

# Fishermen one step closer to state tourney

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Fishermen were doing things the old-fashioned way Friday night at the Brick House.

Hustle, intensity, tough defense, making shots ... even the old-fashioned three-pointers.

And it all resulted in an old-fashioned playoff victory for the Fishermen, 67-48 over Stayton in a Regional Play-in boys basketball game.

The win clinches a spot in the Sweet 16 — Astoria's first appearance there since the 2009-10 season.

"It's good that we got a win, and hopefully we can keep it going," said Astoria's Kyle Strange, who scored a game-high 22 points. "Let's ride this baby out."

There was a time when play-off victories were routine for Astoria, so forgive the Fishermen for being overly pumped following the win, the first post-season victory (other than league tie-breakers) for Astoria since a 59-48 win over Ontario Feb. 27, 2007.

And you have to go back one generation in the Goin family to find Astoria's last state or regional playoff victory at the Brick House (46-44 over Riverside in 2001, under Mike Goin).

"I grew up in such a different era," said Astoria coach, 1992 grad and Mike's son Kevin

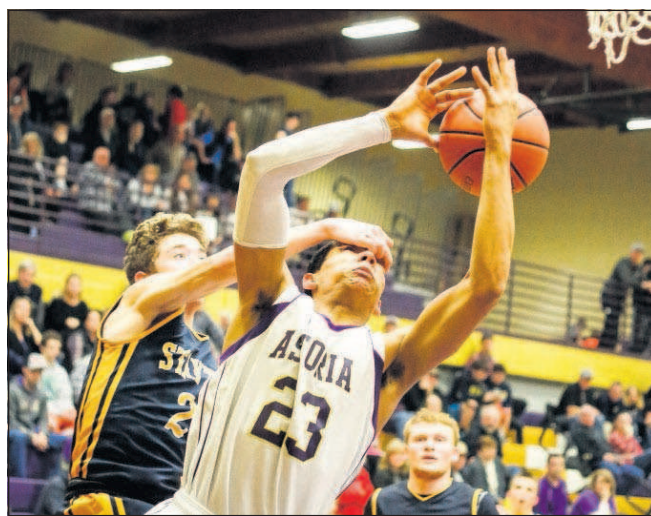


Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian  
Astoria's Fridtjof Fremstad, No. 12, goes up for a shot over Stayton's Everett St. Clair, No. 10, during the game.

Goin, "it was kind of the expectation to spend the week before spring break at the state tournament in Eugene.

"Our kids are real happy,

and I'm happy with the effort they've put in," he said. "We have a chance to go play in the state tournament, which is really big. You're going to have to play



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian  
Astoria's Justin Fruiht, No. 23, is fouled while shooting by Stayton's Cade Nau, No. 2, during the game.

a good team to get there, and unless something goofy happens, we'll be on the road."

Something goofy apparently happened, because the Fishermen will actually host Cascade in a state playoff at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The winner advances to the state tournament to play either La Grande or Seaside.

Meanwhile, it was Stayton's second visit of the season to Astoria. The Fishermen beat the Eagles 57-39 Jan. 9, and Astoria left no doubt in the rematch.

Stayton was within 18-13 midway through the second quarter, when Astoria had a string of momentum-turning plays to take command.

Following a missed 3-pointer by the Fishermen, the Eagles lost control of the rebound, Strange gathered it in and hit a short jumper.

He also drew the foul and converted the three-point play for a 21-13 lead.

Moments later, Strange knocked down a trey from the corner.

And with 56 seconds left, Justin Fruiht pulled down the third of three straight offensive rebounds, scored and drew the foul to give the Fishermen a 27-14 lead.

Astoria held double-digit leads the rest of the night, the largest being a 55-30 advantage early in the fourth quarter. The

Fishermen finished with their second-highest point total of the season, behind a 69-48 win over Rainier Dec. 28.

It helps when you make 17-of-22 shots in the second half, as Astoria did Friday. The Fishermen were 9-of-12 in the third quarter, and the last miss was a desperation shot from midcourt as the quarter ended.

"The second half we did a much better job coming to the ball and making better decisions on the break," Goin said. "We got it to the posts and got good cuts. Our efficiency was much better."

Defensively, the Fishermen blocked five shots by the much smaller Stayton team, most by the twin towers, Fruiht and Derek Jarrett.

Fruiht finished with 11 points, while Astoria's sixth man, Ryan Palek, scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half, and most on breakaways.

Strange said the offensive plan was pretty simple — get it to the big guys.

