

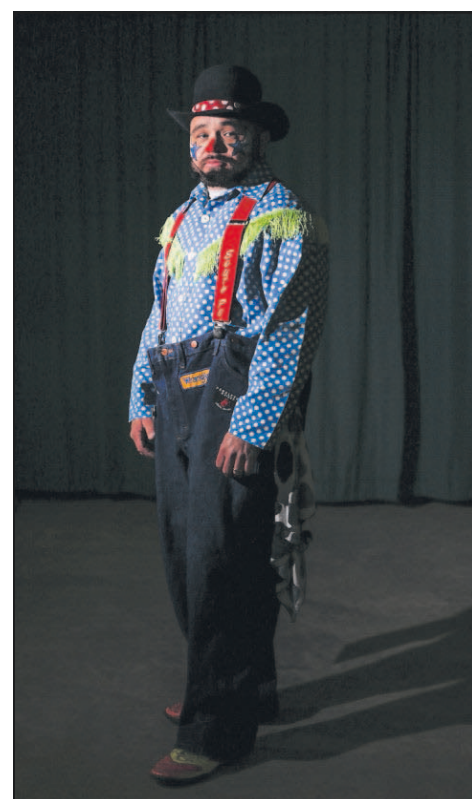
# Challenge of Champions kicks up its heels



Rider Sid Britt, of Hermiston, flies off his bull during the Challenge of Champions bull riding event at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds Saturday.

Photos by JOSHUA BESSEX  
The Daily Astorian

The annual bull riding event thundered at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds Saturday.



Rodeo Clown Nate Reed stands for a portrait during the Challenge of Champions bull riding event at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds Saturday.



Codey Brixey, of Kuna, Idaho, is thrown off his bull during the Challenge of Champions Saturday. Brixey won the event with a score of 88.5.



Lyle Painter, a rider from Roy, Wash., falls from his bull during the Challenge of Champions bull riding event at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds Saturday.



A bull rider hits the ground after falling off a bull during the Challenge of Champions bull riding event at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds Saturday.

## Ilwaco girls fifth at district; wrestlers bring home medals

By DAMIAN MULINIX  
EO Media Group

ROCHESTER, Wash. — The Ilwaco Lady Fishermen will head to the regional round of the 2B state tournament as a fifth seed out of the District IV tournament after their win Saturday over Life Christian, 46-40. The game was Ilwaco's fifth in the last eight days.

"Winning today (gives some) momentum going into the regional game," said coach Ned Bittner after the win. "(We) played good enough to win. Proud of the girls!"

Senior Jasmine Coffin led the team with 16 points, adding six rebounds and three assists. Makenzie Kaech had 10 points and 11 rebounds, while Emily McMillan scored 10. Hannah Ellsworth added eight points and seven rebounds.

In their six district tournament games, of which they won four, the Lady Fishermen averaged around 12 points per game — less than their season average — and were held to two of their lowest point outputs of the season in the two losses.

"(We're) playing against better teams and everyone is tired," said Bittner, who had multiple members of the team sick during that stretch as well. "We're not trying to push the ball as much. Taking advantage of each possession."

The Lady Fishermen will play Wahkiakum at 2 p.m. Saturday at W.F. West High School in Chehalis.

A win in the regional round will put the Ilwaco girls into the final eight at the state tournament in Spokane, played the first week of March.

### Ilwaco wrestling

TACOMA, Wash. — When the third period of the wrestling match expired, the scored stood tied. So it was when the first overtime ended, too. Alec Bell was on his hands and knees, center mat, with Raymond's Matthew Boyes trying to hold him down, as he did for most of the third period. Bell finally lifted and shrugged free of Boyes, earning a point to go ahead. Seconds later he was awarded another after Boyes pulled on Bell's headgear. It was over. And while Bell kept it cool in the spotlight, his coaches' excitement gave away how big a moment it was.

"I don't think you can ask for any better result unless they're in the finals. Taking four kids who were in regional finals is pretty cool. Today was just a great morning for us," said Ilwaco High wrestling coach Kevin McNulty Saturday.

Bell's exciting match to win third place in the 195-pound weight class was the grand finale of an especially eventful weekend for Ilwaco at the 2B state wrestling meet, where all four of Ilwaco participants went home with medals.

Also taking third was Jack Odneal in the 126-pound weight group, while Riki

Thompson (132) and Jack Kaino (152) both took fourth place Saturday.

After they all went 1-1 in Day 1 of the competition, all four wrestlers won their third-round match Saturday morning, putting them almost immediately into the third-place bouts for their weight groups. Odneal beat the same opponent he did in the first round Friday, but this time got the pin. Placing at state is one of a list of goals that Odneal has had for himself.

"I'm happy that we all placed. I just wanted it more than the other guy," said Odneal. "Third round I just broke him and pinned him."

And while he's happy to take home third, he already has his eyes on next year.

"I'm gonna be training. I'm gonna be working really hard," he said.

Thompson won his third-round match with a close 10-9 decision, before facing his first-round opponent again in the third-place bout, in which he was defeated 5-0. Kaino won his third-round match by 10-4 decision, before being bested 7-1 in the third-place bout.

McNulty noted that all four are underclassmen — two juniors and two sophomores — and will be working to get back to state again next year.

"It's even better that they all return next year. They're young, they're all good kids, they're all leaders for our team. I'm excited," he said.

