

# Astoria hires co-head coach for softball

Renee Wells will join Lou Marconeri as the co-head coach of Astoria varsity softball this spring.

Wells is in her first year teaching health and physical education at Astoria High School. She previously taught Health and PE for the Clatskanie School District, where she also served as the head coach of girls basketball and softball.

She was named the Lewis & Clark League Coach of the Year (softball) for her efforts in 2011.

Marconeri has served as the Astoria softball coach since 2009, and has coached softball in Astoria at some level, youth or adult, since 1970.

According to Astoria Athletic Director Howard Rub, "We are very excited to have coach Wells join the

high school athletic department in this role. It is unique to have co-head coaches, but we felt this was the best course of action for our student-athletes and the program.

"Coach Marconeri has devoted his entire adult life since moving to Astoria 45 years ago to our softball community," Rub said. "We know he will continue to do everything in his

power to help our girls have success, but we also wanted to bring a strong female presence from our building to work with the girls."

He added, "We feel we are getting the best of both coaches by setting up our season with this structure."

Marconeri earned Coach of the Year honors from his Cowapa League peers after the 2014 season.

## BASEBALL

**Warrenton Kids tryouts Saturday**  
Baseball tryouts for Warrenton Kids Inc., will be Saturday at Warrenton High School.

Registration for players age 10 to 12 are at 8:30 a.m., followed by registration for ages 8 to 9, at 10:30 a.m.

Bring clean shoes, no cleats.

# Ilwaco girls play for title

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

**Ilwaco 52, Willapa Valley 51**

MENLO, Wash. — Ilwaco avoided an upset Wednesday at Willapa Valley, and now will play for the Pacific 2B League championship tonight at home.

Makenzie Kaech hit a free throw with no time showing on the clock in Wednesday's game, resulting in a 52-51 win for the Lady Fishermen.

Ilwaco (9-0 in the Pacific 2B standings), hosts Raymond (8-1) tonight, with the league title on the line, as well as the top seed in the District IV tournament.

Jasmine Coffin led Ilwaco with 15 points in the win over Willapa Valley, in which the Fishermen held an eight-point halftime lead.

Willapa's Karly Friese poured in a game-high 31 points, including a shot to tie the game at 51-51 with 11.8 seconds left.

Kaech was fouled on an offensive rebound putback shot as time expired, and made her first free throw for the win.

The Lady Fishermen are 18-1 overall, with their only loss coming Dec. 9 at Seaside, a 61-43 setback to the Gulls, one of the top-ranked 4A teams in Oregon.

## Jewell 44, Seaside JVII 27

JEWELL — The Jewell girls basketball team picked up a nonleague game win Thursday night at home, 44-27 over the Seaside junior varsity II team.

Jewell's Alyscia Littlepage scored 14 points with seven steals, and teammate Gabi Morales added 13 points, 13 rebounds and eight steals.

Rachel Stahly finished with 11 points, six boards and four assists.



Photos by KATHY MORGAN — For The Daily Astorian

Knappa wrestlers participated in a match with Vernonia and Seaside Tuesday. Knappa's Dawson Whiteside, blue, wrestles Jake Harbour of Vernonia. Harbour won by points. See more photos at [www.dailyastorian.com](http://www.dailyastorian.com).

# On the Mat



Chris Cruz of Knappa, right, defeats Raiden Bowles of Seaside Tuesday.

RIGHT: Reuben Cruz of Knappa defeats Vernonia's Alex West with a pin.



Knappa's Nate Truax pins Niklas Merzadah of Vernonia.



# Aldridge leads Trail Blazers to 108-87 win over Suns

PORTLAND (AP) — As LaMarcus Aldridge has grown older and stronger, rebounding has come easier for him. His teammates have something to do with that, too.

The four-time All-Star had 19 points and 13 rebounds for his team-record 220th double-double, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Phoenix Suns 108-87 on Thursday night.

Aldridge said early in his career, former Blazers coach Nate McMillan used him as a big man who could switch and guard pick-and-rolls.

"I think now our defense is better. I'm at the rim more, I'm in the paint more, so I think it's just a mindset of knowing, I'm in the paint, so go and get it," Aldridge said.

Nicolas Batum added 20 points and Robin Lopez, playing his second game after missing 23 with a broken right hand, had 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who won their second straight after a three-game skid.

"It was a big win for us," Portland guard Damian Lillard said. "They've given us a lot of trouble in the last two or three years. We came out tonight and took the challenge defensively. We really got after them on the defensive end

of the floor." Markieff Morris had 18 points for the Suns, who dropped their third in a row. Phoenix climbed back into the game in the third period after trailing by 19 in the first half, but ultimately the Blazers thwarted the rally with a dominant fourth quarter.

