'A little baseball and a little culture'

By GARY HENLEY The Daily Astorian

Astoria baseball is going international this week without ever leaving home.

Over the next eight days, the Astoria Ford summer baseball program will be hosting touring teams from Australia and Singapore, with off-the-field activities planned for the visitors, in addition to seven or eight games for the fans at Aiken Field.

For the third time in six years, the Perth Heat will pay a visit to Astoria, where the Astoria Ford team will host the Australians for at least one or possibly two exhibition games Tuesday.

The touring team made their first stop on the North Coast in 2010, when a squad of older Astoria Legion players scorched the Heat, 21-1. Last year, Astoria Ford won 6-4 in a more competitive meeting.

The Australians and the Astorians will break bread (but mostly pizza) at a Tuesday lunch at Fultano's before facing off at Tapiola Park, starting at 5 p.m.

The following week, a team from Singapore will be in town for six exhibition games.

"It's an entire international week — a little baseball and a little culture," Astoria coach Dave Gasser said. "It's pretty cool what we're trying to do, and we just hope the community comes out and enjoys watching kids from Australia and Singapore play ball."

Astoria Warehousing and J&H Boatworks Inc., "are graciously going to host a lunch at Fultano's at 1 p.m. for coaches and players on both teams," Gasser said.

The teams will play either two seven-inning games or

one nine-inning contest that night, with a barbeque dinner in between the action at Aiken Field.

"It should be a very competitive game," Gasser said. "They're bringing their older kids, and we'll play our older kids. We want the games to be competitive."

The Perth Heat Colts defeated Grants Pass Friday,

German George — a recent Clatskanie graduate and the Class 3A all-state Player of the Year — may see action on the mound for Astoria Ford, along with Kai Brown.

Astoria's summer schedule will continue with the international theme the following week, when the Fishermen host a three-game series with a team from Singapore, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

The Singapore coaches and players will be staying with area families.

"We will meet them on Sunday, get them situated, and then Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night we'll have ... doubleheaders, with our younger team playing their younger kids, and the older kids playing each other in the second game."

Singapore will bring 32 players, plus coaches and any followers.

"It's a group of at least 36 people who will be in our community for three days," Gasser said, which always helps the tourism business in Clatsop County.

"We'll be hosting some activities Monday and Tuesday — getting them to the Peter Iredale and maybe Fort Clatsop — giving them not just a baseball experience, but a little bit of showing them our area," he said.

Ford B at Seaside (2), 5 p.m.

SPORTS SCHEDULE TUESDAY

Baseball — Perth Heat at Astoria Ford (2), 5 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie (2), 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Junior State Baseball — Astoria **THURSDAY**

Junior State Baseball — Astoria Ford B at Warrenton (2), 4 p.m. **SUNDAY**

Baseball — Singapore at Astoria Ford, 7 p.m.



Daily Astorian File

Astoria coaches Dave Gasser and Chris Wright greet members of the Perth Heat following last summer's exhibition game.

He added, "Cynthia Harber has been working behind the scenes to make that happen."

Two or three homes are still needed for the players and coaches from Singapore. If interested, contact Harber at 503-325-6340.

Owen Reid — who was coaching with the Perth Heat last summer — is now with Singapore.

And Gasser said the Australians "had such a nice time last year, (Reid) asked, 'can I bring the Singapore kids this year?

"We started communicating, one thing led to another. and now in one week we'll have kids from Western Australia and Singapore. We kind of shut down our scheduling, and we'll go international for a week."

Meanwhile, on the field ...

After opening the summer season with a 13-0 loss to Castle Rock/Legion, Astoria Ford's 'A' team bounced back with three straight wins over Wilson (4-3 and 15-4) and Madison (9-3), before Madison won Game 2 of the doubleheader, 14-8.

The Fishermen hosted Dallas and David Douglas Fridav and Saturday, winning two of

On Friday, Astoria Ford edged David Douglas, 4-3.

Astoria scored a run in the bottom of the seventh on a single by Samboy Tuimato that brought in Cade O'Brien.

O'Brien had two RBIs for Astoria Ford, while pitcher Fridtjof Fremstad scattered four hits with five strikeouts and no walks in five innings.

Tyler Lyngstad earned the win, tossing two scoreless innings with two hits allowed.

In a three-team round robin Saturday at Aiken Field, Dallas scored a 3-0 shutout over Astoria, before Astoria rebounded with a 15-5 win over David Douglas.

Astoria Ford scored five runs in the first inning on run-scoring singles from Nick Scott and Jasyn Gohl, and an RBI double by Tyler Lyngstad. Jackson Arnsdorf held David Douglas hitless over

three innings, with six strike-

Astoria Ford's Fridtjof Fremstad, left, visits with Cody Parkinson of the Perth Heat during a break in the action of last year's game.

outs and two walks. Carter combined for six hits and Wallace, Fremstad and Scott three RBIs.

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