

Knappa Loggers hammer Delphian in 73-38 blowout

The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — The Knappa Loggers are ready to take on the Northwest League's top team, following another decisive win Thursday night at home.

Dale Takalo scored 34 points in a 73-38 win over Delphian, helping the Loggers improve to 8-3 in league play.

Fresh off a 28-point victory over Gaston (1-10), the Loggers built a 45-17 halftime lead against Delphian, which falls to 1-9.

Jason Miller added 16 points, nine rebounds, six steals and five assists for Knappa, which is alone in second place behind first-place Vernonia, where the Loggers play Saturday.

"We had a good run to open the game, and we were able to take our starters out early to get rested up for Saturday," said Knappa coach Chris Spencer, whose team topped the 70-point mark for the fourth time this year.

"We were aggressive on defense with 16 steals, and most of those led to layups," he said. "Jason Miller played a great all-around game, and Dale was Dale."

Warriors split with Pirates

WARRENTON — The Warrenton basketball teams hosted a makeup double-header with Neah-Kah-Nie Wednesday night, and split the two games with the Pirates.

The Warrenton girls snapped an eight-game losing streak with a 39-26 nonleague win over Neah-Kah-Nie, while the Pirates topped the Warriors in the boys' game, 44-38.

Both Warrenton teams play tonight at Oregon Episcopal.

Swimming

Fish sweep Scappoose

The Astoria swim teams hosted a Cowapa League dual meet with Scappoose Thursday at the Aquatic Center, where the Fishermen pulled off the sweep as they prepare for the post-season.

Astoria won nine of the 11 events on the boys' side in a 98-71 victory, while the Lady Fish won 10 of 11 events in a lop-sided 104-66 win.

For the girls, Astoria's foursome of Megan Sparks, Kendal Gustafson, Ashley Schacher and Olivia Paul opened with a win in the 200-yard medley relay (2 minutes, 8.82 seconds), the first of a sweep in the relays for the Lady Fish.

Individually, Ashley Schacher was the only double-winner (50-yard freestyle, 28.58 and the 100-yard butterfly, 1:12.66), while Kendal Gustafson (100-yard breaststroke),



Knappa's Jason Miller, No. 3, drives to the hoop for two in his big night for the Loggers in the win over Delphian.

Olivia Paul (100-yard freestyle), Morgan Postlewait (500-yard freestyle), Megan Schacher (200-yard individual medley) and Megan Sparks (100-yard backstroke) each picked up wins.

On the boys' side, Thayne Covert (200 freestyle, 2:11.37; 500 freestyle, 5:56.47), Jacob Hulti (50 freestyle, 24.54; 100 freestyle, 55.84) and Josh Shipley (200 medley, 2:17.17; butterfly, 1:03.63) won two events apiece.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Boys Basketball — Seaside at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Warrenton at Oregon Episcopal, 7:45 p.m.; Jewell at C.S. Lewis, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball — Seaside at Astoria, 7:45 p.m.; Warrenton at Oregon Episcopal, 6 p.m.; Jewell at C.S. Lewis, 5:30 p.m.
Swimming — Seaside at Rainier, 3:15 p.m.

SATURDAY

Girls Basketball — Knappa at Vernonia, 4 p.m.
Boys Basketball — Knappa at Vernonia, 6 p.m.
Wrestling — Ilwaco Beach Brawl, 10 a.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Standings

League	Cowapa League	
	Overall	League
Astoria	2-1	11-5
Scappoose	2-1	12-4
Seaside	2-1	14-2
Valley Catholic	2-1	11-5
Banks	1-2	9-8
Tillamook	0-3	5-10

Lewis & Clark League

De La Salle	10-2	16-4
Portland Adv	10-3	14-8
Catlin Gabel	8-4	13-6
Rainier	7-5	8-11
Riverdale	6-4	10-8
Clatskanie	5-7	9-10
OR Episcopal	4-7	9-8
Portland Chr	1-10	4-16
Warrenton	1-10	4-15

Northwest League

Vernonia	11-0	17-1
Knappa	8-3	13-7
Life Christian	7-3	11-5
City Christian	7-4	12-7
Nestucca	6-4	10-7
Faith Bible	5-6	9-10
Neah-Kah-Nie	2-9	4-14
Delphian	1-9	3-11
Gaston	1-10	2-15

Knappa 73, Delphian 38

DEL (38)	Yahya Abulohoum	11	Klevit 8	B.Wang 7	Yang 6	L.Wang 4	Hung 2
KNA (73)	Dale Takalo	34	Miller 16	Engblom 6	Rubus 6	Hendrickson 3	Severson 2
Delphian	11	6	8	13	38		
Knappa	21	24	15	13	73		

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cowapa League

Banks	3-0	14-3
Valley Catholic	3-0	14-3
Astoria	2-1	9-8
Seaside	1-2	12-4
Scappoose	0-3	4-11
Tillamook	0-3	2-13

