonia scored a 34-22 win in the annual Logger Bowl.

A Knappa win would have created a three-way tie for first in the Northwest League, but the victory gave Vernonia the NWL title, as Thor Ware's team finishes 3-0 in league, 9-0 overall.

Vernonia — which had scored over 60 points four times this year — was held in check for the most part by the tough Knappa defense.

Vernonia's Blade Ware ran 30 times for 335 yards, with five runs over 40 yards.

Knappa saw the return of quarterback Dale Takalo and receiver Reuben Cruz, who had a 70-yard run.

Andrew Goozee scored all three touchdowns for Knappa, which trailed 12-6 at halftime, even after losing three of six fumbles in the first half.

Vernonia recovered an onside kick to start the game, and never trailed.

Knappa had beaten Vernonia the last three years, 44-6, 64-6 and 63-0.

Warrenton 29, Portland Christian 0

PORTLAND — Warrenton posted a 29-0 win over Portland Christian Friday night in Portland, as the Warriors closed out the 2015 season in perfect style.

Still, Warrenton's 1-2 league record came up just short of clinching a spot in the sweet 16, as Rainier (3-0) and Clatskanie (2-1) will be the two representatives from the Lewis & Clark League in the state playoffs. Warrenton finishes 4-5 overall.

The Warriors rolled up 180 yards on the ground on 37 carries (4.9 yards per carry). Tyler Whitaker led the way with 99 yards on just nine carries.

Whitaker opened the scoring on a 75-yard run, just 25 seconds into the game.

Nathan Bighill and Tyler Coolidge added touchdown runs later in the first half for a 21-0 lead at the break.

Coolidge scored on a 5-yard run in the final quarter.

Defensively, Anthony Cochran had eight tackles, while Jesse Salcedo had an interception and the Warriors recovered three fumbles.

Ilwaco 22, South Bend 7

SOUTH BEND, Wash. — Ilwaco's Alec Bell and Jack Kaino both broke the 100-yard barrier on the ground, and the Fishermen

rallied from a 7-6 halftime deficit for a 22-7 win at South Bend Thursday, in a Pacific 2B League contest.

Ilwaco (6-3 overall) finishes as the league's No. 4 seed, and will travel to Napavine for a crossover game Friday.

Bell rushed for 131 yards and all three Ilwaco touchdowns, while Kaino ran for 106 yards.

Naselle 72, Twin Valley 0

NASELLE, Wash. — Naselle closed out the regular season with a 72-0 win over winless Twin Valley Friday.

Donny Edwards had an 82-yard kickoff return for a score, and returned a punt 62 yards and an interception 35 yards for additional touchdowns.

Boys Soccer

Ontario 5, Astoria 1

ONTARIO — Ontario's Hector Aguado scored three goals in a 5-1 win over Astoria Saturday, in a 4A boys soccer Regional Play-in game.

Tiger teammates Saul Guardado and Enrique Sanchez added goals in the victory, which sends Ontario to the final 16 of the state playoffs.

Ontario will play at Molalla Tuesday, while the season comes to a close for the Fishermen, who finish 4-9 overall.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Boys Soccer — Junction City at Seaside, 7 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

OSAA State Championships at Lane Community College

Girls Team: Siuslaw 81, Sisters 105, Molalla 112, South Umpqua 136, Phoenix 151, Scappoose 152, Philomath 154, Tillamook 166, Hidden Valley 183, Cascade 234, Junction City 257, Estacada 299, Ontario 304, McLoughlin 376.

Individual (Top 10)

- 1, Celie Mans, Siuslaw, 18:45
- 2, Lexi Healy, Henley, 19:06
- 3, Perrin Xthona, Yamhill-Carlton, 19:09
- 4, Linnaea Kavulich, Scappoose, 19:24
- 5, Zaruba Anderson, Hidden Valley, 19:30
- 6, Heather Kenry, La Grande, 19:33
- 7, Amanda Clarizio, Molalla, 19:34
- 8, Danielle Jantzer, Phoenix, 19:37
- 9, Jazmin Chavez, Marshfield, 19:40
- 10, Emma Amundsen, Phoenix, 19:47

Boys Team: Seaside 49, Phoenix 65, Tillamook 78, Newport 134, La Grande 160, Crook County 169, Sisters 208, Brookings-Harbor 220, Siuslaw 226, Elmira 240, Ontario 265, Hidden Valley 280, Molalla 297, Philomath 319.

Individual (Top 10)

- 1, Bradley Rzewnicki, Seaside, 16:13
- 2, Tony Hooks, Sisters, 16:18
- 3, Michael Brown, North Bend, 16:20
- 4, Euntes Cruz-Vieyra, Tillamook, 16:21
- 5, Hulter Thompson, Seaside, 16:34
- 6, Ayrton Ledesma, Tillamook, 16:34
- 7, Robert Vos, Phoenix, 16:35
- 8, Sawyer Heckard, Marshfield, 16:37
- 9, Jackson Januk, Seaside, 16:40
- 10, Murray Bingham, Siuslaw, 16:41

FOOTBALL

Astoria 7, South Umpqua 6

S.Umpqua 0 0 0 6-6
Astoria 0 7 0 0-7

Second Quarter

AST: Carter Wallace 8 run (Andrew Schauer-mann kick) 9:19

Fourth Quarter

SU: Shawn Riggsby 1 run (no attempt) 11:24

Team Statistics

SU AST

First Downs 20 11

Total Offense 356 206

Rushing yards 199 163

Passing 157 40

Comp-Att-Int 13-23-2 4-7-1

Fumbles-lost 1-1 2-0

Turnovers 3 1

Penalties-yards 6-60 4-35

South Umpqua Statistics

Rushing: Merritt 22-110, Thompson 9-62, Riggsby 5-22, Gross 1-3, Yates 1-2. **Passing:** Thompson 13-23-157-2. **Receiving:** Kelly 6-58, Gross 3-73, Riggsby 3-23, Merritt 1-3.

Astoria Statistics

Rushing: Wallace 28-119, England 7-37, Williams 3-10, Helmersen 1(-3). **Passing:** Helmersen 4-7-40-1. **Receiving:** Strange 2-24, Wallace 1-14, Ranta 1-2.

Warrenton 29, Portland C. 0

Warrenton 13 8 0 8-29

P.Christian 0 0 0 0-0

WAR: Tyler Whitaker 75 run (David Foster kick)

WAR: Nathan Bighill 3 run (run failed)

WAR: Tyler Coolidge 8 run (Bighill run)

WAR: Collidge 5 run (Bighill run)

Warrenton Statistics

Rushing: Whitaker 9-99, Bighill 12-48, McFadden 3-36, Coolidge 7-29, Martinez 6(-13). **Passing:** Martinez 7-18-68-0, McFadden 0-10-0. **Receiving:** McFadden 2-38, Wilson 1-15, Coolidge 1-5, Salcedo 1-4, Little 1-3, Bighill 1-3.

Ilwaco 22, South Bend 7

Ilwaco 6 0 8 8-22

South Bend 7 0 0 0-7

ILW: Alec Bell 1 run (kick failed)

SB: Boyington 1 run (Mora kick)

ILW: Bell 15 run (Bell run)

ILW: Bell 1 run (Jack Kaino run)

Ilwaco Statistics

Rushing: Bell 19-131, Kaino 13-106, Odneal 7-23, R.Thompson 1-8. **Passing:** Odneal 8-10-93-0. **Receiving:** Bell 5-27, R.Thompson 2-58, Sparks 1-8.