Loggers going 'home' to seek another title

By GARY HENLEY The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — There was a time not too long ago when Pendleton was the "home away from home" for Knappa Logger basketball.

Every year in early March, the Loggers and half of Knappa-Svenson would pack up and move east for a weekend, then (usually) return home with a trophy, bringing back their last three state title trophies in 1998 and '99, then again in 2009.

And now, following a three-year absence from Pendleton, the Loggers are headed back "home," after clinching a spot in the final eight with a 70-45 win over Union Friday night, in a Class 2A state playoff.

Knappa will be matched up against Heppner in a quarterfinal game at Pendleton High School (Thursday, 6:30 p.m.).

The winner will face either Western Mennonite or Toledo at the Pendleton Convention Center, 8:15 p.m. Friday.

And the way they're playing, "Somebody's going to have to play a hell of a game to beat us," said Knappa coach Chris Spencer, whose team may be a No. 6 seed, but they're playing like the No. 1.

The Bobcats never had a chance in the Logger Den, where Knappa took advantage of a charged up atmosphere to build a 25-9 lead early in the second quarter.

Game over.

"They ran into a buzz saw tonight," Spencer said of the Bobcats. "We had a great first half. We wanted to come out and absolutely swarm 'em, and make it really hard for them to score on every possession."

Knappa senior guard Tyson Burnard added, "We wanted to come out and play the most intense 'D' as we could — fullcourt, the whole game — and that's what helped us win."

Dakota Severson "spearheaded that," Spencer said. "He doesn't show up a lot in



does to other teams is phenomenal.

"What Justin (Dragoo) did underneath against a bunch of trees was also one of his best efforts.'

Union not only had trouble scoring, but just holding on to the ball, as the Bobcats had 13 turnovers in the first half, nine more in the third quarter.

Offensively, Knappa's goto guy — as it has been all season — was Burnard.

Coming off a 50-point performance in a league playoff win over Vernonia, Burnard poured in 32 Friday, making that 82 points in two games.

"That's Tyson being Tyson," Spencer said. "If he can make some more free throws, it would make the coach feel a little better.

"He's a senior who's hitting on all cylinders, and he's got all the confidence in the world. I don't know what to call it the box score, but what he swagger, energy —it's just full force.

nonstop. He might miss four or five in a row, but once he gets going, there's nobody in the state that can guard him."

After a pair of 3-pointers off the bench from Knappa freshman Colton Weirup, four straight hoops by Burnard gave Knappa the 25-9 lead.

Weirup added another trey just before halftime, as he scored nine points off the bench in the first half, due to foul trouble for Severson.

"We bring Colton in, and that's what Colton does," Spencer said. "He hits big shots. The moment doesn't matter to him. He shoots 'em like he does in practice. He's just a joy to coach and watch."

Burnard said, "Colton usually does that. He's always in the gym shooting. During practice, that kid hits 20 in a row sometimes. It's insane."

Meanwhile, Knappa's homecourt advantage was in Above: Blake Bartels of Crook County,

No. 3, finds his path to the hoop blocked by Seaside's Austin Eagon.

JEFF TER HAR — For The Daily Astorian

Left: Knappa's Tyson Burnard, No. 21, puts up a shot around Union's Wade Rynearson, No. 23, during the first half of their basketball game at Knappa High School Friday. See more photos online at www.dailyastorian.com JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Golden days

Speaking of Pendleton and the old championship days, there was a touch of 1998-99 in Knappa's old gym Friday, with standing room only, and fans on the stage and up in the balcony.

Knappa's leading scorer just happens to be 5-foot-7 now, not 6-foot-10.

"I hear about (the golden days) every day," Spencer said. "I have to think that this is the type of crowd that they had. The community rallies around these group of kids. They did it during the football season, and they showed up in force

"We're going to pick up everybody who was here and just transport it over to Pendleton High School. I know the support will be there."

Heppner defeated Knappa 48-37 Dec. 5 in Warrenton's basketball tournament, but the Mustangs will undoubtedly be

the underdog when the two teams meet Thursday night. "Oh, we'll beat Heppner,"

Burnard said. "They got us on a bad day.'

