

# Burnard goes for 50 in Knappa win

By MIKE WEBER  
For the Daily Astorian

FOREST GROVE — Tyson Burnard's career-high 50 points helped lead the Knappa Loggers to an 80-68 win over the Vernonia Loggers in the Northwest League No. 1 seed game Saturday at Forest Grove High School.

With the win, coach Chris Spencer's No. 6-ranked Loggers clinched a home game in the 16-team Class 2A state playoffs. Knappa (20-5 overall) will play No. 12 Union (16-8) at 6 p.m. Friday at Knappa.

A win would send Knappa to Pendleton for the first time since 2011.

"I'm really proud of the kids for their good team effort," said Spencer, the NWL Coach-of-the-Year. "We had some late foul trouble, but our bench players (Colton Weirup, Ethan Rubus, Chase Rusinovich) came in and they made significant contributions to helping us get the win.

"Tyson played like an MVP by scoring 50 of our 80 points, which is really incredible. It was really special to see him take over the game like that and you don't see that type of performance too often. His performance ranks right up there with some of the best ever in Knappa's long tradition of very successful basketball teams."

In what was an early see-saw battle that included six first-quarter lead changes, Knappa took control of the game with an incredible 29-4 scoring outburst. Burnard, a lightning quick 5-foot-7 senior guard, had 14 points in the run to help fuel the offensive explosion. Burnard also had a total of eight rebounds and five assists.

"I think we're starting to come together as a team and play pretty well even though we're without one of our best players, Andy Miller, who is injured," said Burnard, who earned the NWL Player-of-the-Year Award. "We're hoping that Andy will be back soon, because we're an even better team with him. I just hope that we'll make it to Pendleton, which is one of our main goals and it would be just awesome. We just have to win one more game at home and I think we can do



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**Knappa's Justin Dragoo puts up a jump shot during Saturday's win over Vernonia.**

that. Maybe we'll even have a chance to win it all too, but we'll have to wait and see what happens there."

Trailing 16-14 after a 5-0 Vernonia run, Knappa freshman forward Dale Takalo (11 points) fired in a 3-point field goal, giving Knappa a 17-16 advantage. Takalo later scored on a layup off a fast break, giving Knappa a 19-16 lead after one quarter.

An 11-0 Knappa run overlapping the first and second quarters extended the margin to 25-16 on back-to-back 3-pointers by Weirup with 7:15 left in the second. After Vernonia trimmed it to 25-19, Knappa junior Dakota Severson sank two free throws to help ignite an 11-0 run.

Burnard scored nine consecutive points, including back-to-back steals for breakaway layups. Burnard's driving layup in the lane capped the rally as Knappa built a double digit 36-19 advantage.

"I really didn't know how

many points I had because I don't keep track of them, but I sure love scoring on drives to the hoop," said Burnard, whose previous career-high was 35 points. "I like shooting 3's and I also made lots of free throws (nine) too, which also helped us a lot. I was able to use my quickness advantage to penetrate well through Vernonia's defense. I had no idea that I would score 50 points though."

Utilizing a quick and aggressive man-to-man defense to get steals and create turnovers, Knappa thwarted Vernonia's offense and continued its momentum by building 23 point margins twice for its largest lead of the game.

Knappa senior Justin Dragoo (12 rebounds) sank a jumper in the lane, making it 43-20 and Burnard's 8-foot jump shot made it 45-22. Knappa outscored Vernonia 30-15 in the second to lead 49-31 at halftime.

"It feels pretty awesome

to win the district championship," Dragoo said. "Everyone on our team really wanted to win this game, because we realize that we play a lot better at home than we do in road games. We'll have a full gym on Friday for the state playoffs, which will be lots of fun. Tyson sure played a great game and he just had an awesome performance. It was our goal to win districts and our next goal is to go to Pendleton. It would be a great way for the seniors on our team to conclude our basketball career."

Vernonia came back with a third-quarter rally, outscoring Knappa 15-9, to get within 58-46. Knappa regained the momentum by scoring the first four points of the fourth on two Burnard free throws and a Weirup 3 for a 63-46 lead with 6:44 left in the game.

Vernonia responded with a 16-6 run, trimming it to 69-62 with 2:47 remaining on the clock, but they wouldn't get any closer. Clutch free throws by Burnard and Severson put the lead back to double digits at 72-62 with 2:10 left. Burnard had an absolutely amazing performance as he was just unstoppable for the entire game and he scored the Loggers final eight points on two driving layups in the lane and four free throws to help lead Knappa to a fifth straight victory.

"This was a huge, huge win for us, because if we would've lost, then we would've had to play a road game on Friday in the state playoffs," said Spencer. "It will be a fun environment having a home playoff game and we're hoping to get another big win. It sure was nice playing at Forest Grove High School for the first time in such a nice facility like this. I like it better than where we played the district tournament last year at Pacific University."

Knappa shot 57 percent (12-for-21) from the line, 52 percent (10-for-19) from the 3-point arc and 45 percent in two-point field goals (19-for-42). It marked the third time Knappa scored 80 or more points this season.