"That was our game plan — just getting the ball to the posts, and cutting off the posts to get easy looks," he said. "I felt like we did that."

"We know the expectations, and we're ready to work," said the junior guard. "We came out strong in the second half, pushed the ball and tried our best to get up the floor and get some good looks."

## Warrenton's Walker goes out on top

By DAVID BALL  
For The Daily Astorian

PORTLAND — Warrenton High senior Colton Walker capped his prep wrestling career with a state championship, winning the 3A 106-pound bracket in quick order last weekend.

Walker marched to the championship mat Saturday night to face Willamina rookie Jordan Reyes — the tournament's No. 3 seed. He got in on his opponent's leg for a takedown just 15 seconds into a bout that was never in doubt.

"I went in focused and confident," Walker said. "I like to start at the whistle and catch people off guard. I just kept taking shots and moving forward."

Walker got in for a second takedown before the match was a minute old, and worked to turn Reyes to his shoulders for a pin in 1:14.

"This means the world to me," Walker said, pausing to look at the red and green chip awarded to state champions. "It's always been my dream to become a state champion."

The title win avenged an unlikely loss in last year's final where a throw in the final seconds turned his four-point lead into a narrow loss.

Walker had no such challenges at this season's tournament, opening with a 13-0 shut-out win over Harrisburg's Riley Suttles before scoring a third-round pin against No. 4-seed Ricardo Flores-Galvez of Gervais in Saturday morning's semifinals.



Kathy Morgan/For the Daily Astorian  
Warrenton's Colton Walker pinned Riley Suttles of Harrisburg on his way to a state title.

"Being a senior is a big advantage," Walker said. "I'm going up against a lot of freshmen and sophomores. I'm stronger than my opponents and I have the experience on the mat."

Warriors' teammate Justice Watson reached the 152-pound semifinals with a 53-second pin over No. 4-seed Devin Sheldon of Glide and went on to win a consolation bout on his way to a fourth-place finish.

Astoria High sent a pair of wrestlers into Saturday's morning session, led by senior Andrew Poplin who scored a second-round pin in his opening match.

Poplin stayed in contention with another pin in the consolation bracket to end Friday's session. After giving up an early takedown to Mazama's Cameron Hankins, he got on the scoreboard by pulling off an escape with only a few ticks left in the first period.

Hankins tried for a fall early in the second period and nearly pinned himself in the process,

going flat on the mat while slowing flipping Poplin's feet through the air. Poplin pushed the momentum through and safely rolled out of danger and ended up on top for a reversal and back points to claim a 5-2 lead.

"I just had to keep my head in good position and keep track of what he was trying to do," Poplin said.

He wasn't finished.

Poplin locked up his opponent in the center circle and tightened his grip to earn the fall with 42 seconds left in the round.

"I had to keep my hips down on the mat, because that was driving his shoulders down," Poplin said. "I had to make a few adjustments, but I knew I was in good position to pin him."

Poplin dropped his first elimination match upon returning to the Coliseum on the next morning.

Astoria rookie Kaden Gilbert made it a two-day tournament by knocking off No. 4 seed

Brandyn Chaney of McLoughlin in a consolation bout at 182 pounds. The action flowed Gilbert's way right off the opening whistle when the two locked up in the center circle and tumbled over each other like clothes at the laundromat. Neither gained control before rolling out of bounds, but Gilbert was in his element.

"My training is in jujitsu, so I love getting into scrambles," he said. "As long as I stay faster than my opponent, I can catch them off guard."

That is exactly how Gilbert moved ahead, slipping out of a single-leg and circling behind Chaney for a takedown with three seconds left in the opening round. A reversal made it 4-0 early in the second, and he took full control when he wrapped his opponent's right arm and crumpled him to the mat for a takedown and a 6-1 lead.

Gilbert continued to build his margin back points and heard the referee slap the mat awarding a fall as zeros showed on the clock.

"I got that lead and it forced him to try crazy stuff, while I could focus on counter moves," Gilbert said. "This is my first year at state, and I still have a chance for third place — I'm excited."

He lost his first consolation match Saturday morning by a slim 10-9 decision.

Astoria's Bronson Holthusen (220) scored a consolation pin.

A tough bracket resulted in a tough tournament for the Knappa wrestlers.

