

# Loggers: On their way to state championship game

Continued from Page 1A

Knappa improves to 26-0 overall, while the season ends for Regis at 23-5.

After coming up short in football (semifinals) and basketball (quarterfinals), Knappa coach Jeff Miller was happy most of all for his seniors.

The group owns more wins and league titles than they can count, they're all-league and all-state in just about everything ... the only thing they don't have is a state championship.

"They made that next step," said Miller, who will take the Loggers to the state championship for the first time since winning in 2010.

"It wasn't pretty at times, but they sure made some plays today, and every senior certainly contributed to it," he said. "It's always about the kids, and I really wanted this one for those kids. They've put in a lot of work and played a lot of great games, and I wanted badly to see them make that next step."

He added, "So now they're there. One more step, and let's go get the next one."

Knappa senior Tyson Burnard had three hits and picked up the win on the mound in Tuesday's game.

As for his fellow seniors (Justin Dragoo, Andrew Miller, Chase Rusinovich, Ryan Simpson, Nate Truax), Burnard said, "we've been here three times — I think we deserved this one. We've worked hard. We've had two heartbreakers (in football and basketball), and it just feels great."

## On to Keizer

The seniors and the rest of the Loggers will play for a state title at 1:30 p.m. Friday at Volcanoes Stadium.

The Loggers will face Monroe in a matchup that fans have been expecting since Day 1 of the 2015 season.

A few Loggers were expecting it since the final day of the 2014 season.

"We were supposed to be in the championship last year," Burnard said. "It was supposed to be us and Monroe, but we couldn't get the job done. Now it's time to show 'em what we got."

No disrespect to the baseball programs at Grant Union and North Douglas ... but the Loggers are clearly playing the sport at a different level than the Prospectors and Warriors.

The Rams discovered that fact first hand in Tuesday's game.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Knappa's Chase Rusinovich, No. 10, pitches during a brief downpour in the third inning.

Regis had outscored Grant Union and North Douglas by a combined 41-5 in playoff wins last week — but the Rams were facing a whole new ball game with the Loggers.

## Come from behind

After spotting Regis a 3-0 advantage in the top of the third, the Ax Men chopped away at the Ram lead with two runs in the second inning, one in the third and two in the fifth to take the lead.

Burnard had a run-scoring single in the third inning; Noah Kinney drew a leadoff walk and advanced to third on two wild pitches (the first wild pitch bounced off the front of the plate and over the backstop); and Kinney scored on a grounder by senior Nate Truax to tie the game in the fourth.

Burnard led off the fifth

with a triple, and scored moments later on a bunt by Jason Miller, who reached safely.

Andrew Miller followed with a single to right field, and Jason Miller scored on a fielder's choice grounder by Kinney for a 5-3 lead.

After coming on in relief of Rusinovich in the fourth inning, Burnard hit the first batter he faced, but did not give up a hit over the final three innings, with five strikeouts and three walks.

"I had full confidence in Chase and Tyson," Andrew Miller said. "Chase did a great job of keeping us in the game, and Tyson did a great job of closing it out. We knew we had enough offense to come back, so we weren't nervous at all."

After the Rams' three-run rally in the third, Burnard said, "I was kind of worried, but Mr. Miller told us, 'they're going to get hits and score runs.' It's just a matter of when

## Girls basketball clinic set

SEASIDE — The Seaside Girls Basketball Program is putting on a free girls basketball clinic from 9:30 a.m. to noon June 12 and 13 at Seaside High School, 1901 N. Holladay Drive, for third- through eighth-graders.

For information or questions, call Wally Hamer at 503-758-4827.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian  
Knappa's Andy Miller, No. 24, holds up the ball after getting out a Regis base runner at second in the fourth inning.

we were going to come back with the bats. We did, and we came up big."

Burnard had two singles and a triple for three of Knappa's eight hits.

## A matter of timing

"The first time around we really didn't have our timing down, but the second time through we all knew we could hit (Regis starter Blake Minten) pretty good," Burnard said. "That's when we started to get the bats going."

