

# Warriors score best Pac Rim showing since '99

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — There were three individual championships and lots of big points for the local schools this weekend, in the 2015 Pacific Rim Wrestling Classic.

The annual meet took place Friday and Saturday at Seaside High School, where 18 schools met for the biggest prep wrestling tournament on the Oregon Coast.

Wrestlers from the North Coast and Southwest Washington made one of their best Pac Rim showings in years, with Ilwaco, Astoria and Warrenton all finishing in the top eight of the team standings.

Topping the list individually were a pair of back-to-back champions for the Warriors, Colton Walker and Rogue Bergerson.

The duo became the first Warrenton teammates to score titles in the Pac Rim in the same season since 1999, when Wes Balensifer (189 pounds) and Dusty McGrorty (215) won titles.

"We definitely thought we had a shot at it," said Warrenton coach Trask Bergerson.

Rogue Bergerson and Walker have spent much of the season competing at 113 pounds, before Walker moved to 106 for the Pac Rim.

"Colton has been shooting for 106, and qualified for it on his weight card," coach Bergerson said. "That was kind of the plan, to get them separated eventually. (Walker) got there, and once he did, we knew he would be really strong. It's been beneficial to both of them. They're helping each other out in a big way."

The team championship belonged to Class 5A Churchill, which scored 215 points to bring a three-year run by Scappoose to an end. The Indians (204.5) placed second, followed by Estacada, St. Helens, Ilwaco and Astoria.

Astoria racked up 110 points to finish sixth for the second straight year, highlighted by an individual championship for senior Josh Long at 152 pounds.

Long made an impressive run through the bracket, with a fall over Estacada's Andrew Mervyn (4:26), a pin over Vernonia's Alex West, and a major decision (12-2) over Ben Hughes of Central Linn.

In the final, he battled Cody Erhardt of Scappoose before scoring a pin at the 5:33 mark.

"It was the first time I've faced (Erhardt)," Long said. "Compared to the beginning of the year, this was probably my best tournament, because all my moves were fluid and smooth, and I was in control. I pinned most of the guys — the one I didn't pin was 12-2, and the first two guys didn't score any points on me."

Long may drop to 145 for the postseason.

"The Cowapa League is solid," he said. "The guys I



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Astoria's Matthew Mather tries to pin Ilwaco's Brandon Sparks during the Pac Rim wrestling tournament Friday at Seaside High School.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Other wrestlers look on as Seaside's Gannon Abernathy tries to take down Clatskanie's Travis Puckett.

have more trouble with are at 160."

Ilwaco had one individual champ, as Alec Bell scored a 7-2 decision over Astoria's Josh Raichl in the final at 220. Ilwaco added a third place (Matt McDonald at 285).

After placing second at 106 pounds in the 2013 tournament, Bergerson won last year at 113, and was the repeat champion at 113 Saturday.

After a first round bye, he pinned Churchill's Dakoate Lutje in 3:21, then had a fall over Estacada's Austin Puetz (:57) in the semifinals.

In the final, Bergerson quickly gained the upper hand on Tyler Cooper of Scappoose, on his way to a 14-3 decision.

"I wrestled pretty well," Bergerson said. "(Cooper) was a lot bigger — I know he wrestled up a few weights a couple weeks ago. I just had to try and work around the



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Warrenton's Colton Walker takes down Clatskanie's Dalton Littleton during the Pac Rim wrestling tournament Friday at Seaside.

outside, and work around the power.

"I was pretty nervous going in — I thought he was a lot bigger," said Bergerson, adding that his goal the remainder of the season is to "not lose anymore. I lost a match at an earlier tournament (to Conner Duhn from Mt. View). I was hoping for

an undefeated season."

His father and coach said, "I talked to Rogue and Colton about that. If you're really wrestling a tough schedule, unless you're a super hero — you shouldn't be undefeated."

Another Warrior championship came from Walker, Bergerson's teammate.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Knappa's Chris Cruz tries to pin St. Helens' Garrett Kust during their match.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Astoria's Josh Long wrestles Estacada's Andrew Mervyn during the Pac Rim wrestling tournament Friday at Seaside High School. Long won an individual championship in the 152 pound weight class.

After winning the title at 106 last year as a member of the Astoria wrestling team, Walker did it again this year as a Warrior.

The junior pinned his way to the title, with four straight falls over Dalton Littleton of Clatskanie (:39), Dylan Coonrod of Central Linn (1:06), Churchill's Gavin Sherrill (1:23), and a 45-second pin over John DeWitt of St. Helens in the title match.

The Warriors had their highest team finish (eighth) since taking eighth in 2008,

and scored their most Pac Rim points since 1999.

