

Fishermen ready for first-place showdown Friday

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

A nice, clean, routine win over the Banks Braves was just what the Astoria Fishermen were looking for Wednesday night, in Cowapa League baseball action at CMH Field.

With their 6-0 victory, the Fishermen avenged an earlier loss to the Braves, while three pitchers divided up a low pitch count for Astoria, in preparation for Friday's first-place showdown at Scappoose.

The Fishermen were efficient in the field, on the mound and at the plate in the win, played as part of a softball/baseball doubleheader.

Astoria starter Kai Brown gave up just one hit in four solid innings of work, while Fridtjof Fremstad made a relief appearance in the fifth inning, retiring the first five batters he faced until giving up a sixth inning single.

He got the final batter to fly out, then struck out the first two batters of the seventh before giving up a walk.

Carter Wallace came on and threw just two pitches to record the final out. Brown, Fremstad and Wallace combined to throw 105 pitches, with six strikeouts, four walks and two hits allowed.

It was Wallace who broke up a scoreless game with a double to left field in the third inning. Cade O'Brien had a leadoff single, then scored on Wallace's double.

Astoria tacked on three runs in the fourth, highlighted by back-to-back singles from Kyle Strange and Fremstad to start the inning; Joe Brawley was hit by a pitch to load the bases with no outs; and Ryker Helmersen followed with a two-run single to right.

Brawley scored on a bunt single by O'Brien, and O'Brien scored Astoria's final run in the sixth on a passed ball.

Astoria improved to 11-2 in league play, a half-game behind Scappoose (11-1). The Indians play at Seaside

today, the first of three games in three days for Scappoose.

Astoria plays at Scappoose Friday, then hosts Seaside Saturday.

Softball Tillamook 17, Astoria 6

It was back and forth until the sixth inning Wednesday night at CMH Field, in a Cowapa League softball game between Tillamook and Astoria.

A two-run single in the bottom of the fifth by Astoria's Kelsey Wullger had given the Fishermen a 5-4 lead.

But the Lady Mooks erupted for 13 runs in their final two at-bats, and left town with a 17-6 win over Astoria.

The Lady Fish spotted Tillamook three runs in the top of first, before Astoria came back with two runs in its first at-bat.

Rylee DeMander led off with a single and later scored on an error; and Abi Danen sprinted home on a sacrifice fly from Caitlyn Hougham.

Astoria tied the game in the second inning, with DeMander driving in Hailey Ranta with a single.

Tillamook scored a run in the fifth for a 4-3 advantage, and the Lady Fish took their first lead in the fifth. Libby DiBartolomeo and Danen drew walks to start the inning, both advanced on a sacrifice bunt by Hougham, and Wullger's two-run single to right put Astoria in front.

It was all Tillamook after that.

Senior Maddie McRae opened the sixth with her third straight double (she finished 5-for-5), and a two-run single by sophomore Lexie Zuercher gave the Mooks a 9-5 lead.

The Cheesemakers tacked on eight insurance runs in the seventh, highlighted by a three-run homer for Zuercher, who had five RBIs.

DeMander had two singles and a double for the Fishermen, while Miranda Dietrichs and Bailey Haskell were honored as Astoria's only two seniors on Senior Day.



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

San Diego Padres Cory Spangenberg, left, slides to score as Seattle Mariners relief pitcher Carson Smith follows after Smith's wild pitch in the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday in Seattle.

Mariners can't come up with clutch hit, fall to Padres

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Mariners had no problem getting on base and into scoring position against James Shields, only to come up empty nearly every time they needed a key hit.

"He did a really good job of buckling down all night," Seattle's Brad Miller said. "When we got guys on, he halted the rally by making some really good pitches."

Shields became the first San Diego pitcher since 2007 to start the season 5-0, Will Middlebrooks homered for the first time in nearly a month, and the Padres ended the Seattle Mariners four-game win streak, 4-2 on Wednesday night.

Miller provided all of Seattle's offense with a solo homer in the fifth and an RBI double in the ninth — the Mariners' only hit with a runner in scoring position.

Every rally Seattle tried to piece together was quickly scuttled, whether it was a strikeout or a key groundball that got Shields and the rest of the Padres' pitchers out of trouble.

In seven of nine innings Seattle had a runner in scoring position but didn't get a hit until Miller in the ninth. The Mariners finished 1 for 12 with runners in scoring position and were 0 for 10 against Shields. The Padres' ace allowed six hits and struck out nine, throwing a season-high 115 pitches.

