

Lions take down Blue Jays

JEWELL — Missed chances down the stretch cost the Jewell girls basketball team Thursday night, as Livingstone Adventist Academy hung on for a 35-34 victory over the Lady Jays.

"We had several chances to win it," said Jewell coach Mark Fick. "We missed four free throws and a bunch of lay-ins."

Meanwhile, Livingstone's Emillie Hathaway scored 20 of her team's 35 points. Alyscia Littlepage led Jewell with 13 points and six steals. Teammate Gabi Morales added nine points, eight rebounds and four steals for the Jays, who led 11-4 after one quarter.

BOYS BASKETBALL Livingstone 74, Jewell 54

JEWELL — In a closer game than the score indicated, Livingstone Adventist Academy had a 30-point fourth quarter Thursday night at Jewell, which helped the Lions score a 74-54 win over the Blue Jays.

Livingstone held a slim 41-38 lead heading into the final period, where the Lions outscored Jewell 30-16.

Bo Rapozo led Livingstone with 20 points, followed by Jacob Magee with 17 and Cameron O'Dell with 11.

Rylan Murray had 20 points, 10 rebounds and four steals for Jewell, with Ben Stahly adding 12 points and 13 rebounds.

"They shot a ton of free throws, and we didn't make enough of ours," said Jewell coach Mark Fick. "And we just didn't make our lay-ins — we missed at least 25. But the kids are working hard. This one just got out of hand at the end."

Poyer: He urges students to 'dream big'

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Poyer began Thursday with an early morning talk to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at Astoria Middle School; then he spoke with three different groups of kids at Lewis and Clark Elementary, followed by an afternoon assembly at Astoria High School, which was not mandatory, but still drew a large crowd.

"For students who are doing very well, and don't necessarily need an intervention to be successful, we're trying to set up these assemblies, or things that we call 'enrichments,'" Jackson said. "Today, it was Jordan Poyer."

And — although the assembly was optional for most juniors and seniors — "it was a pretty packed house," he said. "Maybe 300, 400 kids. It was well-received with a lot of energy."

While most Astoria High School students have either heard of Poyer or know him personally, "A lot of the grade school students didn't know who I was, but I was surprised at the amount who did know," said Poyer, a 2009 graduate of AHS. "I got a lot of funny questions over there. Once they saw the highlight film, they kind of realized 'he plays big-time football,' and they tuned in a little."

Poyer's message was an inspirational one, to "dream big," he said. "Just because you're from Astoria doesn't mean that you can't make it in the big city."

After leading Astoria High to its first football state championship in 2008, Poyer had four stellar years of football at Oregon State, and just finished his second year in the NFL, his first full year with the Browns after being drafted by Philadelphia.

"I've been wanting to do this for



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Jordan Poyer, cornerback for the Cleveland Browns and an alumnus of Astoria High School, gives a speech at AHS Thursday. A major theme of the speech was learning to take control of your actions.

a long time," he said, of talking with kids in his hometown. "I wanted to come back last year. At the time I really didn't feel like I was at a level where I felt comfortable, if that makes sense."

"Yeah, I played one year in the NFL, but I wanted to make more of a statement," he said. "I feel more comfortable talking with two years under my belt now."

In a small town where the heroes are even bigger, students were willing and excited to hear Poyer's message, no matter how many years he's played.

Long lines of autograph seekers followed the visits to each school.

"I was real nervous for the talk at

the high school," Poyer said, "but I felt like they wanted to hear what I had to say."

And each one of Poyer's talks was followed by a short question-and-answer session.

"I took a lot of questions," he said. "I answered so many questions. I could stand up there for hours and answer questions."

"I usually try to take 15 minutes, because it's not every day that a student gets an NFL player in front of them and they can ask me whatever they want."

And three days before Super Bowl XLIX, and with the Seahawks playing in it, Poyer received "A lot of Seahawk questions. 'Who do you

want to win?' 'Who's your favorite NFL team besides the Browns?' ... those types of questions. It was all good fun."

The Browns, in fact, will play a regular season game in Seattle next year, with the date and time still to be determined.

"I'm pretty pumped up about that," Poyer said. "Just being back in the Northwest and to be able to play in front of fans who I grew up playing in front of."

Likewise, local fans are always pumped up to see and hear everything they can about Jordan Poyer.

Said Jackson, "He's represented himself, his college and his profession really well."

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Boys Basketball — Astoria at Seaside, 5:30 p.m.; Oregon Episcopal at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.; Knappa at Vernonia, 7:45 p.m.

Girls Basketball — Astoria at Seaside, 7:15 p.m.; Oregon Episcopal at

Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Knappa at Vernonia, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

Boys Basketball — Delphian at Knappa, 6:15 p.m.; Ilwaco at Life Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball — Delphian at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.; Ilwaco at Life Christian, 5:45 p.m.

Wrestling — Ilwaco Beach Brawl, 10 a.m.

BASKETBALL

HIGH SCHOOLS

Girls

Livingstone 35, Jewell 34

LAA (35): Emillie Hathaway 20,

Beaver 4, Forshee 4, Bumgarner 3, Thornton 2, Young 2.

JWL (34): Alyscia Littlepage 13, Morales 9, Stahly 6, H.Littlepage 4, Guillen 2, Haddock.

Livingstone 4 9 14 8-35

Jewell 11 8 10 5-34

Boys

Livingstone 74, Jewell 54

LAA (74): Bo Rapozo 20, Magee 17, O'Dell 11, Hermus 8, Carter 6, Alvarez 4, H.Kroschel 3, P.Kroschel 2, Schreiner 2.

JWL (54): Rylan Murray 20, Stahly 12, Berg 9, Silva 8, Ritchie 3, Meehan 2.

Livingstone 9 18 14 30-74

Jewell 12 11 15 16-54

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