



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Jaxson Smith, No. 2, shoots in the first quarter of the game against Sisters Friday at the Seaside Holiday Classic. More photos at www.dailyastorian.com

Gulls top Astoria in Holiday Classic final

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Seaside Gulls were just tuning up Saturday night, on their home floor.

Tuning up their game, tuning up for the Cowapa League season, and tuning up for whatever team picture they may be posing for March 12.

Because from the looks of it, the Gulls could be reaching some lofty heights come state tournament time.

It's still early in the season, but Seaside was hitting on all cylinders late Saturday, in a 61-40 win over Astoria in the boys' title game of the annual Seaside Holiday Classic.

The Fishermen are expected to be the main challenger for the Gulls once Cowapa League play begins, Jan. 19.

"All our kids played well," said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm. "Astoria is going to be one of the top contenders in the state. They got off to a good start, and they were ready to play."

And Astoria held an early 14-8 lead, following a three-point play by Kyle Strange. Morgan Fruith scored six of his team-high 14 points in the opening quarter to help the Fishermen to a 16-15 lead.

But the Gulls quickly found their quick game, quickened the pace and outscored Astoria 20-4 in the second period. Attkin Babb drained a pair of 3-pointers, and Jackson Januik added a third to highlight the rally.

Jaxson Smith scored 10 of his game-high 18 points in the first half.

The Gulls were knocking down shots from inside and outside (20-for-42 overall), from the 3-point line (5-of-12) and from the free throw line (16-for-21), as they maintained a 15- to 20-point lead for most of the second half.

Januik and Smith shared the tournament's MVP award.

It was Seaside's defense, however, that earned Westerholm's praise.

"We just did a good job defensively," he said. "(Fruith) is a tough guy to defend, and Austin Eagon did a nice job defending him. And Zach Marston did well in getting out and defending Astoria's pick and roll stuff. It was our best defensive effort we've had all season."

The victory came almost one year to the day that the Gulls lost the championship game of the 2014 tournament, when Madras rallied for a 45-41 win.

"Our kids are more mature and they respond to adversity a lot better," Westerholm said.

And despite having two more league games with Astoria, the



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Astoria's Olaf Englund, No. 3, secures a loose ball during the game against Newport Friday at the Seaside Holiday Classic.

Gulls weren't holding anything back.

"What you saw from us is just what you're going to get," he said. "We like to full-court press and speed up the game."

In Friday's semifinal round, the Gulls trailed Sisters 15-11 early in the second quarter, then caught fire and led 25-17 at halftime.

Sisters put up a brief rally in the third period, pulling to within 30-24, but Hunter Thompson drilled a 3-pointer at the buzzer to end the third, and the Gulls finished the game with a 21-8 run.

Januik had 15 points and Smith added 12.

Astoria defeated Newport 54-38 in the other semifinal.

Lady Gulls take third

The shocker of the tournament came Friday night in the girls' semifinals, where Class 2A Lost River held on for a 30-28 upset win over Seaside, ending the Gulls' hopes for a third-straight Classic title.

Seaside bounced back, however, in Saturday's third-place game, where the Gulls pounded Newport 63-25.

After a poor shooting night in Friday's loss, Seaside came out hot against the Cubs and led 27-6 after one quarter.

A 10-2 run in the second period had the Gulls ahead 37-8 at halftime.

Seaside was 25-for-48 on two-point field goals. Tournament MVP Maddi Utti was 11-of-15 from the field and finished with 25 points, to go with six assists, four rebounds and four steals.

The Gulls provided plenty of support with balanced scoring from Jetta Ideue and Sydney Villegas (eight points each), with seven points and five assists from Whitney Westerholm. Seaside had 14 team steals.

Madras 65, Astoria 58

Call it a "hard-fought loss" for the Astoria girls basketball team Saturday afternoon.

The Lady Fishermen are vastly improved and played

well enough to win Saturday's consolation final in the Seaside Holiday Classic ... but "vastly improved" doesn't always show up in the win column.

Madras rallied from a 15-point, third quarter deficit to beat Astoria, 65-58, to take fifth place in the Classic.

The Lady Fishermen looked great and played great, but a 16-0 run by the White Buffaloes midway through the second half — coupled with 17 second-half turnovers by Astoria — helped Madras score the victory.

The Lady Fish were runnin' and gunnin' in the first half, forcing turnovers and hitting shot after shot (11-for-14 in the first quarter) to build a 23-11 lead.

Chloe Hunt highlighted a 13-0 Astoria run with a 3-pointer and two mid-range jump shots. Teammate Taylor Mickle scored all 10 of her points in the first half, which ended with Astoria holding a 35-24 lead.

Astoria's largest lead was 39-24, following scores by Hunt and Alexis Wallace to open the second half.

Madras senior Leah Suppah — scoreless in the first half — caught fire in the third quarter, hitting five 3-pointers. Sophomore teammate Lynden Harry finished with 23 points, 14 in the second half.

Despite sitting for much of the second half in foul trouble, Hunt poured in 27 points, with 12 rebounds. Wallace added 15 points and 11 boards.

With the Lady Fishermen leading 50-49 midway through the fourth quarter, Madras scored on a steal and layup by Harry, and another score by Kaliyah Iverson for a 53-50 lead.

With 1:44 left, Astoria was called for a foul, followed by a technical foul, and Madras pushed the lead to 55-50.

