

Bulldogs win Final Four rematch over Gulls

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Seaside Lady Gulls continued their tour through the top 10 teams in Class 4A basketball.

Having already faced No. 3 Henley, No. 5 Cascade and No. 7 La Grande, the Gulls hosted No. 1-ranked Sutherlin Saturday, in a rematch of a state tournament semifinal from last season.

And the rematch turned into a near repeat of the play-off game.

Sutherlin — which won the Final Four game 44-28 — posted a 46-33 win over the Gulls in Saturday's game, as senior guard Miranda Mendenhall scored 21 points for 11-0 Sutherlin.

Sixth-ranked Seaside will play No. 4-ranked Gladstone Tuesday, and will see No. 2-ranked Valley Catholic twice during the Cowapa League season.

By the time they hit league play Jan. 20, the defending league champion Gulls should be well-prepared to make another run through the Cowapa.

"We've been running the gauntlet of good teams," said Seaside coach Wally Hamer. "It was good scheduling. It was the opposite last year — we didn't play as many tough teams at the beginning. Hopefully this will toughen us up."

"The girls have really played hard overall, but haven't executed as good as we need to vs. great competition," he said. "In the last five days we played the No. 1 and 2 teams in the state. We need to play more consistently on offense to beat those teams and it didn't happen."

Seaside held an early 4-2 lead on two baskets by Maddi Utti, and a three-point play by Utti had the score tied, 9-9.

Sutherlin answered with a 12-2 run, highlighted by a pair of 3-pointers from Mendenhall, and the Gulls could never get closer than five points the remainder of the game.

Mendenhall had back-to-back 3-pointers midway through the second half for a 37-23 lead, before Utti scored twice (including a trey), to cut the lead back to 37-28.

Kayce Mock converted a three-point play at the 3:21 mark for a 40-28 advantage, and the Bulldogs made 4-of-4



Seaside's Maddi Utti, left, and Sydney Villegas, right, apply defensive pressure on Sutherlin's Ricki Mock, 31.

free throws in the final minutes to clinch the win.

The Bulldogs were playing their eighth straight road game, which included a win at Banks Friday night (which Sutherlin also won by 13, 40-27).

"They move the ball around, and they don't turn it over," Hamer said. "We need to do a better job of that. And Mendenhall got us — she made some nice shots. We chose to play a zone on them, and I'm not sure if that was the best move."

"They do so many good cutting things. We just went with a game plan, and it didn't work out so well."

Utti led the Gulls with 18 points, while Dundas had seven rebounds.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Warrenton 36, Gaston 33

WARRENTON — The Warrenton Warriors won their third straight game Saturday afternoon, with a 36-33 victory over visiting Gaston in a nonleague contest.

Warrenton established a 16-10 halftime lead, then maintained a 6- to 10-point lead for much of the second half, before the Greyhounds closed to within three in the final minute.

Brock Johnson had 15 points and Christian Holt added nine for Warrenton, which returns to league play Tuesday at Oregon Episcopal.

Chris Ocana pulled down

nine rebounds for the Warriors.

In the girls' game, Gaston defeated Warrenton 46-33.

WRESTLING

Bergerson wins at Willamina

WILLAMINA — Another weekend tournament, another championship for Warrenton wrestler Rogue Bergerson.

Bergerson won the 113-pound weight class in Saturday's Bob Bishop Invitational, while two of his teammates had top three finishes at their respective weights.

Tillamook won the team title with 208 points, with Warrenton 11th out of 21 teams.

Bergerson's title victory at 113 was a 7-2 decision over teammate Colton Walker.

The Warrenton senior opened with a bye, then pinned Yamhill-Carlton's Derek Blake (1:07) in the quarterfinals, followed by a technical fall (20-4, 4:18) over Jordan Whittles of Nestucca.

Matched with Walker in another championship final, Bergerson got the best of his teammate, 7-2.

Walker posted a fall over Scio's Logan Martin in the quarterfinals (1:12), and won by major decision (16-5) against Willamina's Ethan Howard in the semifinals before his loss to Bergerson.