## SCOREBOARD

BOYS BASKETBALL	
<b>Astoria 67, Stayton 48</b>	17-28. <b>Rebounds:</b> Knappa 24 (Severson 7); W.Mennonite 34 (O'Neill 12).
<b>STAYTON (48):</b> Kyle Schwarm 13, Cade Nau 10, Matthew Lindemann 9, Jerry Daniels 6, Charlie Weeks 5, Jacob Classen 3, Everett St. Clair 2.	<b>Shorewood C. 63, Naselle 43</b>
<b>ASTORIA (67):</b> Kyle Strange 22, Ryan Palek 15, Justin Fruiht 11, Derek Jarrett 7, Fridtjof Fremstad 6, Olaf Englund 2, Jackson Arnsdorf 2, Clay Williams 2, Kyle Meisner, Jasy N Gohl, Alex Burchfield, Rory Loughran, Cade O'Brien.	<b>NAS (43):</b> Donny Edwards 22, Pine 6, Gudmundsen 5, Scra-beck 5, Dorman 3, Estes 2, Dalton, Fontanilla, Eaton, Wirkkala, Lund, Bergeson.
<b>Stayton 7 9 1418—48</b>	<b>SC (63):</b> J.J. Young 19, Feval-leaki 16, Domingo 12, Howell 8, Sollesvik 4, Munson 4.
<b>Astoria 14 13 2020—67</b>	<b>Naselle 10 1 1616—43</b>
<b>Field goals:</b> Stayton 17-52; Astoria 28-47. <b>3-Point FG:</b> Stayton 5-16 (Schwarm 3, Weeks, Nau); Astoria 3-12 (Strange 3). <b>Free throws:</b> Stayton 9-16, Astoria 8-12. <b>Fouls:</b> Stayton 15, Astoria 16. <b>Officials:</b> Barbic, Tice.	<b>Shorewood 18 15 1812—63</b>
<b>W. Mennonite 57, Knappa 53</b>	<b>GIRLS BASKETBALL</b>
<b>KNA (53):</b> Jason Miller 16, Takalo 13, Severson 13, Weirup 5, Goodman 4, Rubus 2, Engblom, Eltagonde, Geisler, Hendrickson.	<b>Henley 64, Astoria 56</b>
<b>WM (57):</b> Colby Williams 13, O'Neill 12, J.Williams 10, Hess 10, Berkeley 6, Hull 3, Domes 3, Gray.	<b>ASTORIA (56):</b> Chloe Hunt 17, Kaylee Mitchell 9, Samantha Hemsley 7, Alexis Wallace 7, Taylor Mickle 6, Rylee DeMander 5, Anna Gimre 3, Mykka Abrahams 2.
<b>Knappa 11 6 927—53</b>	<b>HENLEY (64):</b> Arianne O'Connor 19, Gabby Mathis 18, McKenna Armantrout 10, Tanner Higgins 6, Sisalee Parrish 5, Bria Baley 4, Annalise Greif 2.
<b>W.Mennonite 11 10 1125—57</b>	<b>Astoria 10 14 1220—56</b>
<b>Field goals:</b> Knappa 20-46, W.Mennonite 18-37. <b>3-Point FG:</b> Knappa 4 (Severson 3, Weirup); W.Mennonite 4 (Berkey 2, J.Williams, Domes). <b>Free throws:</b> Knappa 9-18, W.Mennonite	<b>Henley 17 15 1220—64</b>
	<b>Toutle Lake 53, Ilwaco 34</b>
	<b>ILW (34):</b> Makenzie Kaech 16, Jacobson 10, Ellsworth 6, McMillan 2, Bentley, Kondos, Bannister, Kulm, Pierson, Benenati.
	<b>TL (53):</b> Sam Woodley 21, Dean 9, Wason 8, Gardner 7, Hockett 4, Deffenbaugh 2, Wentz 2.
	<b>Ilwaco 5 7 13 9—34</b>
	<b>Toutle Lake 13 18 913—54</b>

The Loggers went a combined 1-10 on the mat in the Class 2A portion of the meet.

The lone victory came from Luke Goozee at 113 pounds, where Goozee bounced back from an opening round loss with a pin over Reedsport's Fisher Wahl, in 57 seconds.

Goozee was later pinned by

Cole Farwell of Enterprise (:16).

At 106, Knappa's Cody Hobbs lost by fall to Symon Thurman of Lowell (3:02) and Joshua Fellows of Bonanza (2:40).

Reuben Cruz was 0-2 at 160; Andrew Goozee was 0-2 at 182; and David Patterson finished 0-2 at 195.

## Pioneers edge Loggers, 57-53

The Daily Astorian

SALEM — From fifth place in their own league to the Sweet 16, the Knappa Loggers took the 2015-16 season as far as they could.

