

STATE PLAYOFFS

Fishermen head south for rematch with North Bend

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

A couple of coastal football powers will go at it Friday night in North Bend, where the Bulldogs will host Astoria in a first-round game of the Class 4A football state playoffs.

The kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. and the game will be streamed online at www.astoriaford.com.

It's a rematch with a lot more at stake this time around.

The Fishermen will be making their second trip of the season to North Bend, where Astoria hopes to make it 2-for-2 against the defending state champion Bulldogs.

On Sept. 11, Astoria went to North Bend on knocked off the then-No. 1-ranked team in the state, 22-20.

Late touchdown passes from Fridtjof Fremstad to Ryan Palek and Ryker Helmersen helped beat the Bulldogs, who lost again the following week to Marist, but then won five straight to win the Far West League. They haven't lost since.

On the line in Friday's game will be a trip to the quarterfinals, where the Fishermen have not been since 2010.

Astoria coach Howard Rub expects the Bulldogs to be keyed up for this one.

"We've watched more recent film, and they've become a little better at what they were trying to establish early on," he said. "Their (10-7) win against Marshfield was fairly impressive. Marshfield had been scoring a lot of points, and for them to really shut them down is really impressive. We know we're definitely in for a battle."

Make no mistake — the Fishermen will be playing to win instead of taking the "just glad to be here" approach — but they're also just glad to be here. Especially after back-to-back 1-4 league seasons,



Astoria's undefeated junior varsity team.

and no state playoffs since 2010.

"We had early exits (in 2011 and '12), so to be in the round of 16 after two seasons of being done by Halloween, it feels real good to be in the tournament," Rub said. "We're hopeful that we can get hot at the right time."

The winner of Friday's game will advance to face either North Marion or Sisters.

The scouting report on the Bulldogs:

"Siuslaw and South Umpqua gave them pretty good games," Rub said of North Bend's 33-27 and 38-28 victories, respectively. "Overall, they have really good skill position players, and some really good guys up front who get off the ball well."

North Bend's go-to guy is junior quarterback Brody Lucero, who rushed for 164 yards the last time the teams met.

"He does a real good job running the read-option," Rub said. "He's a two-way threat, throwing and running. They like to spread the ball around in the first half, and the second half is all about trying to create some space for him."



Another key factor could be North Bend placekicker Ian Bream, who kicked two field goals in the September game. Carter Wallace kicked one field goal for Astoria, a 35-yarder that ultimately provided the deciding points.

"(Bream) has a great leg," Rub said. "The kicking game will be really big again, just like special teams were big the first time around."

Astoria's secret to success: Play their "bend-but-don't-break" defense, sit back and wait for the opponent's turnovers and penalties. In other words, let the other guys make the mistakes.

In last week's win over South Umpqua, the Lancers outgained the Fishermen 356 to 206, but South Umpqua had three turnovers and committed several key penalties in the red zone.

In the September win at North Bend, the Bulldogs outgained Astoria 364 to 254, but North Bend was flagged for 11 penalties for 117 yards, which included two big pass interference calls.

Astoria trailed 20-10 with 3:40 left, but a blocked punt with under a minute remaining helped the Fish complete

their comeback victory.

The Fishermen are still without Fremstad (separated shoulder), but they will have two other key players at full strength who saw limited action in the previous game.

"We didn't have Wyatt Dietrich in the lineup," Rub said. "He got hurt on the fifth play of the game, and it was Clay Englund's first game back after his August injury, so he was not a big part of the offensive game plan. We hope that having those guys in the mix will create some different problems for (the Bulldogs)."

Helmersen is running the Astoria offense in place of Fremstad, and led the Fishermen to their first playoff win in five years last week.

"Ryker is going to have a good handle on the offense," Rub said. "If we're in that two-minute mode, he will be able to perform well in that. Everything that we're trying to do in the run game, he has a good understanding."

Astoria is a No. 10 seed in the tournament, to North Bend's No. 7 seed.

But never count a Cowapa League team out. Astoria, Banks and Scappoose all hope to do some damage in the playoffs, while the Far West League has two teams in the bottom half of the bracket (Marshfield and North Bend).



Amanda Loman/The World
Junior quarterback Brody Lucero will lead the North Bend offense Friday against Astoria. [notforsale](http://notforsale.com)

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Football — Astoria at North Bend, 6 p.m. (live stream at www.astoriaford.com); Ilwaco at Napavine, 7 p.m. (online at either www.kelaam.com or www.kmnt.com.)

"The Cowapa, the Far West and the Oregon West — those three leagues have really provided some tough levels of competition" this year, Rub said. "It will be interesting how it all shakes out."

"We feel fortunate that we were able to get a win back in September, and we'll do everything in our power to try and find a way to make that happen again," he said. "Our guys have experienced what it's like with their band, their crowd and their stadium."

"The Purple & Gold that is able to attend will be loud and supportive. That was a

big factor in last Friday's win. Our crowd was fantastic."

Look for another close battle, with turnovers playing a key role. And since the Fishermen usually win the turnover battle ...

Prediction: Astoria 26, North Bend 17.

The future is theirs

Astoria's reappearance in the state playoffs won't be a one-year deal. The Fishermen junior varsity went undefeated this season, 10-0.

Included were wins over Warrenton, Taft, Tillamook, Philomath, Ilwaco, Banks, Scappoose and Seaside.

Agencies focus on cold-water habitat for fish

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon and federal officials will work over the next three years on plans to locate, protect and restore sections of cold-water habitat for migrating fish in the Columbia and lower Willamette rivers, according to an agreement released on Tuesday by NOAA Fisheries.