Portland opened the fourth with a 9-2 run to go up 75-67. Batum's 3-pointer stretched the lead to 86-75 with 6:03 left.

Portland went 6-9 in January after ascending to the top spot in the Western Conference standings earlier this season. Before a 103-102 victory Tuesday night over the Jazz, the Blazers had lost five of six.

The Suns were one of the teams that beat the Blazers last month, 118-113 in Phoenix on Jan. 21.

But the Suns are struggling on the road, with six straight losses, and they were coming off a 102-101 loss at home to Memphis on Monday.

"It was just one of those games," Morris said. "We came out real sluggish and lackadaisical and they got out to a good lead on us."

The Blazers jumped out to a 25-13 advantage on Wesley Matthews' 3-pointer. Portland got a spark off the bench from C.J. McCollum,

who had 12 points.

The Suns struggled with turnovers, committing eight in the first quarter alone, and trailed 46-35 at halftime. The first-half point total was a season low for Phoenix.

The Suns closed the gap to 52-46, but there was a scary moment when Alex Len crashed into the base of the basket and appeared to injure his right ankle. He was able to walk off the court, but did not play in the fourth quarter. X-rays were negative.

After the game, the team said Len had a sprain, but he left the Moda Center on crutches. Suns coach Jeff Hornacek expressed concern.

"He'll get treatment on it," Hornacek said. "I don't know how long he'll be out. I'm guessing he'll be out through the (All-Star) break to give him the extra rest, but I think we'll know more tomorrow."

Morris' 3-pointer and a free throw from Miles Plumlee pulled the Suns to 54-53 midway through the third quarter.

The Suns briefly took a 63-62 lead after Eric Bledsoe's layup with 1:20 left in the third quarter, but Batum answered with a 3 on the other end.

"It was an ugly game to watch, but I thought it was good on the court for us, our competitiveness," Aldridge said.



Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge shoots over Phoenix Suns forward Markieff Morris during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland Thursday. Aldridge scored 19 points and pulled in 13 rebounds as the Trail Blazers won 108-87.

AP Photo/Don Ryan

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SCHEDULE

**TODAY**  
Girls Basketball — Astoria at Banks, 5:30 p.m.; Seaside at Scappoose, 5:30 p.m.; Warrenton at Riverdale, 6 p.m.; Gaston at Knappa, 6 p.m.; Jewell at C.S. Lewis, 5:30 p.m.; Raymond at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Astoria at Banks, 7:15 p.m.; Seaside at Scappoose, 7:15 p.m.; Warrenton at Riverdale, 7:45 p.m.; Gaston at Knappa, 7:45 p.m.; Jewell at C.S.

Lewis, 7 p.m.  
Swimming — Cowapa League Championships, St. Helens, 4 p.m.

**SATURDAY**  
Wrestling — Cowapa League Championships, Banks, 10 a.m.

**BASKETBALL**  
**HIGH SCHOOLS**  
Standings  
Boys  
Cowapa League

League Overall	Seaside	Tillamook	Astoria	Scappoose	Valley Catholic	Banks
4-1	4-1	11-6	2-3	8-11	2-3	14-5
2-3	10-8	1-4	5-13			

Lewis & Clark League	Portland Adv	De La Salle	Clatskanie	Catlin Gabel	Rainier
12-2	13-8	11-2	14-6	10-3	14-6
8-6	14-8	6-7	6-13		

Riverdale	5-8	8-13
OR Episcopal	5-9	10-12
Warrenton	2-11	8-13
Portland Chr	1-12	3-19

Northwest League	Nestucca	Knappa	Delphian	Vernonia	Faith Bible	City Christian	Gaston	Neah-Kah-Nie
10-2	15-6	9-2	16-5	7-4	11-8	7-4	10-11	6-5
9-11	8-13	2-9	5-16	0-11	3-18			

Girls Cowapa League	Seaside	Banks	Valley Catholic	Scappoose	Astoria	Tillamook
5-0	11-4	4-1	12-7	3-2	14-5	2-3
8-9	1-4	8-11	0-5	8-9		

Lewis & Clark League	Portland Adv	Portland Chr	Rainier	De La Salle
13-1	15-6	12-1	19-3	10-3
7-6	7-14			

OR Episcopal	7-7	12-10
Clatskanie	6-7	10-11
Riverdale	2-11	4-15
Catlin Gabel	2-12	5-17
Warrenton	1-12	1-20

Northwest League	Vernonia	Faith Bible	City Christian	Knappa	Neah-Kah-Nie	Gaston	Nestucca
10-0	18-2	8-2	13-5	4-5	10-10	2-7	8-9
2-8	5-16	1-9	4-17				