Knappa's rally quickly hushed the Ram players, who were doing a little mocking of their own.

"They were," Burnard said. "I don't know if it was supposed to be an intimidation factor or something. I just thought it was funny."

Coach Miller said, "we felt confident that we'd come back. We said coming in, 'if we score five runs in this game, we will win.' That's just what we felt. We knew we wouldn't shut them out. They're a great team and they can swing the bat."

"We were seeing the ball well, and the second time through we got a little better. We weren't striking out and we were putting it in play, so I felt confident that it would break our way," he said.

Regis "put up the three runs,

and we came right back with two," Miller said. "Then later, when Tyson's on the mound with the bases loaded and we got two consecutive outs — those two moments were big."

Both teams "obviously stepped up a level in competition today," said Miller, who picked up career win No. 277. "No disrespect to anybody else, but we knew they were going to be the best team we've played this year. And I'm sure they felt likewise."

"This wasn't going to be a 16- or 25-run game, or any of those ridiculous scores. This was going to be a tight baseball game."

Meanwhile, Miller knows Knappa will have a tough task Friday against Monroe.

"They're No. 1 until somebody knocks them off," he said. "They're the defending champs, they have the best pitcher (Austin Crowson) in the state on the hill, and they feel confident. Until someone knocks him off, that's what he is."

Actually, the Loggers have already knocked off Monroe, earlier this year.

In a nonleague game March 23, Knappa scored an 11-5 win over the Dragons.

"We feel really good," said Knappa's Andrew Miller. "We've been so close, but I feel like our team is coming together at the right time."

## SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL		SOFTBALL	
<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>		<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>	
<b>Class 2A Semifinal</b>		<b>State Playoff Scores</b>	
<b>Knappa 7, Regis 3</b>		<b>Class 4A Semifinals</b>	
Regis	003 000 0—3 3 0	Henley 6, Hidden Valley 3	
Knappa	002 122 x—7 8 3	Scappoose 2, Gladstone 0	
Minten, Piete (4) and Dailey; Rusinovich, Burnard (4) and Truax. W: Burnard. L: Piete. RBI: Reg, Minten 2, Guzman; Kna, J. Miller 3, Kinney 2, Burnard, Truax. 3B: Reg, Minten; Kna, Burnard. HBP: Reg, Wiltsey, Frith; Kna, Takalo, A. Miller. LOB: Regis 9, Knappa 6.		<b>Class 3A Semifinals</b>	
<b>State Playoff Scores</b>		Dayton 7, Pleasant Hill 3	
<b>Class 2A Semifinals</b>		Rainier 10, Scio 2	
Monroe 10, Burns 1		<b>Class 2A Semifinals</b>	
Knappa 7, Regis 3		Weston-McEwen 3, Union 0	
<b>Class 3A Semifinals</b>		Pilot Rock 5, Central Linn 0	

## JEWELL VALEDICTORIAN

### Avery Anderson

#### Continuing Education:

Honestly, I haven't completely decided yet. I'd like to travel as much as I can, and I'm taking welding courses at CCC so I'll be able to make money along the way. Eventually I want to get a private pilot's license but since the training is so expensive that probably won't be for awhile. I'm also keeping the military in mind, sort of as a backup plan, if all else fails.

**Community/school involvement:** I was never part of any noteworthy clubs or societies. The options available never really interested me. My senior project was on music. Composing and live mixing for the most part. It's a hobby that I'd like to turn into a career if I can, but I can't really see that happening.

**Scholarships:** I have yet to receive any scholarships at this point. At least to my knowledge.

**Sports:** I participated in middle school track and field during my eighth-grade year, and was pretty much forced into it. I don't enjoy sports for the most part, so that was it. I probably won't be pursuing any "official" sports throughout the coming years.