They beat us twice (football and basketball), hopefully the third time will be the charm," Spencer said. "We know what we're going to bring, and they're going to have to match whatever we're doing. We're not adjusting to how other people are playing - they'll have to adjust to what we're doing."

What's more, Knappa could also have Andy Miller back in the starting lineup, as the senior has missed the last two weeks.

'We knew if we were going to make it to Pendleton, we'd have to step it up a notch," Burnard said. "Without Andy, we have to really step it up.

"I've been waiting for this for four years, I've been working hard to get here, and we finally made it."

Crook County 52

SEASIDE — The Seaside Gulls are now one win away from their third state tournament appearance in four years, following a decisive 61-52 win over Crook County Friday night at the Gulls' Nest.

The Gulls built a 41-29 lead through three quarters, then played well enough in a fastpaced fourth quarter to hold off the Cowboys in the Class 4A boys basketball Regional Play-In game.

Seaside — a final eight team in both 2012 and 2014 — improves to 16-10 overall, and will play at No. 3-ranked North Valley (23-2) Friday.

Four players scored in double figures for the Gulls, who opened up a 31-24 halftime

Jackson Januik led the way with 20 points, followed by Jaxson Smith with 14, Austin Eagon scored 11, and Hunter Thompson finished with 10 for Seaside.

Girls Basketball Wahkiakum 54, Ilwaco 38

CHEHALIS — Their first year back at the 2B level resulted in 23 wins and a league championship for the Ilwaco girls basketball team, but the Lady Fishermen ended up one win short of the state quarterfinals in Spokane, following a 54-38 loss to Wahkiakum Saturday afternoon at W.F. West High School in Chehalis, Wash.

Wahkiakum senior Kaylee Bryant connected on 10-of-13 shots from the field and scored 24 points to lead the Mules, 23-2 overall. Defensively, Wahkiakum

held Ilwaco's high-scoring freshman, Makenzie Kaech, to just four points. Ilwaco was just 1-for-20

from the 3-point line, yet the Lady Fishermen still led 13-11 early in the second quarter. From there, the Mules went

on an 9-0 run and built an eventual 28-15 lead.

Jasmine Coffin led Ilwaco with 19 points, while Bryant scored 11 of her 24 points in the final eight minutes.

Warrior matmen battle for 10th place finish

Knappa's Truax, Astoria Raichl place third, fifth

By GARY HENLEY The Daily Astorian

PORTLAND — The Warrenton Warriors were on the verge of their first individual state titles since 2002.

But — in the triumph and disappointment that only the state tournament can bring the Warriors suffered two heartbreaking losses in the championship round.

In back-to-back title matches in the 3A meet, Warrenton's Colton Walker and Rogue Bergerson both came up short in championship bouts Saturday night at Portland's Memorial Coliseum, both finishing second at their respective weights.

Still, Walker and Bergerson went where few Warriors have gone over the last 13 years, advancing to the finals.

Warrenton's last two state titles remain those won in 2002, when Jeff Pike (189) and Kyle Johnson (215) placed first.

In 1998, Wes Balensifer and Ryan Johnson brought home state titles, followed by Balensifer and Dusty McGrorty in 1999, and Jeff Pike and Rick Walter in 2001.

In Saturday's championship round, sophomore No. 2 seed David Kerr of La Pine scored a dramatic, 9-8 come-from-behind win over the No. 1 seed Walker in the title match at 106 pounds.

Walker began his tournament with a fall (1:30) over freshman David Elwood of Willamina,



From left to right, Isaiah Vazquez of Rainier, Warrenton's Roque Bergerson, Heath Hartley of Nyssa, and Jordan Combs of Willamina stand atop the podium as the top wrestlers at 113 pounds for the Class 3A level.

then pinned freshman Max Valle of Cascade Christian in 3:24.

He opened Saturday's action with a fall over Sheridan sophomore Remy Tapia-Bravo (3:18), setting up the showdown with

A combination reversal and takedown by Walker in the closing seconds of the second period gave Walker an 8-3 lead.