And the season came to a close Saturday night in Salem, where Western Mennonite posted a 57-53 win over the Loggers in a Class 2A state playoff game.

Knappa outscored the Pioneers 27-25 in a wild fourth quarter, but Western held on for the win to advance to the state tournament. The Loggers finish 17-11 overall.

"They were up 11 with four minutes left, so we started to play the foul game to get back in it," Knappa coach Chris Spencer said.

Which the Loggers did, closing to within four with 30 seconds left. Knappa missed a layup, and the Pioneers were able to hang on.

"They're well-coached, with a lot of depth," Spencer

said of Western Mennonite. "But we competed hard and left it all out there."

"We didn't shoot as well as we normally do, and we were only 9-for-18 at the free-throw line, which cost us," he said. "Jason Miller was steady all night, and he kept us in the game in the first half."

Miller led Knappa with 16 points, followed by Dale Takalo and Dakota Severson with 13 apiece. Colby Williams scored 13 points for the Pioneers, who had four players in double figures.

The Loggers lose just two seniors (Dakota Severson and Jimmy Hendrickson), and return their top three scorers next season.

"Our four juniors (Mitch Geisler, Michael Goodman, Miller, Ethan Rubus) were super-consistent, and they were the emotional leaders," Spencer said. "So we'll have strong leadership coming back. And the sophomores will be a year older and a year

stronger, we have a talented freshman class and some good eighth-graders coming up. We're hoping that will put us in the same type situation next year, and maybe we'll be hosting this game instead."

### Lions 63, Comets 43

RENTON, Wash. — Shorewood Christian took advantage of a rough second quarter for Naselle Saturday, to score a 63-43 win over the Comets in a 1B boys basketball regional.

Shorewood outscored Naselle 15-1 in the second period for a 33-11 halftime lead.

Donny Edwards scored 22 points for Naselle, while Shorewood had three players in double figures, led by J.J. Young's 19 points.

It was the same J.J. Young who competed for Seattle Lutheran in football, and rushed for 303 yards and scored four touchdowns to beat Naselle in a state playoff game last fall.

## Season-ending loss for Astoria

The Daily Astorian

KLAMATH FALLS — The Astoria Lady Fishermen nearly pulled off a miracle win Saturday afternoon, in a Class 4A Regional Play-in girls basketball game at Henley.

The Hornets ultimately got the victory, 64-56, but they had to work for it.

Taking on the state runner-up from last season, the Lady Fish trailed 41-28 midway through the third quarter, but staged a big-time rally and actually grabbed a 49-48 lead on a 3-pointer by Alexis Wallace with 4:00 left in the game.

Two free throws by Wallace had the Fishermen in front 51-50, but turnovers and fouls finally caught up with Astoria.

The Hornets went on a 9-1 run, as Wallace, Chloe Hunt and Rylee DeMander all fouled out in the final minutes, and Henley's Arianna O'Connor and Gabby Mathis made 5-of-6 free throws.

Hunt picked up her fifth foul with 1:26 remaining, leaving the game with 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Hunt early in the fourth quarter had keyed the comeback.

Astoria finishes 11-14 overall, while the Hornets (17-7) advance to the Sweet 16.

It was the "best second half that we played all year," said Astoria coach Mike Jacobson. "I was very proud of the girls when we got down by 12 or 13 to begin the third quarter. They fought back and got the lead in the middle of the fourth quarter."

"They never gave up like has happened in the past," he said. "This senior group (Hunt, Taylor Mickle, Mykka Abrahams) has so much to be proud of. They are the beginning of the process of changing the culture of the girls basketball program."

**Toutle Lake 53, Ilwaco 34**  
CHEHALIS, Wash. —

Their seventh game of the post-season was not a lucky one for the Ilwaco girls basketball team, whose season came to an end Friday night in Chehalis, where Toutle Lake scored a 53-34 win in a Regional 2B contest.

Ilwaco was 18-2 in the regular season, which included a 15-game win streak.

Ranked No. 2 in the state at the 2B level, the Fishermen went 4-3 in the playoffs, and finished one game shy of the 2B state tournament in Spokane. Toutle Lake improves to 23-2 overall.

The Ducks had 18 steals, including six first-half steals by Britzy Hockett that led to a 31-12 halftime lead.

Ilwaco rallied to within 35-24, but the Ducks pushed the lead right back to 50-29.

Makenzie Kaech scored a team-high 16 points for Ilwaco, followed by Madeline Jacobson with 10 points. Sam Woodley scored 21 for Toutle Lake.