**Favorite class and teacher:** It's hard to choose my favorite overall class. I never was particularly excited about any of the given subjects. I didn't mind some of the more technical classes — shop and AP chemistry come to mind. As for the teachers, almost all of them were great. They knew all of the students on a personal level and vice versa, and being such a small school, they usually had time to help students. I can't really say I had a favorite teacher.



Avery Anderson

They were all great in one aspect or another; Freeman's style of teaching worked the best for me, Bloker made his teaching fun, and Anderson was very lenient and flexible about assignments and deadlines.

**What will you remember the most?** Nothing really noteworthy comes to mind; the construction of the new school, a few field trips here and there. Otherwise, I can't think of anything really exciting.

**Advice for success?** Don't rely completely on school. Expand your horizons through every other source you possibly can. School only gives you so much, and unfortunately very little of what's taught is of any real importance in the "real world," in my opinion. Sure, I know that mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell, but I was never taught how to do taxes or take out a loan on a car. If you have a hobby or want to learn something new, do it. Don't let school slow you down or dissuade you, and above all, don't let it ruin the idea of education for you.

## JEWELL SALUTATORIAN

### Rachel Stahly

#### Continuing education:

After high school, I plan on attending Clatsop Community College in Astoria for two years, then transferring to Oregon State University and major in music and theater.

**Community/school involvement:** Throughout high school, I was involved in after-school activities like choir club and chess club. I also took part in the high school band, leadership and student council, where I helped to plan fun school activities and was president of my class for four years. I also participated in every school play and talent show that was offered. During the summer for the past six years, I have been employed at a campground in Cannon Beach called Wright's for Camping, owned by my family.

**Scholarships:** I have not yet received notification from any of the scholarships I have applied for. Some of these scholarships include three Oregon Students Assistance Commission scholarships, three Clatsop Community College scholarships, the Jewell Memorial scholarship and the Jewell School scholarship.

**Sports:** The sports I participated in include four years of volleyball, four years of basketball, one year of softball and three years of track and field. Every year I played at varsity level for each one of these sports.

**Favorite class and teacher:** Concert band was definitely my favorite class. My favorite teacher was the man



Rachel Stahly

who taught concert band, Mr. Cory Pederson. He is my inspiration for pursuing a career in music and has always encouraged me to challenge myself.

**What will you remember the most?** What I will remember most about going to school is the people I interacted with. Coming from a small student body, I was lucky enough to have a personal relationship with almost every student and teacher. Many of them made a huge impact on my life, and I will never forget my experiences with them.

**Advice for success?** The advice I would give to other students is to be a good person on the inside and out because that's what people will remember. Also, never give up on yourself. Even if you're drowning in homework, sports or school drama, remember that high school doesn't last forever. You just need to have faith and the will to keep moving forward.

## KNAPPA VALEDICTORIAN

### Ryan Simpson

#### Continuing education:

Oregon State University to study mechanical engineering

**Community/school involvement:** Member of the National Honor Society, "My Future My Choice" mentor, Knappa Days volunteer

**Scholarships:** Ford Family Foundation Scholarship, OSU Diversity Scholarship

**Sports:** Football, wrestling, track and field, baseball

**Favorite class and teacher:** Mr. (Jeff) Miller, government

**What will you remember the most?** All of the good times playing foot-



Ryan Simpson

ball and wrestling with my friends.

**Advice for success?** Work hard until work becomes a habit.

## KNAPPA SALUTATORIAN

### Millena Riffe

**Continuing education:** Plan to attend Portland State University and major in geology to become a geologist and/or paleontologist.

**Community/school involvement:** National Honors Society (junior and senior year); May Day community service; Key Club

**Scholarships:** Clatsop Community College honors program; Portland State University Diversity Scholarship Program; University of Oregon Diversity Excellence Scholarship

**Sports:** Volleyball

**Favorite class and teacher:** Mr. Jeff Miller; AP history class

**What will you remem-**



Millena Riffe

**ber the most?** That Knappa High School cares so much about the community and its students.

**Advice for success?** Work hard and stay positive.