It was still 8-3 with 1:15 left, and with time running out, Kerr scored a reversal, followed in quick succession by a takedown and a near-fall as time expired for a 9-8 win.

"I've been on both steps of the podium myself," said Warrenton coach Trask Bergerson. "As a champion you get this unbelievable surge of affirmation; you don't have to pick up all the scattered remains of your hopes and dreams. There's throngs of well-wishers."

After a loss, however, "is the most powerful experience picking up the pieces. You have to acknowledge that you lost, and your opponent beat you.

"It's heart-breaking," he said. "But that's probably the single most valuable lesson that these young men get to take for the rest of their lives. It's a powerful, powerful thing. Going to battle, there's two ways you can come back — being carried on your shield, or you can come back with your shield.

"There's honor both ways.

There's no shame and no regret about going out and giving everything you had to the battle.

Walker "did a superb job," coach Bergerson said. "I was up on my feet starting to celebrate with 10 seconds left, and nobody told Kerr that the match was done. It's a real powerful lesson. He's a phenomenal wrestler."

While Nyssa won the 3A team title, Warrenton finished in a tie for 10th in the team stand-

Bergerson a runner-up

At 113 pounds, Rogue Bergerson opened with a first round bye, then scored a quick fall (24 seconds) over Harrisburg's Grant Laiblin in the quarterfinals.

Unseeded in the championship bracket, Bergerson made it 2-for-2 in Saturday's semifinal round, where he piled up points in a 14-9 decision over Jefferson junior Jacob Sobel, the No. 2-seed.

In the championship match against Heath Hartley of Nyssa (who defeated Bergerson 3-2 in the district finals), Hartley scored an escape and a takedown to build a 5-1 lead in the second period.

Bergerson trimmed the deficit to 5-3 with just over a minute remaining in the final period, before Hartley scored a takedown and a near-fall, pushing his lead to 9-3, and eventual 9-4

decision. 'Rogue and Colton both had truly great opponents," said Rogue's father and coach, Trask Bergerson. "Rogue had a tough semifinal match with Jacob Sobel, another really tough guy. He really had to battle to beat him.

"Hartley was really on," he said. "When you go into the state finals with a state champion (Hartley won at 106 last year), it all comes down to that six minutes. Hartley brought his very best game, and Rogue was right there with him. It was really close going into the last round. We had a good strategy, and Hartley just outwrestled

The Warriors suffered their first loss of Day 1 at 145 pounds, where Michael Suppa had a first round bye, then dropped a technical fall to Glide senior Devin Freeman (2:58, 15-0) in the quarterfinals. Suppa rebounded in consola-

tion with falls over Wyatt Yates of Coquille (2:30) and Keegan Davis of Willamina (2:26), before a 9-2 loss to Nyssa's Joshua Bongiorno.

Suppa pinned Steven Hedlund of Lakeview (5:02) in the fifth-place match.

"He finished his wrestling career the only way Michael Suppa could," coach Bergerson said. "This is a guy who will go down in the history of Warrenton wrestling as somebody you never count out. He's the Babe Ruth of Warrenton wrestling.

"It became a fun joke that Suppa would have to be down by an almost insurmountable amount of points to win. He had to do that to himself to ignite himself in the last round, and come from absolutely nowhere and win by fall with 10 seconds left.' Elsewhere, Warrenton junior

Justice Watson had a first round bye, but then lost two matches at 160 pounds; and junior Eli Petersen was 0-2 at 182.

Truax third in 2A meet

Nathan Truax had the highest finish out of four Knappa wrestlers, placing third at 195

Truax had a quarterfinal fall over Ryan Godfrey of Myrtle Point (1:27), before Wallowa's Micah Fuller pinned Truax (4:23) in a semifinal match.

Truax rebounded in consolation with falls over Levi Carper of Elgin (4:18) and Culver's MacKyle Little

Teammate Andrew Goozee also had a quarterfinal win, but lost in the semifinals eventually lost by fall to Sam Williams of Crane in the third-place match to finish fourth at 182.

Ryan Simpson went 1-2 at 132 pounds, with a 10-2 major decision over Evan Gunderson of Burns in consolation; and Chris Cruz was 0-2 at 170.

