

Walker, Goozee win Pac Rim titles

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — While the team championship is usually reserved for the likes of Estacada, Cascade and Scappoose, local wrestlers are becoming more prominent with each year of the Seaside Pac Rim wrestling tournament.

The annual tourney, now named the “Pac Rim Armed Forces Tournament,” brings in top teams from around the region for two days of wrestling at Seaside High School.

This year’s team champion — for the fourth time in five years — was Scappoose, with 229.5 points. Astoria had one of its best team finishes in recent years, taking fifth out of 15 schools with 116.5 points. Warrenton was 11th, Knappa 13th and Seaside 15th.

And the locals were well-represented on the awards stand.

Topping the list — and the awards stand — was Warrenton senior Colton Walker, who won his third straight Pac Rim title at 106 pounds.

Walker won in 2014 as a sophomore at Astoria, followed by a championship last season for Warrenton.

“This tournament is always one of the biggest on our schedule, and it’s pretty cool to win three times,” said Walker, currently the No. 1-ranked wrestler in the state at 106.

And after narrowly losing in the state championship finals last year, Walker said, “I’m looking to win state this year, for sure.”

Walker opened the Pac Rim with a bye, then scored a technical fall (1:56) over Joseph Austin of St. Helens. He pinned Astoria’s Jose Espinoza (1:36) in the semifinals.

In the championship bout, Walker was challenged by a wrestler from his former school, sophomore Juan Jimenez of Astoria, but Walker won by technical fall at the 2:10 mark (17-2).

“I had faced (Jimenez) before, a couple weekends ago at our tournament, and pinned him



Jeff Ter Har/For the Daily Astorian

Knappa junior Andrew Goozee on his way to the individual title at 182 pounds, as he scored an eventual 7-0 win over Astoria’s Kaden Gilbert.

in 15 seconds,” Walker said. “He put up a good fight today.”

In the same weight bracket, Astoria’s Espinoza had a first round bye, followed by a pin (1:15) over Vernonia’s Katie Goodman to reach the semifinals.

Elsewhere, Knappa’s Andrew Goozee met a pair of local wrestlers on his way to the title at 182 pounds.

Goozee pinned Warrenton’s Levi Lewis (59 seconds) in the semifinals, then scored a 7-0 decision over Astoria freshman Kaden Gilbert in the title match. Goozee finished the first round with a near fall and a 5-0 lead, but Gilbert hung on through the next two rounds to finish the match.

Other local placers included Astoria’s Tyler Ranta (third at 126), after the sophomore won two matches in the championship bracket.

Astoria’s Andrew Poplin was third at 285; teammate Mateo DeVargas was fourth at 145; and Fishermen senior Devon Nikkila-Keiner was fourth at 220.

Warrenton’s Tyler Coolidge defeated Reuben Cruz of Knappa in the fifth-place match at 152.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Vernonia’s Jacob Harbour knees Warrenton’s Tyler Coolidge in the face during their wrestling match. Coolidge scored a 9-6 decision.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Astoria’s Mateo DeVargas puts Scappoose’s Jack Eggers in a hold during their wrestling match.

It’s a Vernonia block party at Knappa

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — A Logger Showdown turned into one big block party for the Vernonia Loggers Friday.

The league’s main challenger to unseat Knappa as the Northwest League champion took a big step towards their goal, as Vernonia topped Knappa 57-38 in a key showdown.

Vernonia had just one player in double figures (Robert Connor, with 10 points off the bench), but the visiting Loggers made good use of their size advantage by blocking 10 Knappa shots, and changing even more.

Knappa finished 13-of-55 from the field (just 2-of-20 from the 3-point line), with Dale Takalo leading the way with 20 points.

Takalo scored all nine Knappa points in the first quarter, including a layup for an early 5-3 advantage.

Vernonia answered with back-to-back scores by Jared Medearis for a 12-9 lead.

Knappa cooled off in the second period, hitting just 1-of-11 shots which led to a 26-15 halftime deficit.

