SPORTS

Fishermen win a shootout, 26-21

By GARY HENLEY The Daily Astorian

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How much can two teams pack into one wild night of high school football?

The final score was normal enough Friday night at Columbia Memorial Field: Astoria 26, Taft 21

But a few of the statistics from the season opener at CMH showed just how wild it was, as the Tigers and Fishermen:

• Combined for 39 first downs and 713 yards in total offense;

• Racked up 131 yards in penalties, with six turnovers;

• Astoria outgained Taft on the ground, 301 yards to minus-three; and Taft passed for 330 yards, to Astoria's 85;

While individually .

• Taft quarterback Everett Thomas completed 30-of-60 passes for 325 yards; and Astoria running back Carter Wallace countered with 210 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

And when the pieces of artificial turf had settled, the "right" team had won, as the Fishermen rallied from a 21-7 deficit in the third quarter to beat the Tigers in front of a packed house.

"That's crazy," said Astoria coach Howard Rub, when he first got a look at the stats. "And (the Tigers) ran 81 plays, which tells you something about their tempo. They run a lot of plays.

"It's good to get a win at the new facility," he said. "Being down 21-7 and fighting back against a good team that returns a lot of guys from a playoff season a year ago."

After the Fishermen closed to within 21-14 early in the third quarter, Wallace scored twice in the final 12:05, including the go-ahead touchdown with 4:52 left. He finished the game with 28 carries.

"It helped to take some breaks on defense, but I kept most of my power," Wallace said after the game. "I just put it all behind me, and kept running the ball as hard as I could."

Meanwhile, the scouting report on Taft: The Tigers don't have a run game, nor can they stop one.

Twice the Tigers had first-



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian



in the first half, Wallace ran

wild on the Tigers in the second

half, gaining 165 yards on 19

attempts (8.7 yards per carry). "Carter runs really hard, and

he is a load," Rub said. "On

just some basic inside runs, you

can see how hard he is to bring

execute the offense at times, es-

pecially in the first half after the

opening drive," he said. "The

first drive to start the game and

the first offensive possession of

the second half, we showed that

we have a chance to be explo-

sive and quick-scoring."

On the downside, "we didn't

LEFT: Astoria's Ryker Helmersen, No. 8, picks off a pass intended for Taft's Trent Daniels, No. 24, in the final minutes of Astoria's 26-21 win. RIGHT: Astoria's Carter Wallace, No. 21, tries to shake a tackle by a Taft player during a run in the first quarter of the football game against Taft Friday at CMH Field.

> Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian Astoria makes a goal line stand in the second quarter of the football game against Taft Friday at CMH Field.

In between those drives, Rub said, "it felt like the defense was on the field for the entire first half. It was definitely a rough first half. The first three minutes were out of sight, then for whatever reason, it took a turn."

The Fishermen made up for a lack of offense with their defense.

Cade O'Brien and Kyle Strange had interceptions in the first half, and Thomas threw two more picks in the fourth quarter.

After an Astoria turnover with 7:31 left, a third-down pass by Thomas was intercepted by Bronson Holthusen, who returned his first career pick (and first career touch of a foot-

ball during a game) to the Taft 42-yard line.

"Bronson's interception was a real critical play to get us the ball back," Rub said. "It was a heads up, athletic play."

Five plays later, the Fishermen were in the end zone with the go-ahead score, as Fridtjof Fremstad marched Astoria downfield with completions to Ryan Palek, Ryker Helmersen and Jacob Olson, before Wallace capped the drive with a nine-yard scoring run.

The Tigers had one last possession, but Helmersen ended that with Astoria's fourth interception of the night with under two minutes left.

Granted, the Fishermen

were not at their Friday night best.

The Astoria defense gave up 327 yards in total offense; the Fishermen were whistled for 12 penalties, turned the ball over twice, and failed to cover an onside kick when everyone in the stadium knew there was going to be an onside kick.

(The Tigers had four kickoffs, all onside kicks. They recovered the opening kickoff to start the second half.)

"It was good to see us deal with adversities throughout the night, whether it was a turnover. penalty, or them getting an onside kick to start the second half," Rub said. "We had to overcome ourselves at times, which is typical of an opening game.

"I was real pleased with the adjustments we made at halftime. The one touchdown they had (a 40-yard strike to Alroy Zacarias), we were not aligned properly. Other than that, defensively we did a pretty good job. We played a lot more man coverage, and brought more pressure.'

Astoria will have another big test this week, when they play at North Bend.

"We're setting the tone for the season," Wallace said. "We have a lot to improve on, but we're on our way to something."