## Lady Fish cagers begin postseason with win

**Astoria 32, Scappoose 23**  
SCAPPOOSE — Five years ago, Mike Jacobson's Seaside girls basketball team finished 2-8 in the Cowapa League standings, 9-17 overall.

The Gulls then won league playoff games at Tillamook and Banks and qualified for the state playoffs, where they lost a first-round game at La Salle.

Jacobson is hoping to repeat the feat with this year's Astoria girls basketball team, and is off to a good start.

After a 2-8 finish in league (9-15 overall), the fifth-place Lady Fish are closing in on the state playoffs, as they won a Cowapa League playoff game Monday night at fourth-place Scappoose, 32-23.

The Lady Fishermen will now travel to Banks to play at 5:30 p.m. today to play the third-place Braves. Win or lose, Astoria will likely qualify for the Regional Play-in round.

Astoria had lost seven of its last eight games (including two losses to Scappoose) to end the regular season, but the Lady Fish tossed those numbers out the window Monday.

With a strong defensive effort, Astoria held the Indians scoreless in the second quarter (4-0) and built a huge 15-5 halftime lead.

With Astoria's Mykka Abrahams on the bench with an illness — and with two Fishermen starters in foul trouble at the half — Scap-

poose rallied to within 19-12 with 2:47 left in the third quarter.

But the Indians could not keep pace with Astoria, which increased the lead to 21-12 going into the fourth.

Chloe Hunt poured in 17 points for the Lady Fishermen, and pulled down five rebounds with two steals.

Alexis Wallace added six points with four rebounds and four steals for Astoria, which shot well from the field (10-for-37) and the free throw line (10-for-19), and had 16 steals.

Meanwhile, the Braves are struggling, having lost three of their last four games. Banks narrowly defeated Scappoose (32-29) to finish league play.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

Girls Basketball — Astoria at Banks, 5:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Scappoose vs. Seaside, 7 p.m., at Clatskanie

#### FRIDAY

Boys Basketball — Union at Knappa, 6 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

Girls Basketball — Wahkiakum vs. Ilwaco, 2 p.m., at WF West HS, Chehalis

### BASKETBALL

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

##### Girls

Monday's result  
Astoria 32, Scappoose 23

AST (32): Chloe Hunt 17, Wallace 6, DeMander 5, Mitchell 4, DiBar-tolomeo, Dalton, Adams.

SCP (23): Alyssa Spang 7, Tinning 4, Bailey 4, Kopra 4, Galey 2, Brodala 2.

##### Weekend results

Astoria 11 4 6 11—32  
Scappoose 5 0 7 11—23

Seaside 52, Tillamook 29

SEA (52): Maddi Utti 21, Westholm 11, Dundas 9, Villegas 7, Bussert 4, West, Pldeue, J. Ideue.

TIL (29): Jordan Zweifel 14, Kottre 8, Hammond 4, Woods 3.

Seaside 20 14 8 10—52

Tillamook 7 9 5 8—29

Valley Catholic 61, Astoria 26

AST (26): Chloe Hunt 15, Mitchell 6, Wallace 3, DeMander 2, DiBar-tolomeo, Abrahams, Albright.

VC (61): Molly Danielson 14, Bush 12, Mannen 10, McDevitt 6, Vinson 5, Flemmer 5, McLeod 5.

Astoria 7 2 4 13—26

Valley Catholic 13 17 23 8—61

City Christian 55, Knappa 40

KNA (40): Shailei Wright 14, Rogers 10, Aho 4, Jones 4, Cameron 3, Vanderburg 3, Little 2, Vandergriff.

CC (55): Susie Traver 16, Swalko 14, Vong 9, Lewellen 8, Dickinson 3, Beleski 2.

Knappa 2 19 12 7—40

City Christian 17 17 11 10—55

##### Boys

Seaside 53, Tillamook 52

SEA (53): Jackson Januik 18, Smith 10, Eagon 10, Marston 8, Thompson 5, Lewis 2, Babb.

TIL (52): Zane Wright 17, Meyer 14, Berge 9, Martindale 4, Maloney 4, Moore 1, Buss 1.

Seaside 11 12 15 15—53

Tillamook 15 13 7 17—52

### Valley Catholic 41, Astoria 32

AST (32): Morgan Fruith 14, Fremstad 7, Scroup 5, Strange 4, Jarrett 2, Palek, Johnson, Keating.

VC (41): J.D. Menkens 8, Haggerty 7, Krishnakumar 6, VanderZanden 6, Lane 5, Osswald 5, Pathasarathy 4.

Astoria 7 10 5 10—32

Valley Catholic 9 6 8 18—41

### Knappa 80, Vernonia 68

VER (68): Clay Sullivan 24, Elliot 12, Moskalev 9, Adams 8, Medearis 7, Botelho 6, McCallum 2.

KNA (80): Tyson Burnard 50, Takalo 11, Weirup 9, Drago 5, Severson 5.

Vernonia 16 15 15 22—68

Knappa 19 30 9 22—80

### WRESTLING

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

Special District 1/3A

Weekend results

Team: Nyssa 327, Vale 255.5, Riverside 1775, Rainier 174, Warrenton 111, Clatskanie 78, De La Salle 63, Colton 52.5, Echo 15.

#### Special District 1/2A

Team: Monroe 256, Nestucca 194, Vernonia 139.5, Knappa 131, Neah-Kah-Nie 101, Siletz Valley 92, Triangle Lake 45, Waldport 12.