A 9-0 run early in the third was all the visitors needed to pull away, as Tristan Adams capped the rally with a 3-pointer for a 35-17 lead.

Arne Schiemann added the exclamation point with a dunk off a steal that led to Vernonia’s largest lead at 57-36.

Loggers 62, Dragons 30

SHERIDAN — The Loggers bounced back from their Friday night loss with a 62-30 win at Delphian Saturday.

Dale Takalo poured in 38 points and the Loggers allowed just three points in the third quarter, as Knappa gained revenge for two losses to the Dragons last season.

Fishermen 57, Eagles 39

After a one-point loss to North Marion the night before (see story below), the Astoria Fishermen jumped back on the winning track with a 57-39 win over Stayton Saturday night at

the Brick House.

The Fishermen overcame a 21-17 halftime deficit by outscoring the Eagles 40-18 in the second half.

Astoria’s Kyle Strange led all scorers with 13 points, with Fridtjof Fremstad adding nine. Ole Englund and Jackson Arnsdorf scored eight points apiece.

Huskies 43, Fishermen 42

North Marion scored on a post-up play as time ran out Friday night, giving the No. 3-ranked Huskies a 43-42 win at Astoria.

Tanner Scanlan had 15 points for the Huskies, who trailed 35-26 going into the fourth quarter, when they outscored Astoria 17-7.

Gulls 55, Cubs 36

NEWPORT — Seaside had three players in double figures Friday at Newport in a 55-36 win over the Cubs.

Hunter Thompson led the way with 15 points, followed by Jackson Januik with 12 and Jaxson Smith with 11.

The Gulls held a 30-16 lead at halftime, as No. 4-ranked Seaside improves to 10-1 overall.

Warriors lose two

PORTLAND — Two games in two days proved to be a tough task for the Warrenton boys basketball team, which lost both games over the weekend to teams from Portland.

Fifth-ranked De La Salle posted a 65-39 win at Warrenton Friday, and the Warriors dropped a 78-51 decision at Riverdale Saturday.

Cougars 55, Blue Jays 30

MOLALLA — Jewell had a good start in the first quarter, but Country Christian eventually opened up a 32-11 halftime lead on its way to a 55-30 Casco League win over the Blue Jays Friday.

Derek Halvorson had 14 points for Country Christian, and Trystan Silva scored 13 for Jewell.

Ilwaco 52, Crusaders 45

TACOMA, Wash. — Ilwaco

overcame some early offensive struggles for a 52-45 win at Tacoma Baptist Friday.

Ethan Bannister led Ilwaco with 15 points (which included three 3-pointers in the third quarter), followed by Alex Kaino and James Schenk with 10 points apiece.

Kaino had five steals, and Zac Tapio hauled in nine rebounds.

Girls Basketball

Lady Gulls 57, Cubs 30

NEWPORT — A long layoff did not affect the Seaside girls basketball team Friday at Newport, where the Gulls defeated the Cubs, 57-30.

“Our goal is to get better every day in practice and games. As league gets closer we have to get better,” said Wally Hamer, coach of the state’s No. 2-ranked team.

“We played Newport about three weeks ago in our tournament, and hadn’t played for nine days. So we had to get rid of the rust.”

The first quarter “was a little slow, but all in all it was a good effort,” Hamer said.

One year to the day after scoring 28 points in a 33-point win over Newport, Seaside’s Maddi Utti tossed in 24 points in Friday’s victory.

“Maddi had another great game, with Sydney (Villegas) and Whitney (Westerholm) chipping in,” Hamer said.

Seaside outscored Newport 38-11 over the second and third quarters. Utti had three blocks and six of Seaside’s 19 steals.

Eagles 46, Lady Fish 37

Stayton broke open a close game at halftime by outscoring Astoria 18-3 in the third quarter, and the Eagles went on to a 46-37 win Saturday at the Brick House.

Sierra Shelton scored 12 points for Stayton, which connected on eight 3-pointers. Chloe Hunt had 16 points and Alexis Wallace had 11 for Astoria.