"The positive is we got them on out there. The negative is we couldn't get them in. That guy on the mound had a lot to do with it too," Seattle manager Lloyd McClendon said. "I thought we had good at-bats, really grind it out, got his pitch count up, had him on the brink a few times and just couldn't get the big hit."

Seattle's best chance at rallying came in the sixth when Shields walked Kyle



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mariners Nelson Cruz, left, heads away from the plate after striking out as San Diego Padres catcher Derek Norris heads at the end of the fifth inning.

Seager and Logan Morrison to start the inning. After a brief meeting at the mound, Shields struck out Mike Zunino after he was unable to get a sacrifice bunt down and got slumping Dustin Ackley to ground into a double play.

"We're new to each other, we're developing a relationship about how he's feeling, him being honest, trust all that, that pitchers and managers have to have," San Diego manager Bud Black

said. "In my mind I was going to leave him in because he was still throwing the ball well."

Shields (5-0) struggled to get through six innings, but became just the sixth pitcher in Padres' history to win his first five decisions and first since Justin Germano in 2007.

Seattle starter Taijuan Walker (1-4) pitched six innings, his second longest start of the season, and only ran into trouble in the third when Middlebrooks went deep. Alexi Amarista followed with a double and scored on Spangenberg's sacrifice fly.

Walker's improvement

Walker retired the Padres in order three times and pitched out of a jam in the sixth after one-out singles by Spangenberg and Matt Kemp. Walker struck out six and allowed four hits and pitched into the sixth for the third time in seven starts.

"That's been my goal the last couple of starts to go tight with the fastball and work ahead. It was working. I feel like they weren't really putting good swings on it so we stuck with it.

Trainer's room

Padres: Wil Myers returned to San Diego to have his sore left wrist examined by team doctors a day after being a late scratch from the lineup. Manager Bud Black said they hoped to know more on Thursday about Myers' status.

Mariners: CF Austin Jackson was "so-so" in his first day of running after spraining his ankle last week, manager Lloyd McClendon said. Seattle hopes Jackson may be far enough along to go out on a rehab assignment this weekend.

Scoreboard

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — Scappoose at Seaside, 5 p.m.; Portland Lutheran at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.
Track — District 1/4A, at Banks, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball — Astoria at Scappoose, 5 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 5 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie (2), 3:30 p.m.; Knappa at Portland Lutheran (2), 3 p.m.
Softball — Astoria at Scappoose (2), 4 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic (2), 4 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie (2), 3:30 p.m.

Track — District 1/4A, at Banks, 2 p.m.; District 1/3A, at Portland Christian, TBA

SATURDAY

Baseball — Seaside at Astoria, 11 a.m.
Track — District 1/3A, at Portland Christian, TBA

BASEBALL

HIGH SCHOOLS

Astoria 6, Banks 0

Banks 000 000 0—0 2 0
Astoria 001 302 x—6 9 1
W: Renne, Bral (6) and Herd, Selleck (7); Brown, Fremstad (5), Wallace (7) and Helmersen. **W:** Brown. **L:** Renne. **S:** Wallace. **RBI:** Ast, Helmersen 2, Wallace, Strange, O'Brien. **2B:** Ast, Wallace. **HBP:** Banks, Thiessen; Ast, Brawley. **LOB:** Banks 8, Astoria 8. **DP:** Banks.

SOFTBALL

HIGH SCHOOLS

Tillamook 17, Astoria 6

Tillamook 300 105 8—17 23 3
Astoria 210 020 1—6 8 1
W: Taylor Woods (5 K's, 3 walks). **L:** Libby DiBartolomeo (3 K's, 1 walk). **RBI:** Til, Zuercher 5, Woods 3, Hammond 3, Kottre 2, Larsen, Hayes, Bellante; Ast, Wullger 2, Hougham, DeMander, Lertora. **2B:** Til, McRae 3, Kottre; Ast, DeMander. **HR:** Til, Kottre. **LOB:** Tillamook 7, Astoria 8.

ELVIS

The Gospel side of

Elvis' favorite Gospel group often sang and performed as his backup at concerts.

THE BLACKWOOD QUARTET IN CONCERT

TUE MAY 19 7PM

Astoria Hilltop Church
A Church of the Nazarene
7th & Niagra 503-325-4477

A freewill love offering will be received.

Thank You!

- To those who donated funds to reach our matching goal of \$17,500+
- To volunteers who donated working hours toward completing our grant projects
- To local companies and professionals who donated their talents, time, or products in making our grant projects successful

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