

Astoria boys take back the Clash, 42-33

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

With one or two exceptions, Clatsop Clash boys basketball has been a little one-sided for the last few years.

From a couple lopsided Seaside victories in 2012 (77-31, 63-29), to the last four meetings between the two schools, the big plays, the big shots, the big wins ... most have belonged to the Gulls.

"That's what I've heard," said Astoria's Kevin Goin, following perhaps his biggest win in his first year as the Fishermen coach, a 42-33 victory over the Gulls Tuesday night at the Brick House.

"But I remember the old days, and those (Clatsop Clash wins) were always quality wins," he said. "I don't think I'd ever lost to Seaside in my life, in six or seven years of playing youth basketball, so we needed to get one."

And get one they did, as Astoria picked up its biggest victory of the season, one that may get the Fishermen to the playoffs.

What makes the win even sweeter still for the Fishermen — it was Senior Night, and Astoria came in with the league's worst record (2-6), while the Gulls came in at the top of the standings (6-2), with a share of the league title if they had won.

Now, first place will be decided Friday, when Seaside (6-3) plays at Tillamook (5-4), while Scappoose (6-3) plays at Banks (3-6). The Fishermen are currently tied with the Braves for fifth.

Meanwhile, Tuesday night's celebration belonged to the Fishermen, especially seniors Tucker Johnson and Jason Keating.

"Both our seniors did a nice job," Goin said. "Those poor kids have had three coaches in three years, and that's traumatic. They've had some struggles adjusting, and I couldn't be happier for Tucker and Jason. They did some great things tonight, and gave us some great energy."

The Fishermen players also gave their coach the big win by



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Astoria's Morgan Fruiht, No. 23, celebrates after a break away layup by Astoria's Ryan Palek (not pictured) in the final minutes of the game against Seaside at Astoria High School Tuesday. Fruiht scored 13 points in the game.

leading from start to finish.

Derek Jarrett opened the game with a 3-pointer, and Johnson scored the last five points to put the game away.

Johnson finished with seven points, while Morgan Fruiht scored eight of his game-high 13 points in the first half, and was the only player in double figures.

Despite never trailing, the Fishermen had to work, battle and scrap for every point — and they had to do the same at the other end to keep the Gulls from playing their game.

Defensively, Astoria held the Gulls to their second-lowest point total of the season, and never allowed Seaside to get into a rhythm offensively.

Normally a deadly 3-point shooting team, the Gulls were 5-for-27 from the 3-point line, while the high-scoring Jackson Januik and Jaxson Smith finished with a combined 11 points.

"We played Seaside twice last year when I was at Central (as an assistant coach), and we

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Astoria's Kyle Strange, No. 2, looks to pass in the second half against Seaside. See more photos at www.dailyastorian.com



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Astoria's Derek Jarrett, No. 34, puts up a shot in the second half.



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Seaside's Hunter Thompson, No. 14, tries to pass through multiple Astoria players in the first half.

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