Burnard recorded the second highest total in Knappa history. The school record is 54 points by Bob "Pudgy" Hunt in 1957.

# Two Seaside relay swim teams reach the top four

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

GRESHAM — The Seaside boys swim team had three relays competing in the Class 4A portion of the OSAA state meet over the weekend, at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham.

Two of the relays earned top-four finishes, scoring 14 points for an eighth-place team finish for the Gulls.

Seaside's foursome of Will Garvin, Luke Liljenwall, Dylan Townsend and Sam Beaudoin teamed up to help the Gulls' 200-yard freestyle relay to a third place showing.

The Gulls were seeded seventh going into the meet, but swam a preliminary time of 1 minute, 35.73 seconds (over a two-second drop from districts).

In the championship final, Seaside swam 1:35.18 to place third behind Catlin Gabel (1:31.76) and Sweet Home (1:35.10).

Seeded fourth going into the state meet, that's exactly where Seaside's 200-yard medley relay team (Garvin, Brad Rzewnicki, Beaudoin, Townsend) finished in the state final.

After a preliminary time of 1:47.72, the Gulls swam a 1:46.21 in the final to finish fourth behind Catlin Gabel (1:39.69), La Grande and Philomath.

Seaside's 400-yard freestyle relay team did not qualify for the finals.

## WRESTLING Warriors qualify five for state

HERMISTON — After a quarterfinal loss in the Class 4A state wrestling meet last year with Astoria, Warrenton's Colton Walker will be the favorite at 106 pounds in the 3A meet later this week, after the Warrior junior won a district title Saturday.

Walker was the only Warrenton champion, while four others qualified for the state meet after a weekend of competition in Hermiston, which hosted the Special District 1/3A Tournament.

Nyssa won the team title with 327 points, with Vale (255.5) second and Warrenton fifth out of nine teams.

"I'm elated to have five guys going," said Warrenton coach Trask Bergerson. "It was a remarkable feat for our program. There was some monster competition in this district.

"We knew we could get a couple guys to state (Walker and Rogue Bergerson), so the other guys provided the silver lining."

Walker cruised through the bracket at 106, with a 13-second pin over Clatskanie's Dalton Littleton; a 6-4 decision over Nyssa's Ryan Vineyard; and a second round fall over Andrew DeLeon of Nyssa in the final.

"Colton was really apprehensive going into his last match, because he had never wrestled DeLeon," coach Bergerson said.

But after a couple early big moves by DeLeon, Walker took over with some superior strength and ended the match in the second round.

After a quarterfinal bye, Warrior senior Rogue Bergerson scored a 16-5 major decision over Vale's Jorge Juica

in the semifinals.

In the chess-match-like final, Nyssa sophomore Heath Hartley posted a 3-2 decision over Bergerson. The two could very well meet again in the state championship final later this week.

Also headed to state will be senior Michael Suppa, the only wrestler in the tournament to score four pins. Suppa took third at 145 pounds, after losing a semifinal match to Nyssa's Joshua Bongiorno.

Warrenton junior Justice Watson placed third at 160, with a fall (1:18) over Nyssa's Alejandro Carrasco in the third-place match.

Warrenton's final qualifier to state is junior Eli Peterson, who went 2-2 to finish fourth at 182.

## Knappa has three district champs

KNAPPA — With three individual champions and four state qualifiers, the Knappa wrestling team will be scoring some major points in the state meet later this week.

The Loggers were the hosts for the Special District 1/2A/1A tournament, held Friday and Saturday at Knappa.

And with the home mat advantage, Knappa wrestlers won three titles.

Monroe won the team championship with 256 points, followed by Nestucca (194). Vernonia was third and Knappa took fourth out of eight schools.

Knappa's first individual title came at 170 pounds.

With just four wrestlers in the bracket at 170 — and the top two going to state — the odds were good for Logger senior Chris Cruz, who had a quarterfinal bye, then pinned Neah-Kah-Nie's Dylan Dunlap in the semifinals to clinch a spot in the final eight at state.

In the championship bout, Cruz scored a fall (1:33) over Nestucca's Bryce McKillip.

Shortly after Cruz's championship, Knappa sophomore Andrew Goozee won the title at 182.

With just three wrestlers in the entire bracket, Goozee had a first-round bye, a pin over Neah-Kah-Nie's Dylan Hanson in the semifinals (1:10), and a pin over Gabriel Cazarez of Neah-Kah-Nie in the championship (1:33).

Knappa senior Nate Truax had to win one match to clinch his spot in the final eight at state (a 21-second fall over Neah-Kah-Nie's Luis Perez in the semifinals); then Truax recorded a 1:16 fall over Nestucca's Chase Cook in the title match.

At 132 pounds, Knappa senior Ryan Simpson scored a 15-9 quarterfinal decision over Jacob Drago of Triangle Lake, then posted a 7-2 score over Monroe's Tyler Sherman for a spot in the final.

In the championship, Monroe's Kaleb Ballard gained a little revenge for his teammate, scoring an 8-4 decision over Simpson, who still qualified for state.