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian Astoria's Fridtjof Fremstad, No. 14, got the scoring started in

the first quarter with a diving run into the end zone. See more photos from the game online at www.dailyastorian.com

down."

and-goal inside the Astoria 4-yard line, but came up empty when the Fishermen stuffed several run plays. Taft finished the game with minus-three yards on 21 carries.

And after the Tigers had taken their 21-7 lead in the third period, Astoria answered with a six-play, 45-yard drive, all on the ground, with Samboy Tuimato capping the drive on a 1-vard run.

'That was a big answer," Rub said. "To go boom, boom, boom down the field was a great answer."

After rushing for 45 yards

but stumble to Delphian

Loggers top Warriors

The Daily Astorian

ROCKAWAY BEACH — Santiam defeated Delphian in the championship match of the Neah-Kah-Nie Volleyball Tournament Saturday in Rockaway Beach.

Knappa and Warrenton both took part, with the Loggers winning two of three

games from the Warriors in bracket play, 25-21, 15-25, 15-13

Delphian then knocked off Knappa in the next round, 25-18, 12-25, 15-7.

Earlier, Knappa lost pool play games to Delphian and Clatskanie, before splitting games against Santiam.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

ASTORIA 26, TAFT 21 Taft 0 14 7 0-21 Astoria 7 0 13 6-26 **First Quarter**

Ast: Fridtjof Fremstad 15 run (Carter Wallace kick) 9:59

Second Quarter

Taft: Alroy Zacarias 5 pass from Rylan Fisher (Trent Daniels kick) 10:15

Taft: Daniels recovered fumble in end zone (Daniels kick) :25

Third Quarter

Taft: A.Zacarias 40 pass from Everett Thomas (Daniels kick) 11:28 Ast: Samboy Tuimato 1 run (Wallace kick) 9:38

Ast: Wallace 15 run (run failed) :05

Fourth Quarter

Ast: Wallace 9 run (run failed) 4:52 Taft Statistics

Rushing: Daniels 6-11 A.Zacarias 3-4, Knott 1-3, R.Fisher 1-(-3), Thomas 10-(-18). Passing: Thomas 30-60-325-4, R.Fisher 1-1-5-0. Receiving: R.Fisher 12-126, A.Zacarias 7-95, T.Fisher 7-75, Daniels 5-34.

Astoria Statistics

Rushing: Wallace 28-210, Fremstad 8-58, Tuimato 9-31, Williams 2-2. Passing: Fremstad 9-19-85-0. Receiving: Helmersen 4-35, Palek 2-16, Coberly 1-17, Tuimato 1-9, Olson 1-8.

Team Statistics		
Taft		Astoria
Total offense	327	386
Rushes-Yards	21-(-3)	47-301
Passing yards	330	85
Comp-Att-Int	31-61-4	9-19-0
First downs	18	21
Penalties-yards	9-60	12-71
Sacked-yards	3-25	1-3
Turnovers	4	2

SEASIDE 28, YAMHILL-C. 6 Yamhill 0 0 6 0-6 Seaside 14 7 0 7-28 Sea: Alex Barker 3 run (Whitney

Westerholm kick)

Sea: Barker 3 run (Westerholm kick) Sea: Barker 39 run (Westerholm kick)

YC: 14 pass from Wyatt Garrison (conversion failed)

Sea: Nathanael Ward 1 run (Westerholm kick)

Seaside Statistics

Rushing: Barker 23-156, Hoekstre 7-26, Smith 4-13, Ward 4-10, Landwehr 7-9, Teubner 1-5. Passing: Hoekstre 3-9-41-1. Receiving: Marston 1-20, Smith 1-14, Landwehr 1-7.

NORTH BEACH 38, ILWACO 7

Ilwaco 0 0 0 7-7 N.Beach 8 16 8 6-38 NB: Saul Gonzalez 10 pass from Alex McAra (Andrew Wagner from McAra) NB: Gonzalez 28 pass from McAra (Styler Wells run)

NB: Gonzalez 26 run (Wagner

from McAra) NB: Gonzalez 20 run (Wells run) NB: Wells 5 run (run failed) Ilw: Alec Bell 1 run (Jorge Galvan kick)

Ilwaco Statistics

Rushing: Bell 14-49, Kaino 20-32, Odneal 4-10. Passing: Odneal 8-24-67-1, Bell 0-1-0-0. Receiving: Thompson 6-62, Bannister 1-5, Odneal 1-0. North Beach Leaders Rushing: Wells 17-130, Gonzalez 10-117. Passing: McAra 6-11-64-0. Receiving: Gonzalez 3-38.