Elsewhere, Warrenton's Parker Whitsett placed third at 138 pounds, scoring a 15-1 major decision over Tillamook's Zach Fletcher in the third-place match, after he had posted an



Seaside's Paige Ideue, with ball, faces a tall order against Sutherlin's 6-foot Kayce Mock, 32.

11-3 major decision over Coquille's Grayson Maggard in the consolation semifinals.

Astoria takes fifth

SCAPPOOSE — The Astoria wrestling team placed fifth out of six teams in a multiple-team dual meet at Scappoose Saturday.

The Fishermen scored a 58-0 win over Taft, but came up short in losses to Gladstone (31-36), Scappoose (9-54), Parkrose (33-36) and Clats-

kanie (33-36).

The Fishermen won six matches by forfeit against Taft, and scored wins on the mat at 152 (Tristen Holiday, 14-3 major decision over Joe Salsbery); 160 (Josh Long, pinned Bryan Rupprecht in 1:26); 170 (Brendon Coberly, by fall over Christian Stockton in 1:33); and 220 (Bronson Holthausen, pinned Michael Parker in 1:57).

There were three double forfeits. Astoria's Mateo Devargas

had the only win over Scappoose, a 2-1 decision at 145 pounds.

Long was 4-1 on the day, which included two forfeit victories.

Against Gladstone, Tyler Ranta had a 6-0 decision over Alvin Lopez at 126; and Long scored a 14-3 major decision over Rylan Martin.

Holiday added a pin (2:21) over Ryan Phan of Parkrose, and a 5-3 decision over Clatskanie's Cristobal Bautista.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Girls Basketball — Estacada at Astoria, 5:30 p.m.; Seaside at Gladstone, 7:15 p.m.; Warrenton at Oregon Episcopal, 6 p.m.; Knappa at Faith Bible, 6 p.m.; Jewell at Livingstone Adventist, 5:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Estacada at Astoria, 7:15 p.m.; Gladstone at Seaside, 7:15 p.m.; Warrenton at Oregon Episcopal, 7:45 p.m.; Knappa at Faith Bible, 7:45 p.m.; Jewell at Livingstone Adventist, 7 p.m.; Ilwaco at Raymond, 7 p.m.

Swimming — Tillamook at Astoria, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Girls Basketball — Ilwaco at Raymond, 7 p.m.

Wrestling — Astoria/Seaside at Scappoose, 5:30 p.m.; Ilwaco at North Beach, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

Girls Basketball — Newport at Seaside, 5:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Newport at Seaside, 7:15 p.m.

Swimming — Valley Catholic at Seaside, 4 p.m.

BASKETBALL

HIGH SCHOOLS

Weekend Results

Girls
Sutherlin 46, Seaside 33
STH (46): Miranda Mendenhall 21, Gilliford 9, R. Mock 7, K. Mock 7, Klein.
SEA (33): Maddi Utti 18, Westerholm 7, Dundas 5, Villegas 3, Ideue, West.
Sutherlin 16 8 10 12—46
Seaside 11 6 5 10—33

Boys
Warrenton 36, Gaston 33
WAR (36): Brock Johnson 15, Holt 9, Thomas 5, Ocana 3, Whitaker 3, Cochran 1, Kyme, McFadden.
Gaston 5 5 11 12—33
Warrenton 9 7 11 9—36

WRESTLING

Bob Bishop Invitational at Willamina

Team Scores: Tillamook 208, Glide 155, Central 133, Willamina 130, Scio 102, Dayton 97.5, Riverside 84.5, Mt. View 82, Coquille 78, Crescent Valley 62.5, Warrenton 60, Siletz 51, Vernonia 49, Nestucca 48.5, Corbett 46, Sheridan 42, Colton 40, Gervais 24, North Eugene 24, Yamhill-Carlton 19, Amity 14.