Sophomore Cody Hobbs narrowly missed qualifying for state at 106, where Hobbs had a first-round bye, lost a semifinal match to Nestucca's Gabe Garcia, then had two byes in the consolation round to finish third out of three wrestlers.

# Gulls play role of Cheese-melters

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

TILLAMOOK — A 3-point shot by Jackson Januik with five seconds left gave Seaside the win and a share of the Cowapa League title Friday night, as the Gulls won at Tillamook, 53-52.

Coupled with Scappoose's win over Banks, the Gulls and Indians finish tied for the top spot at 7-3.

Scappoose and Seaside will play the tie-breaker for the No. 1 seed at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Clatskanie.

It will be the fourth meeting of the season between Scappoose and Seaside.

Seaside held an early 7-2 lead Friday before Tillamook rallied behind a big first quarter from Zane Wright, to take an eventual 20-13 lead.

That's about when Wright got into foul trouble, and had to spend much of the second quarter and second half on the bench. He picked up his fourth foul late in the third period.

With Wright on the bench, Seaside rallied behind a big second half from Januik, who hit three straight baskets late in the third quarter to give Seaside the lead.

The Cheesemakers battled, and with Wright back on the floor in the fourth quarter, Tillamook took a 52-50 lead with 14 seconds remaining on a Wright jump shot.

But the Gulls rallied one last time, with Januik draining the game-winning 3-pointer with five seconds left.

"This was the first time all year that we've played well on the road," said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm. "We've had players play well, but we haven't played well as a group for a whole game.

"And this was a tough place



JEFF TER HAR — The Daily Astorian

**Seaside players mob Jackson Januik, following his game-winning shot Friday at Tillamook.**

to do it," he said of Tillamook. "As a team, we talked about it being time to step up. We're not inexperienced anymore, and we're going to have to win on the road to get to the final eight. If we can win at Tillamook, we can win anywhere."

Win or lose Tuesday, the Gulls will host either a Regional Play-in game or a first-round state playoff contest.

## Valley Catholic 41, Astoria 32

BEAVERTON — A tie for third place in the league standings finished the season for the Astoria boys basketball team Friday.

Valley Catholic defeated the Fishermen 41-32, putting Astoria and Banks into a fifth-place tie in the standings at 3-7. But because of a tie for third between Tillamook and Valley Catholic at 5-5, that ends the season for the Fishermen and Braves.

Morgan Fruith had 14 points for Astoria, which held a 17-15 lead at halftime.

The Valiants outscored the Fishermen 8-5 in the third, then went on a short run in the fourth quarter to pull away.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL Seaside 52, Tillamook 29

TILLAMOOK — Having

already clinched a share of the Cowapa League title coming in to the game, the Seaside girls basketball team made it official Friday night, locking up the No. 1 spot all to themselves with a win at Tillamook.

Once again, the defending champion Gulls had all the points they would need by halftime, as they built a 34-16 lead at the break, on their way to an easy 52-29 victory over the Cheesemakers.

Maddi Utti poured in 21 points and Whitney Westerholm added 11 for the Gulls, who never trailed and led 25-9 early in the second quarter. Seaside does not play again until March 7, when the Gulls host a lower-seeded team in a Sweet 16 game.

## Valley Catholic 61, Astoria 26

BEAVERTON — Three Valley Catholic players scored in double figures, and the Valiants held Astoria to just nine points in the first half Friday night, on their way to a 61-26 win over the Lady Fishermen in a Cowapa League girls basketball regular season finale.

Astoria finishes 2-8 and tied with Tillamook for fifth in the league standings, and will now prepare for the league

playoffs and the Regional Play-in round.

The Lady Fish beat Tillamook twice in the regular season to win the fifth-place tie-breaker. Scappoose (3-7), which swept Astoria during the regular season, hosts Astoria in a league playoff for the No. 4 seed tonight.

The winner plays Tuesday at Banks for the No. 3 and 4 seeds.

Chloe Hunt led Astoria with 15 points in Friday's loss, to go with nine rebounds, five steals and two blocks. Kaylee Mitchell had six points and seven rebounds.

Molly Danielson led Valley Catholic with 14 points.

## City Christian 55, Knappa 40

FOREST GROVE — A rough first quarter ended up costing the Knappa girls Saturday afternoon, in a Northwest League basketball playoff game against City Christian.

The Lions jumped out to a 17-2 lead after one period, on their way to a 55-40 win over the Lady Loggers, who finish their season at 13-12 overall.

Knappa fought back to within eight points in the second quarter, but City Christian was able to hold on for the win, which gave the Lions the league's No. 3 seed to the state playoffs.

Susie Traver scored 16 points and Arianna Swalko added 14 for City, while Shailei Wright tossed in 14 points, with six rebounds and five steals for Knappa.

McKailyn Rogers added 10 points and five rebounds, Amber Jones pulled down nine rebounds, and Kacie Cameron finished with four steals and three assists for the Loggers.



KATHY MORGAN — For the Daily Astorian  
**Knappa wrestling state qualifiers, from left to right: Nate Truax, Ryan Simpson, Christopher Cruz, Andrew Goozee.**