Astoria outbreasted Madras 35-24, with Hunt pulling down 12 rebounds,

Astoria bounced back from an opening round loss to Elma with a 61-37 win over Corbett in Friday morning's consolation game.



Seaside's Sydney Villegas, No. 20, fights for the ball in the first half of the game against Lost River Friday.

Knappa boys score huge win

The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — The Knappa Loggers chopped down one of the Class 2A's top teams Friday night, as they defeated Central Linn 56-48 in a nonleague contest at Knappa.

Colton Weirup scored 25 points, Dale Takalo added 15, and the Loggers shut down a much bigger Central Linn front line to score the win.

Knappa was 12-of-32 from the field and made 17-of-27 free throws to hold off the Cobras.

The Loggers built a 25-20 halftime lead, and pushed their advantage to 38-29 go-

ing into the fourth quarter.

Weirup made all five of Knappa's 3-pointers to help the Loggers maintain their second half lead.

Girls Basketball

Cobras 33, Loggers 11

KNAPPA — Central Linn held Knappa to just three points in the second half Friday, as the Cobras posted a 33-11 win over the Lady Loggers in nonleague action.

Jessica Ramirez scored eight points to lead Central Linn, with five teammates adding four points apiece. Bailey Corder had five points and Kaitlyn

Landwehr pulled down five rebounds for the Loggers.

Kalama 44, Ilwaco 32

ILWACO, Wash. — The Ilwaco girls basketball team took a break from league play Saturday, and hosted former 1A foe Kalama.

And the Chinooks left town with a 44-32 win over Ilwaco (4-2 overall), which is now 0-2 in nonleague games.

Kaelyn Shipley scored 14 points to lead Kalama, which outscored Ilwaco 9-1 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Mackenzie Kaech had 13 points for Ilwaco.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

MONDAY

Girls Basketball — Warrenton at Portland Adventist, 6 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Warrenton at Portland Adventist, 7:45 p.m.; Willapa Valley at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

Girls Basketball — Clatskanie at Seaside, 7:45 p.m.; Warrenton at Jefferson, 2:30 p.m.; Ilwaco at Willapa Valley, 7 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Clatskanie at Seaside, 6 p.m.; Warrenton at Jefferson, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Boys Basketball — Astoria at R.A. Long, 6:15 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaside 61, Astoria 40

AST (40): Morgan Fruith 14, Jarrett 11, Strange 9, Englund 5, Williams 1, Meisner, Gohl, Fremstad, Burchfield, Loughran, Palek, Arnsdorf, O'Brien.

SEA (61): Jaxson Smith 18, Babb 13, Januik 10, Eagon 8, Thompson 7, Marston 4, Cazarez 1, Olson, Hoekstre, Richardson, Basset, Lewis.

Astoria 16 4 11 9—40
Seaside 15 20 15 11—61

Knappa 56, Central Linn 48

CL (48): Diego Jimenez 16, Nightengale 11, Debban 9, Holmes 5, Gerber 5, Pettner 2.

KNA (56): Colton Weirup 25, Takalo 15, Miller 7, Engblom 4, Severson 3, Rubus 2, Goodman, Geisler.

Knappa 6 14 9 19—48
C.Linn 7 18 13 18—56

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Seaside 63, Newport 25

NEW (25): SEA (63): Maddi Utti 25, J.Ideue 8, Villegas 8, Westerholm 7, Brown 5, West 4, Smart 2, Trott 2, Bodner 2, P.Ideue, Babbitt.

Newport 6 2 8 9—25
Seaside 27 10 18 8—63

Madras 65, Astoria 58

AST (58): Chloe Hunt 27, Wallace 15, Mickle 10,

DeMander 4, Mitchell 2, Dalton, Abrahams, Gimre. MDR (65): Lynden Harry 23, Suppah 18, Iverson 16, Anderson 4, Scott 2, Adams 2.

Astoria 25 10 10 13—58
Madras 15 9 18 23—65

Central Linn 33, Knappa 11

CL (33): Jessica Ramirez 8, McLaughlin 4, E.Phearsen 4, Neal 4, Kaczmarek 4, Wright 4, Black 3, Stutzman 2.

KNA (11): Bailey Corder 5, Vanderburg 4, Landwehr 2, Vandergriff, Strain, Truax, McMahan, Silva, Mieth.

C.Linn 9 9 6 9—33
Knappa 4 4 3 0—11

Kalama 44, Ilwaco 32

KAL (44): Kaelyn Shipley 14, Esary 12, Montanez 12, Mickelson 4, Nelson 2.

ILW (32): Mackenzie Kaech 13, McMillan 8, Ban-nister 4, Ellsworth 3, Bentley 2, Jacobson 2.

Kalama 15 8 12 9—44
Ilwaco 11 9 12 1—32

Seaside Holiday Classic

All-Tournament

GIRLS

MVP-Maddi Utti, Seaside
Conley Doyle, Elma
Lynden Harry, Madras
Chloe Hunt, Astoria
Destiny Martinez, Newport
Emily Parks, Lost River
Rachel Parks, Lost River
Maddie Thompson, Elma
Whitney Westerholm, Seaside

BOYS

MVP-Jackson Januik, Seaside
MVP-Jaxson Smith, Seaside
Kye Blaser, Newport
Morgan Fruith, Astoria
Keegan Greaney, Sisters
Brock Johnson, Castle Rock
Kyle Strange, Astoria
Hunter Thompson, Seaside
Brenden Thurber-Blaser, Newport
Shea Yeahquo, Madras