Lady Fish 43, Huskies 33

Astoria opened the weekend with a 43-33 win over North

Marion Friday night at the Brick House.

The Lady Fish trailed 33-32 entering the fourth quarter, when Astoria outscored the Huskies 11-0.

Kaylee Mitchell scored 15 points with seven rebounds, and Chloe Hunt added 11 points. Alexis Wallace had six rebounds.

Warriors drop a pair

PORTLAND — The Warrenton girls came up short in a pair of Lewis & Clark League games over the weekend.

De La Salle defeated the Warriors 47-37 Friday, and Riverdale managed a 41-35 win over Warrenton Saturday.

Riverdale improved to 9-4 overall, while Warrenton falls to 0-6 in league play.

Vernonia 64, Knappa 29

KNAPPA — No. 3-ranked Vernonia remained unbeaten in league play with a 64-29 win at Knappa Friday.

Vernonia won its ninth straight, while Knappa lost its seventh in a row.

Senior Paige Smith scored 20 points and Leire Valladares added 14 for Vernonia, which built a 33-3 lead midway through the second quarter.

Bailey Corder and Paris Vanderburg scored eight points apiece for Knappa.

Cougars 71, Blue Jays 13

MOLALLA — Country Christian’s Mollie Lewandowski and Anna Famer scored 14 points apiece to lead the Cougars to a 71-13 win over Jewell in Casco League girls basketball Friday.

Gabi Morales had 11 points and five rebounds for Jewell, which played with just six players.

Ilwaco 58, Crusaders 35

TACOMA, Wash. — Ilwaco’s Mackenzie Kaech scored 17 points with eight rebounds to lead the Fishermen to a 58-35 win at Tacoma Baptist Friday.

Hannah Ellsworth and Madeline Jacobson added 12 points apiece for Ilwaco.

Seahawks escape with 10-9 win over Vikings after Walsh miss

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks needed more than three quarters to warm up at Minnesota, their quest to avenge last year’s Super Bowl loss nearly frozen before it began.

The Vikings, after gritting through this grind-it-out wild-card round playoff game, booted their chance to beat the two-time defending NFC champions. Blair Walsh’s 27-yard field goal try into the frigid wind hooked left with 22 seconds remaining, handing the Seahawks a 10-9 victory over the stunned Vikings on a Sunday in below-zero weather that tied for the third-coldest NFL game on record.

“A lot of people would’ve folded up and said, ‘That’s it,’ but we’ve got a team full of fighters,” Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman said.

The Seahawks (11-6) didn’t score until Russell Wilson’s short touchdown pass to Doug Baldwin early in the fourth quarter. Then, a fumble by Adrian Peterson for the Vikings on the next possession set up a field goal by Steven Hauschka.

The Vikings (11-6) took the ball for the deciding drive with 1:42 left at their 39 and, aided by a pass interference penalty on Kam Chancellor, drove deep into Seattle’s territory. After draining the clock for the seemingly inevitable win, Walsh simply missed the winner after making all three of his earlier attempts.

“That’s called grace,” Chancellor said. “That’s all it is.”

Seattle will play next weekend at Carolina, where the Panthers had a first-round bye in balmy mid-50s weather.

“I think we were fortunate that we got the win,” Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said. “A lot of those times, guys make those kicks. There’s a high percentage that they make them, but you’ve still got to do it.”

Walsh didn’t hide. Holder Jeff Locke had the laces turned in, not out, but there were no excuses to be made.

“You’re confident, but you never think that you have it or take it for granted,” Walsh said, subdued with glassy eyes in the locker room afterward. “I just didn’t put a swing on it that would be acceptable by anybody’s standards.”