Parker Whitsett placed fifth at 132, and Michael Suppa fifth at 145.

Knappa scored 64.5 points for 13th, as Chris Cruz advanced to the finals at 170, where he lost a 10-3 decision to Churchill's Gavin Carroll. Nate Truax added a third-place finish for the Loggers at 195, with Astoria's Bronson Holthusen fourth.

Seaside had two sixth-place finishers — Gannon Abernathy (126) and Jordan Hansard (138).

# Huskies hold off the Fishermen in 60-51 win

By GARY HENLEY  
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AURORA — North Marion's Josh Umbenhouwer scored 23 points and teammate Tanner Scanlon added 15 to help the Huskies score a 60-51 win over Astoria Friday, in non-league boys basketball action.

The Fishermen — who were 7-of-17 from the free throw line — trailed by 8- to 10 points most of the game, before closing to within three in the fourth quarter.

Morgan Fruith led Astoria with 17 points, followed by Derek Jarrett with 15 and Ryan Palek with nine.

Astoria plays at Molalla Tuesday, while No. 6-ranked North Marion improves to 10-2.

**Riverdale 50,  
Warrenton 42**

WARRENTON — Brock

Johnson made seven 3-pointers and led Warrenton with 29 points, but Riverdale left with a 50-42 victory over the Warriors Saturday night in a Lewis & Clark League game.

The Warriors were within four points early in the fourth quarter, before the Mavericks pulled away.

Warrenton was coming off a 60-23 loss at De La Salle the night before.

**Delphian 52, Knappa 47**  
SHERIDAN — A late comeback by Delphian forced overtime, where the Dragons outscored Knappa 10-5 for a 52-47 win over the Loggers.

Delphian had three players in double figures, led by Tom Chiang, who scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half.

Tyson Burnard had 20 points, Dakota Severson added 12, and Justin Dragoo had 15 rebounds for the Loggers,

who host Vernonia Tuesday.

The Dragons tied the game in regulation on a free throw with eight seconds left (and Knappa leading 42-41), after a foul by the Loggers on a 3-point attempt.

**Willamette Valley Ch. 41,  
Jewell 30**

JEWELL — Jewell's Trypton Silva had 10 points and 10 rebounds, but the Blue Jays came up short on the scoreboard Friday night at home, with Willamette Valley Christian posting a 41-30 Casco League win.

Victor Berg added nine points for Jewell, which outscored Willamette Valley Christian 16-14 in the second half.

**Ilwaco 62,  
Tacoma Baptist 56**

ILWACO, Wash. — Ilwaco picked up its first

league win Saturday, with a 62-56 victory over Tacoma Baptist.

Ilwaco had five players in double figures, led by Ethan Bannister and Nick Griffith with 14 apiece, followed by Kenneth Sheldon (12), and Marcos Mendoza and Zac Tapio with 10 apiece.

**GIRLS  
BASKETBALL**  
North Marion 46,  
Astoria 32

AURORA — North Marion broke open a close game with a 15-6 run in the second quarter, on its way to a 46-32 win over Astoria in nonleague action Friday.

Astoria's Taylor Mickle had seven points, and teammate Chloe Hunt added six points and seven rebounds. Libby DiBartolomeo had six points and five boards, while Kaylee Mitchell and Kaisa

Israel had three steals apiece.

Kiley Florez led the Huskies with 20 points, followed by Kelsie Henry and Marivi Rodriguez with 10 each.

**Warrenton 46,  
Riverdale 36**

WARRENTON — The Warrenton Lady Warriors split a pair of Lewis & Clark League games over the weekend.

Warrenton followed up a 48-21 loss at De La Salle Friday with a 46-36 win over Riverdale Saturday at home.

The victory was Warrenton's first of the season, and snapped a 14-game losing streak going back to last season.

No details were available.

**Willamette VC 31,  
Jewell 23**

JEWELL — Willamette Valley Christian built an 18-

13 halftime lead, on its way to a 31-23 win at Jewell Friday in a Casco League contest.

Gabi Morales led the Lady Jays with eight points and 11 rebounds, followed by Rachel Stahly with 10 rebounds. Alyssia Littlepage with five steals and Hannah Littlepage with seven points.

**Ilwaco 75,  
Tacoma Baptist 37**

TACOMA, Wash. — After a close first quarter, Ilwaco outscored Tacoma Baptist 58-27 the remainder of the game, for a 75-37 win over the Crusaders.

Freshman Madeline Jacobson scored 18 points with 10 rebounds, and freshman teammate Makenzie Kaech added 17 points and 10 boards for Ilwaco.

See Scoreboard on page 5A.