

FRIDAY EXTRA!

The Daily Astorian

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Weekend Edition

A PERFECT GAME FROM BEHIND THE PLATE

By SUE CODY
and ROBIN CODY
The Daily Astorian

Let me explain something. My brother Robin likes to follow athletes from this neck of the woods. Something I think he inherited from our dad, Bob Cody, who played semipro baseball and coached for many years. If a kid was from Madras, like Jacoby Ellsbury, or played in Portland, like Shoni Schimmel, Robin was in their corner, following their careers.

In this vein, he loved to attend Astoria playoff games like those in 2006, '08, '09 and '10 when Astoria played in the baseball championships. He was there.

So when Robin saw 2010 Astoria graduate Dane Lund behind the plate at an Oregon State University game March 21 ... I'll just let him tell it, directly from his email.

Dear Sue,

I was surprised in Corvallis Saturday to see Dane Lund behind the plate and hitting second in the order for the Beavers vs. Washington State. Not that I doubted Dane's skills, but didn't he play ball with Jordan Poyer and them in Astoria? So how is he still in college?

I was in Corvallis to see the OSU women basketball play Gonzaga in the round of 32, March Madness. They lost, a good game, but the baseball team was going to play the Cougars that night and again Saturday at 1 p.m. It would have been unconscionable, you know, for me not to find a room and stay to catch the two Beaver baseball games in the next 24 hours.

You must know what happened on Saturday, but maybe not all of Dane's role in the game.

Dane is not even the first-string catcher, but he caught



Submitted
Pitcher Drew Rasmussen lifts up catcher Dane Lund after Oregon State's first perfect baseball game, March 21. It was the first perfect game since 1973 in the NCAA.

a perfect game. No, really. A PERFECT GAME, 27 up and 27 down, the first such thing in Beaver baseball history, and the first in the PAC-12 (or 10 or 8, it used to be) since 1973.

In all my years of playing and umping and watching baseball, I have never seen a perfect game. A no-hitter, sure. I even threw a

seven-inning no-hitter against "The School for the Blind," Dad called them. MacLaren.

But this was 10 strikeouts, 0 walks and flawless defense for nine innings. A passed ball by Dane would have ruined it.

Ummm, no.

There was never anybody on base to have advanced on a

passed ball.

Check my scoring here attached, in a small notebook soggy from rain the night before. Pitching was Drew Rasmussen, a stocky freshman (!) right-hander from Spokane. They didn't hit a ball out of the infield until two down in the sixth.



Dane Lund

Keeping score, as you all know, keeps us alert for freak happenings and unlikely developments while others around us might have no idea.

I remember a Portland Beaver game where a guy was 6-for-6 and batting again in the eighth inning and people were leaving. Fans left! The Beavers were so comfortably ahead that the game, to them, was over. Thank you, Dad. It was probably one of the first proofs of our evident superiority over the rest of humanity when it comes to baseball.

That's how it was Saturday in Section 7, after six. In my card, I had 18 up and 18 down, in the company of idiots and not one sister to share the drama with. You would have loved this.

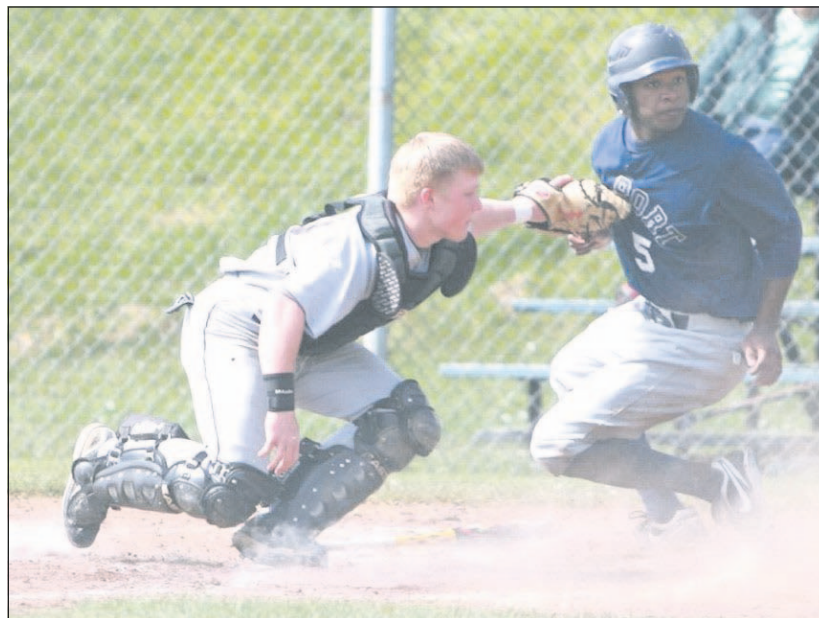
In the top of the eighth there was, yes, a buzz through the stands about all those zeros on the board. And in the ninth, even the idiots were standing and cheering with each strike the kid threw. I thought jinx, but the kid on the mound was ice, perhaps in a dream. Or a freshman will believe everything. His last pitch was a swinging strikeout on a nasty curve in the dirt fielded cleanly by Dane Lund who leaped in the air and was the first of the orange mob to reach the mound.

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Photo courtesy of Lund family

Dane Lund started early in the catcher position. Here he is at about age 10.



GARY HENLEY — The Daily Astorian File

Astoria High School catcher Dane Lund made the tag, but Newport's Tristan Metcalf had already crossed the plate in 2010.

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