Raichl takes fifth Astoria's Josh Raichl fin-

ished fifth in the district meet two weeks earlier, and placed fifth at 220 pounds in the Class 4A state tournament over the weekend.

Raichl capped his tournament and his career with a 4-3 decision over Twister McComas of Banks in the fifth-place match Saturday at Memorial Coliseum.

Raichl lost a first round match to Crook County's Trevor Rasmussen (8-2), but bounced back in consolation with falls over Brady Vierra of Phoenix (1:03) and Shawn Farrell Cottage Grove (3:59); a sudden death victory over Jeffre Schaefer of Cascade (SV-1 3-1), before an 8-3 loss to Jacob Podolski of McLoughlin in the consolation semifinals.

COREBOARD

HIGH SCHOOLS Boys Knappa 70, Union 45

UNI (45): Jacob Wright 12, C.Houck 9, Evans 7, Rynearson 6, Graves 4, L.Houck 3, Kennon 2, Scantling 2. KNA (70): Tyson Burnard 32, Dragoo 10, Takalo 10, Weirup 9, Severson 7, J.Miller 2, Rubus, Rusinovich. 9 8 10 18-45 Union

Knappa

CC (52): Blake Bartels 17, Kessi 8, Harper 7, Kilthau 7, Jones 5, Hernan-SEA (61): Jackson Januik 20,

Smith 14, Eagon 11, Thompson 10, Marston 6, Lewis **Crook County** 10 14 5 23-52 15 16 10 20-61

Wahkiakum 54, Ilwaco 38 ILW (38): Jasmine Coffin 19. Mc-

Millan 6, Kaech 4, Tapio 3, Ellsworth 2, Bannister 2, Jacobson 2, Lindstrom, Kulm, Bentley. WAH (54): Kaylee Bryant 24, Sou-

venir 8, Boyce 7, Wegdahl 6, Olsen 5, Peacock 4. Ilwaco 2 11 14—38 Wahkiakum 11 9 14 20—54

WRESTLING HIGH SCHOOLS OSAA State Championships Class 4A: Crook County 327, Henley 165.5, Marshfield 124.5, Scappoose 121.5, McLoughlin Cascade 89, Banks 84, Home 74, Tillamook 61.5, Elmira 61, North Marion 47, Cottage Grove 45, Gladstone 42, Phoenix 39, Douglas 35, Hidden Valley 30, Klamath Union 30, Sutherlin 30, Ontario 29, Corbett 28, La Grande 25, Newport 19, Mazama 16, Baker 15, Molalla 14, Philomath 14, Astoria 12, Estacada 10, Madras 10, Sisters 7, Siuslaw 7, Stayton 6. North Bend 5. North Valley 3.

South Umpqua 2, Brookings-Harbor, Junction City, Yamhill-Carlton. Class 3A: Nyssa 185, Vale 164,

Glide 159.5, Scio 122, Riverside 108, Rainier 94.5, Willamina 94.5, Harrisburg 73.5, Illinois Valley 60, La Pine 57, Warrenton 57, Jefferson 56, Pleasant Hill 40, Gervais 38, Sheridan 37, Colton 36, Santiam Christian 36, Lakeview 34, Coquille 24.5, Cascade Christian 23, Dayton 19, Rogue River 17, Clatskanie 10, Creswell 5, De La Salle 3, Taft 3, Amity 2.

Class 2A/1A: Culver 147.5, Lowell 127, Monroe 98, Gold Beach 73, Crane 69, Oakridge 48, Heppner 39, Burns 38.5, Central Linn 36, Elgin 32, Knappa 27, Myrtle Point 26, Wallowa 24, Riddle 23, Union 22, Pine Eagle 18, Chiloquin 14, Grant Union 14, Nestucca 14, North Lake 9, Imbler 8, Reedsport 7, Bonanza 4, Crow 3, Neah-Kah-Nie 3, Joseph 2, Oakland 2, Siletz Valley 1, Adrian, Glendale, Hosanna Christian, Ver-

Seaside 61, Crook County 52

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