FRIDAY SCORES

Banks 42, North Marion 13 Cascade 47, Scappoose 34 Stayton 12, Tillamook 6 Estacada 20, Valley Catholic 12 North Bend 48, North Valley 3 Kennedy 34, Clatskanie 8 Portland Chr 24, Neah-Kah-Nie 6 Rainier 46, Willamina 15 Reedsport 47, Gaston 6 Nestucca 37, Waldport 18

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Alex Barker rushed for 156 yards and three touchdowns, and Whitney Westerholm was 4-for-4 on point-after kicks to help Seaside score a 28-6 over Yamhill-Carlton Friday night.

Celebrating "National Guard Night," the Gulls won their season opener by building a 21-0 halftime lead, all on touchdown runs by Barker (3, 3 and 39 yards). Nathanael Ward added a 1-yard TD run in the fourth quarter.

Otto Hoekstre had 41 yards passing and 26 rushing in his first start as the Seaside quarterback.

Regis 7, Knappa 6

STAYTON — Nearly one year after Knappa scored a season-opening 6-0 win over Regis, the Rams returned the favor Friday night with a 7-6 victory over the Loggers in a nonleague Class 2A football game.

Vernonia 58, Warrenton 0

VERNONIA — It was a 111-point turnaround from last year to this, between the Vernonia and Warrenton football teams

Almost a year to the day



Gulls win season opener, 28-6

Jeff Ter Har/For the Daily Astorian

Seaside placekicker Whitney Westerholm made all four of her point-after kicks in Friday's win.

since the Warriors defeated Vernonia 53-0, Vernonia answered with a 58-0 win over Warrenton in a Friday night season opener at Vernonia.

North Beach 38, Ilwaco 7

OYEHUT, Wash. - Ilwaco had a tough start to the season Friday, losing 38-7 to the defending Pacific League 2B champions.

North Beach senior Saul Gonzalez scored four of the Hyaks' five touchdowns, two on runs and two on pass plays.

Alec Bell scored a late consolation touchdown for Ilwaco on a 1-yard run and Jorge Galvan added the PAT.

"They are a big, powerful team," coach Kevin McNulty said of the No. 4-ranked Hyaks. "The second half we showed up and played football. We found a couple of ball players who stepped up."

On defense, McNulty praised newcomers Gio Lararo and Rovce Murray, as well as stalwart James Schenk.

Ilwaco has its home opener 7 p.m. Friday against Tacoma Baptist.

Naselle 40, Chief Leschi 0

NASELLE, Wash. — The Comets opened the season with a 40-0 non league shutout over visiting Chief Leschi Friday.

Naselle opened the scoring in the first quarter when Carson Bergeson recovered a fumble.

Senior quarterback Hayden Gudmundsen ran in two touchdowns to make the halftime score 20-0, then combined with Brian Smith on a 45-yard pass play. Jacob Scrabeck and Parker Dalton added late TDs.

Coaches substituted lowerclassmen from the Naselle roster once the result was evident.

"It was good to get everybody in, and everybody had a little taste of success," said coach Jeff Eaton.

Naselle travels to Lyle, Wash., Friday.

Lady Fishermen fall to North Bend in 10-0 loss

The Daily Astorian

NEWPORT — North Bend came out aggressive and dominated from start to finish Saturday afternoon, in a 10-0 win over Astoria.

The nonleague girls soccer game was played at Newport.

"It was hot. We pulled together," said Astoria coach Sarah von Colditz.

Astoria "moved the ball up the field more in the first half," she said. "We uti-

lized our wings well which allowed us more chances in the attacking half of the field. Our passing is much improved from last year, and looked very beautiful when we were in possession."

Still, the Bulldogs won almost every ball in the air, while the Fishermen were missing several key starters, including goalkeeper Lexis Law, Sariah Deiffenbach, Rachel Simmons, Cammy Tetlow and Kelsey Hunter.

"Every game is a new

game," said Astoria's Jenna Rudolph. "Every shot is a new shot. I love my team."

Boys Soccer North Bend 5, Astoria 1

NEWPORT — In the second game of a soccer doubleheader at Newport, North Bend defeated Astoria 5-1 in a nonleague boys' game.

The Bulldogs entered with preseason victories over Junction City and Cottage Grove.

Astoria was down to 10

players just seven minutes into the game, following a red card on the Fishermen on a handball in the penalty box.

North Bend converted the penalty kick, then added two goals for a 3-0 halftime lead.

Astoria scored in the 70th minute, Tyler Gagnon unassisted.

Astoria senior captain Rory Loughran commented, "We showed improvements since our last game, but we obviously still have work to do."