The agreement is included in an updated plan reviewing Oregon's standards for water temperature. Known as a biological opinion, the revised plan was ordered by a judge two years ago as part of a settlement with an environmental group that twice challenged the standards in court.

According to the plan, the warmest temperatures allowed under state standards may harm nine fish species unless cold-water zones are implemented. The plan concludes the state has lacked a clear blueprint to map and develop these areas, known by the scientific term refugia, and it proposes a detailed framework to implement the work.

Warm water can kill salmon and other cold-water fish as they migrate upstream to spawn, and drought and climate change have exacerbated the problem. This summer, thousands of sockeye salmon died in the Columbia River because of excessively hot water. On the Willamette, water temperatures that were warmer than usual also killed spring Chinook.

Scientists have found that salmon and steelhead during their migrations seek out cold-water zones when temperatures spike during dry summer months or because of climate change.

Officials say the refugia will act like stepping stones in the rivers, allowing fish to temporarily escape lethally hot waters and make it safely to spawning grounds. "With scientists predicting we may



Rich Landers/Spokesman Review,
Salmon fishing guide Dave Grove, left, nets a fall Chinook for David Moershel while fishing on the Columbia River near Desert Aire, Wash. State and federal officials are working to restore cold-water habitat needed for salmon survival.

have more of those hot years in future... these refugia are going to play an even more vital role," NOAA Fisheries senior biologist Jeff Lockwood said.

After Oregon adopted temperature standards in 1996, federal agencies concluded they would not harm endangered and threatened fish species, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved them. But a legal challenge sent the agencies back to the drawing board.

When the state revised the standards and the EPA in 2004 approved the new ones, the group again sued. A judge invalidated part of the standards and ordered a new biological opinion.

In its newest plan, NOAA found that most of the standards are protective of fish. But it also found that at 20 degrees Celsius (68 Fahrenheit), some species in the Columbia and lower Willamette were weak and diseased or died, so they needed refugia to cool off.

To implement the plan,

scientists will evaluate temperature-monitoring data, Lockwood said. They'll document where and how fish use refugia, how many they need and how spaced out they should be.

Although cool water spots already exist, more could be restored, Lockwood said, by reducing temperatures in tributaries, releasing more cold water from dams, reconnecting floodplains or changing forestry and agricultural rules to require larger buffers of vegetation around streams. Such actions may take years, he said.

Nina Bell, executive director of Northwest Environmental Advocates, the group that sued over the standards, applauded the state for focusing on refugia. Bell said they're critical to fish, and the state has talked about the concept for years, but never implemented it.

But it's unclear in the plan whether fish escaping the heat into thermal zones would be protected from fishermen who go where fish congregate, Bell said. The

biological opinion does not address fishing explicitly, but officials say it's one of the factors that will need to be considered in the future.

Bell also said there is disconnect between the current plan and the reality on the ground. Her group is also suing the state over the allowed temperatures for water cleanup plans. Those plans were based on a standard that was invalidated by a judge, but they are still in effect.

"The irony is this opinion today talks about 20 degrees being a problem for fish and that it needs to be offset with thermal refuges or cold spots. But the same agencies have already said thumbs up across the state for temperatures that are much higher," Bell said, up to 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit). Such temperatures are lethal to fish.

EPA officials said the current biological opinion does not address those cleanup plans, and they're unable to comment on specifics of that case because it's under litigation.

Adidas offers to help eliminate Native American mascots

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Adidas is offering to help high schools nationwide drop Native American mascots.

The athletic shoe and apparel maker said Thursday it will provide free design resources to schools looking to shelve Native American mascots, nicknames, imagery or symbolism. The German company also pledged to provide financial support to ensure the cost of changing is not prohibitive.

Adidas announced the initiative in conjunction with the White House Tribal Nations Conference on Thursday in Washington. Adidas executives were among those attending the conference, which includes leaders from the 567 federally recognized tribes.

The company, which has its North American headquarters in Portland, also said it will be a founding member of a coalition that addresses Native American mascots in sports.

According to the group Change the Mascot, there are about 2,000 schools nationwide that have Native American mascots.

The advocacy group says about a dozen schools have dropped Native mascots over the past two years and another 20 are considering a change.

Eric Liedtke, Adidas head of global brands who traveled to conference, said sports must be inclusive.

"Today's announcement is a great way for us to offer up our resources to schools that want to do what's right — to administrators, teachers, students and athletes who want to make a difference in their lives and in their world," Liedtke said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Our intention is to help break down any barriers to change — change that can lead to a more respectful and inclusive environment for

all American athletes."

The voluntary program would give schools access to the company's design team for logo redesign and uniform design across all sports. It seeks to be a collaborative effort with schools.

The use of such mascots has drawn increased attention and controversy in recent years. The NFL's Washington Redskins have resisted appeals by Native American and civil rights groups to change their name and mascot.

In 2005, the NCAA warned schools that they would face sanctions if they didn't change Native American logos or nicknames. Some colleges kept their nicknames by obtaining permission from tribes, including the Florida State Seminoles and the University of Utah Utes.

Some states have taken action at the high school level. Last month California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law that prohibits schools from using the term "Redskins."

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper recently ordered the creation of a commission to study the use of Native American mascots and come up with a list of recommendations for possible legislation.

In Oregon, the state Board of Education in 2012 ordered high schools to ban such mascots or risk losing public funding. The schools have until 2017 to comply.

Change the Mascot's Jackie Pata, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians, and Oneida Nation Representative Ray Halbritter applauded Adidas' move in a joint statement.

"We hope that a number of companies including FedEx, whose name adorns the Washington NFL team's stadium, will step forward and follow Adidas's lead," the statement said.