Lewis & Clark League

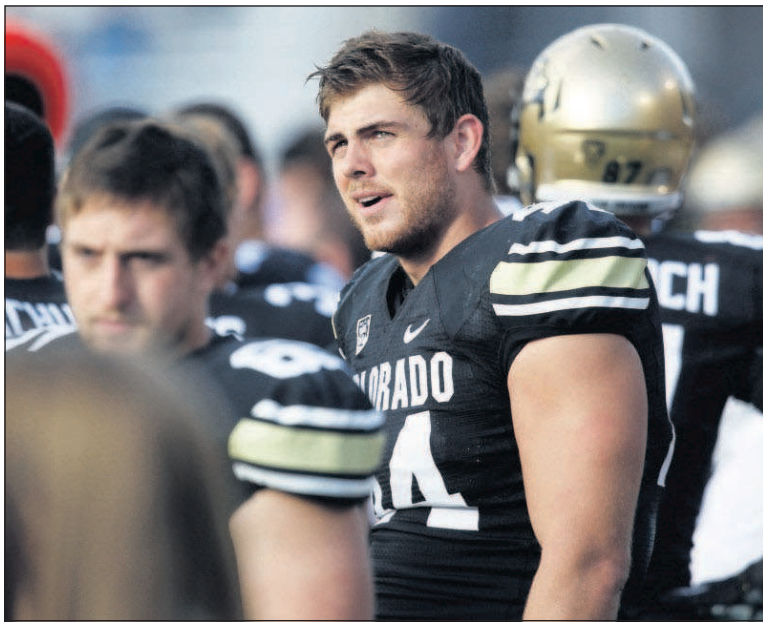
Portland Chr	11-0	16-4
Portland Adv	12-1	18-3
Rainier	7-5	10-10
Catlin Gabel	7-5	11-8
OR Episcopal	6-5	9-6
De La Salle	4-8	6-14
Riverdale	3-7	10-8
Clatskanie	2-10	5-14
Warrenton	0-11	6-13

Northwest League

Vernonia	9-0	16-2
Faith Bible	8-2	13-6
Neah-Kah-Nie	8-2	10-7
City Christian	5-5	7-11
Knappa	3-6	3-15
Gaston	3-7	5-14
Life Christian	1-8	1-13
Nestucca	1-8	4-13

Colorado tight end Nick Kasa watches from the sideline as Colorado trails Washington during an NCAA college football game in Boulder, Colo. Kasa was signed to the Denver Broncos practice squad Monday, after tight end Dan Light was waived from the team as it heads to Super Bowl 50.

David Zalubowski AP Photo



Broncos fan makes the team

Kasa finds home with Broncos just before the big game

By PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Last Sunday, Nick Kasa was like any other fan of the Denver Broncos.

On Super Bowl Sunday, he'll be one of the Denver Broncos.

The tight end, out of football since the spring, got a phone call while sitting in the stands last weekend, watching the Broncos beat New England in the AFC title game.

He dropped his phone and cracked the screen — that's another story — but when he finally restored his service, he learned the Broncos wanted to sign him to the practice squad to help them get ready for the Super Bowl against Carolina.

"It's been pretty crazy. Kind of indescribable," said Kasa, who was signed Monday and would have to be activated from the practice squad in order to play in the game. "These guys have been working hard toward this for a long time. For me to

come in at the end here, is just kind of an out-of-the-ordinary event. I'm honored to be here and ready to do whatever I can to help."

That includes playing the part of Panthers tight end Greg Olsen in practice. He's been studying film of the Pro Bowl tight end to give Denver's top-ranked defense an accurate portrayal.

"My role is to be the best Greg Olsen that I can," said Kasa, who went to high school in Broomfield, Colorado, and played at the University of Colorado. "I didn't see this coming. I thought the season was drawing to an end. I was ready to move on to the next year. Surprised me with this call. I'm ready to go."

Kasa was drafted in the sixth round by Oakland in 2013, and played in all 16 games his rookie season. The only catch of his career was in the final week of that season, when he hauled in a 9-yard TD pass against, fittingly enough, the Broncos.

He missed 2014 after being placed on injured reserve with a torn ACL. Last spring, the Raiders let him go and he's been looking for an NFL job ever since.

To stay in tip-top tight-end shape, Kasa worked out just a

few blocks away from Denver's practice facility.

"Still pretty much the same start to my day," Kasa cracked.

Only now he's making around \$6,600 per week on the practice squad and will be going with the team to Santa Clara, California, for the big game. He gets Super Bowl tickets, too, even if he won't be suiting up.

"It's a freaking dream come true, for sure," the 25-year-old Kasa said. "I don't know how to describe it. ... It's just good to be here. I don't want to distract from this team at all. They've been working hard for a long time."

To think, he initially missed a call he's been waiting so long to receive. While attending the AFC championship game, the phone dropped out of his hand and the screen broke. As he was taking in Denver's 20-18 win over Tom Brady and the Patriots, the team was trying to get in touch with him.

It wasn't until the next day, when he picked up a new phone, that he saw the messages.

His heart sank. "I was freaking out, for sure," Kasa said. "But got it all turned around in enough time and made it over here. Now, I'm just on to however I can help."

AP NFL website: <http://www.pro32.ap.org/dailyastorian>

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