

Clash: 'One win closer to a league championship'

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Still, a 3-pointer by Kyle Strange and a layup by Derek Jarrett gave Astoria an early 9-5 lead. But the lead was short-lived, as the Gulls answered with a 12-0 run for a 17-9 lead, and never trailed again.

Thompson started the rally with a 3-pointer, and ended it with a 3-pointer, as the junior guard had 11 of his 20 in the first quarter.

The Fishermen kept it close, for a while.

Jarrett's 3-pointer had Astoria within 21-17, but Jackson Januik knocked down a short jump shot, fed Thompson for another two, then made two free throws and another jumper for a 29-19 lead.

Attikin Babb banked in a 3-pointer, and everyone pretty much knew it was going to be Seaside's night.

Just as they expected.

"Our kids have been looking forward to this game for about 2 1/2 weeks," Westerholm said, following Astoria's double overtime win at the Brick House.

"After that game, we stayed in the locker room for a long time," he said. "We sat and talked and sulked and kicked ourselves, but we made it a point that we were going to look forward to this game, but take it one game at a time. To make sure that this game meant something."

And "we put five wins together to get to this point, and now this puts us one win closer to a league championship."

Should both teams win Thursday, they would play a tie-breaker on a neutral court.

Seaside hosts Tillamook (1-8), while Astoria hosts Val-



Seaside's Maddi Utti, No. 25, pulls down a rebound against Astoria's Rylee Demander, No. 14.

ley Catholic (5-4).

"They're a good team," Westerholm said of the Fishermen. "It was nice to see Hunter Thompson hit some big shots for us. He was a fierce competitor. Always is. Different guys played well defensively, and it was a good team effort. If Hunter hadn't been on, somebody else would have picked up the slack."

Meanwhile, Thompson is confident in the way the Gulls are playing.

"Jackson was still dishing out great passes, playing great D and controlling our offense ... Austin (Eagon) hit some big buckets, Zach (Marston) had some great defensive stops ... everyone was playing good. "I was shooting good," he added. "I was hyped up. If we have a tie-breaker, we'll be ready for them."

Girls Basketball

SEASIDE 51, ASTORIA 30

SEASIDE — The Seaside Gulls won their ninth straight Clatsop Clash Tuesday, a 51-30 victory over Astoria in a key Cowapa League showdown at the Gulls' Nest.

Seaside's win brings the Lady Gulls into a second-place tie with Valley Catholic at 6-3 in league (9-0 Banks has clinched the Cowapa crown).

Seaside can take over sole possession of second with a win Thursday over Tillamook (1-8) and an Astoria win over Valley Catholic. The Lady Fishermen (4-5) have locked up fourth place and a spot in the Regional Play-in round.

Meanwhile, after a few injuries over the last month, the Gulls are back at full strength, and showing that they will be a tough team to beat in the state



Seaside's Zach Marston, No. 25, and Jackson Januik, No. 3, get the ball away from Astoria's Fridtjof Fremstad, No. 12, during the Clatsop Clash in Seaside on Tuesday.



Seaside's Sydney Villegas, No. 20, shoots in the first quarter.

playoffs.

Maddi Utti had seven of Seaside's first nine points, and scored twice off steals late in the first quarter to help the

Gulls grab a 20-6 lead after one period.

The Gulls were on fire from the floor in the first half, connecting on 14-of-26 attempts.

Paige Ideue hit a short jump shot and sister Jetta followed with a 3-pointer; Sydney Villegas connected from the outside, as did Brittany West, and Bryre Babbitt and Villegas both made jumpers to close out the first half for a 33-15 lead.

Astoria was just 3-for-17 from the field in the first half, with 13 turnovers.

Villegas led all scorers with 16 points, followed by Utti with 15. Chloe Hunt and Alexis Wallace had nine points apiece for Astoria, while Rylee DeMander had six rebounds.

Respite: 'Anything is going to be a little bit better than nothing'

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Memorial Hospital, Providence Seaside Hospital and Greater Oregon Behavioral Health.

The Astoria City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to send a letter to the partnership urging them to consider locked beds before the respite center opens, which could be in April.

Rich Mays, the interim county manager, said the partnership is meeting today to hear from the project manager about how much it would cost to retrofit the respite center to accommodate locked rooms.

City Councilor Drew Herzig said the idea the respite center would accept violent patients without locked beds — "I guess calling 911 whenever it gets beyond their capacity to control" — seems like "an irrational business plan."

City Councilor Cindy Price, whose husband, Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis, said last summer that the county was in crisis on mental health, recommended that councilors send the letter.

"Anything is going to be a little bit better than nothing, which is what we have now," Price said after the vote. "But hearing law enforcement, hearing Chief Johnston, hearing Josh Marquis, hearing from the Warrenton City Commission, where this respite center will be located, it's clear that the lack of the secure beds is going to be a real problem.

"And we know that. We've had so many incidents."

'Extremely disappointed'

Warrenton City Commissioner Henry Balensifer said he was extremely disappointed.

"Without those locked beds, I have no choice but to oppose the establishment of the center due to the strain on our limited law enforcement resources," he said in an email. "Without those beds, our police department will not have the relief promised to our city by CBH when they approached us about the center.

"Our city has worked in good faith and understanding that CBH would have facilities to handle mental health



Cindy Price and Henry Balensifer

patients whose incidents warrant police response. Instead, I received word from another jurisdiction that CBH no longer was going to have locked beds at the respite facility.

"The fact they changed their plan after the city approved their building plans, and that they never notified us of their change incensed me. I shouldn't learn about these things from another jurisdiction and it's nothing short of fraud to tell us we'd have locked beds to allay our concerns, only to remove the beds after we sign off on the project. If these beds are not put back into the plan, Warrentonians will suffer."

Nick Benas, the director of business operations at Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, said the partnership "is meeting today to see how they can make that happen."

Shortcomings in care

Frustration over the shortcomings in mental health services in Clatsop County grew last year after Carrie Barnhart, a 54-year-old mother of six with a history of mental illness, committed suicide by jumping off the Astoria Bridge. Astoria Police had responded to Barnhart's suicide threats four times in the months before her death. The week before Barnhart jumped, police had taken her off the bridge after midnight and brought her to Columbia Memorial Hospital, where she was evaluated by Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare and released after two hours.

In another incident, Astoria Police wound up buying a former star football player who suffered a mental breakdown a bus ticket back to Portland. Police were exasperated after it appeared that Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare and Columbia Memorial Hospital did not have a plan to treat the man, who repeatedly walked out of the hospital over four days.



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