Luck vs. Manning, Flacco vs. Brady, Romo vs. Rodgers

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

In this quarterback-driven league, nothing could be better than teams driven by their QBs meeting in the playoffs.

So next weekend can't come soon enough: Denver's Peyton Manning vs. the man who replaced him in Indianapolis, Andrew Luck. Baltimore's Joe Flacco, who twice has defeated the Patriots and Tom Brady, heading to New England.

Aaron Rodgers against Tony Romo in Lambeau Field — just as enticing. Even Carolina's Cam Newton against another new-wave QB, Seattle's Russell Wilson, who merely won a Super Bowl last February.

"On to next week," Luck said after helping the Colts defeat Cincinnati 26-10 Sunday in the AFC wild-card round. "It's the playoffs. There's a difference. You've got to move on; you've got to keep that journey alive."

The divisional round opens next Saturday with AFC top seed New England (12-4), the East winner, hosting Baltimore (11-6), which eliminated Pittsburgh 30-17 in the other AFC wild-card match. That will be followed by defending Super Bowl champion Seattle (12-4), the NFC West champion, against Carolina (8-8-1), which beat Arizona 27-16.

NFC North champ Green Bay (12-4) is home for Dallas in the early game next Sunday. It's the first post-season visit to Lambeau Field for the Cowboys since the 1967 Ice Bowl. Dallas beat Detroit 24-20 in the wild-card round.

The final division-round contest next Sunday has Indianapolis (12-5) at Denver (12-4). Indy disposed of Cincinnati 26-10 in a wild-card game.

COLTS AT BRONCOS

Andrew Luck threw for 376 yards and one touchdown, Daniel "Boom" Herron ran for another score, and In-



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck (12) throws during the first half of an NFL wild card playoff football game against the Cincinnati Bengals Sunday in Indianapolis.

dianapolis dominated the second half to beat Cincinnati on Sunday. The Colts made a fair share of mistakes, but nothing like the Bengals (10-6-1), who became the first team in NFL history to lose four consecutive opening-round playoff games.

Colts coach Chuck Pagano, whose team lost the season opener 31-24 at Denver, knows that Luck must be as good or better than Manning for Indy to keep going.

"Looking at next week, he's going to have to do the same things," Pagano said. "He's going to have to create some plays, he's going to have to move around and get some first downs with his legs, and those type of things. Obviously, it's a benefit."

The Broncos know the challenge Luck presents.

"He's one of those guys that you have to play a 60-minute game against," DE DeMarcus Ware said. "He has really good pocket awareness. He's always one of those guys, just like Peyton, where he hits the open guy the majority of the time."

COWBOYS AT PACKERS

A longstanding rivalry — they have met six times in the playoffs, with Dallas having four wins — will be renewed. Standing in for Bart Starr or Brett Favre will be Rodgers, who already owns a Super Bowl ring. In place of Don Meredith or Troy Aikman will be Romo, whose late touchdown pass lifted Dallas over Detroit in the wild-card round on Sunday.

"I'm excited about the challenge, it's going to be fun," Romo said. "Obviously we know now we're going against as good an offense as there is in the league. Maybe over the last three of four years the best offense in the league. It's going to be a great test. We have to play great, better than we did today."

Green Bay was 8-0 at home in 2014. Dallas (13-4) won all eight of its road games.

PANTHERS AT SEAHAWKS

Just the second team with a losing record to win a division title, the Panthers took their fifth straight game by ending Arizona's season Saturday. It was Carolina's first playoff win in nine years.

The defense held the Cardinals (11-6) and third-string quarterback Ryan Lindley to 78 yards, the fewest in NFL playoff history. But facing Wilson is a far tougher challenge, to say the least.

"We know who we are — menacing, stifling and we are going to get after you," cornerback Josh Norman said. "We know when there is blood in the water and when there is, our sharks are going to eat."

They might not find such a meaty opponent next week when the AFC South champs travel to Seattle. Newton will face the league's stingiest defense, one that has been doing much of the chomping the last two months.

See more football coverage at www.dailyastorian.com/sports/pro