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE		Seaside 55, Newport 36	
TUESDAY			
Girls Basketball — Astoria at Molalla, 7 p.m.; Estacada at Seaside, 5:30 p.m.; Warrenton at Rainier, 6 p.m.; Knappa at City Christian, 6 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.; North Beach at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.	SEA (55): Hunter Thompson 15, Januik 12, Smith 11, Eagon 8, Marston 4, Lewis 4, Hoekstre, Cazarez, Richardson, Bassett, Babb.		
Boys Basketball — Molalla at Astoria, 7 p.m.; Estacada at Seaside, 8 p.m.; Warrenton at Rainier, 7:45 p.m.; Knappa at City Christian, 8 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 7 p.m.; North Beach at Ilwaco, 5:45 p.m.	NEW (36): Kyle Blaser 9, Brendan Thurber-Blaser 9, Beaudry 7, C.Blaser 6, Lancaster 3.		
	Seaside	19 11 1510—55	
	Newport	9 7 155—36	

Country Christian 55, Jewell 30	
JWL (30): Trystan Silva 13, Murray 5, Stahly 5, Meehan 4, Hinson 2, Munk 1, Gerken, Ritchie.	
CC (55): Derek Halvorson 14, Grandle 10, Girrens 8, Mann 6, Cunningham 6, Westacitt 4, Chavez 3, Dr.Halvorson 3, Gilmer 1.	
Jewell	4 7 712—30
Country	14 18 1112—55

Ilwaco 52, Tacoma Baptist 45	
ILW (52): Ethan Bannister 15, Kaino 10, Schenk 10, Lazaro 8, Tynkila 6, Tapio 5, Mendoza 4, Glenn 2.	
TB (45): Joel Hamlin 12, Pascua 11, Stone 10, Thomas 6, Leaman 3, Jensen 1, So 1, Johnson 1.	
Ilwaco	18 2 2210—52
T.Baptist	10 12 149—45

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Stayton 46, Astoria 37	
STA (46): Sierra Shelton 12, Lindemann 8, Doran 8, Hollenbeck 7, Hendricks 6, Anderson 3, Bender 2, Sheppard, Ikea-Mario.	
AST (37): Chloe Hunt 16, Wallace 11, Mitchell 4, Hemsley 4, Mickle 2, Dalton, Rogers, Abrahams, Gimre.	
Stayton	9 11 188—46
Astoria	8 11 315—37

Astoria 43, North Marion 35	
AST (43): Kaylee Mitchell 15, Hunt 11, Rogers 4, Abrahams 4, DeMander 3, Mickle 3, Wallace 3, Gimre.	
N.Marion	10 11 120—33
Astoria	8 12 1211—43

Seaside 57, Newport 30	
SEA (57): Maddi Utti 24, Villegas 11, Trott 5, Westerholm 5, Bodner 4, J.Ideue 2, P.Ideue 2, West 2, Brown 1.	
Seaside	12 21 177—57
Newport	8 4 711—30

Vernonia 64, Knappa 29	
VER (64): P.Smith 20, Valladares 14, Harral 10, Bustamante 7, Ely 5, Wolf 3, Everett 3, Roberts 2.	
KNA (29): Bailey Corder 8, Paris Vanderburg 8, Vandergriff 6, Truax 4, Miethe 2, Strain 1, McMahan, Silva, Inman.	
Vernonia	22 13 1514—64
Knappa	3 6 812—29

Country Christian 71, Jewell 13	
JWL (13): Gabi Morales 11, Olvera 2, A.Littlepage, Guillen, Kaczanski, Haddock.	
CC (71): Mollie Lewandowski 14, Anna Farmer 14, C.McGrath 12, Nofziger 9, Ham 6, Parker 6, LaPointe 4, M.McGrath 2, Phillips 2, Sandberg 2.	
Jewell	3 0 7 3—13
Country	21 20 1812—71

Ilwaco 58, Tacoma Baptist 34	
ILW (58): Mackenzie Kaech 17, Ellsworth 12, Jacobson 12, Bannister 5, McMillan 4, Kullm 2, McMullen 2, Pierson 2, Bentley 2, Kondos.	
TB (34): Rachael Vanliew 10, J.Brooks 9, Leaman 4, A.Brooks 4, Pascua 4, Crone 3.	
Ilwaco	13 23 1111—58
T.Baptist	10 8 8 8—34