

# Astoria comeback: 'It was pure heart'

## Fishermen take fourth at state

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

FOREST GROVE — The Astoria Fishermen had some serious problems in the first half, and even the third quarter of Friday morning's consolation game against Marshfield.

To put it one way, their boat was sinking, the Coast Guard was on its way, and the Fishermen were going under, fast.

More than a few disinterested fans even bailed out at halftime. And who could blame them?

Trailing 27-12 AT HALFTIME, the Fishermen mounted a rally for the ages in the second half, and it all resulted in a 69-61 overtime victory for Astoria, on Day 2 of the OSAA Class 4A state basketball tournament.

"It was just pure heart," said Astoria senior Justin Fruiht, who extended his high school career by one more day. "It was everybody coming together, and saying 'we're not going to go home today.' It was beautiful."

Astoria was coming off a 54-27 loss to Seaside late the night before. The 27 points tied the tournament record for fewest points in a single game, and the Fishermen were showing every appearance of breaking that record, with just 12 points at the half.

Instead, Astoria would equal its highest point total of the season, tying the 69-48 nonleague win over Rainier.

The comeback — and the 57 points in the second half — even caught Astoria coach Kevin Goin by surprise.

"Our highest output of the year, and we have 12 at halftime? We didn't even score in the first quarter until double-zeroes on the clock (Fridtjof Fremstad made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to end the first period)," Goin said. "I've been around this game a long time, and I've never seen that happen."

Astoria pulled to within seven points midway through the third quarter, but still trailed 44-28 going into the fourth.

And everything that went Marshfield's way in the first half, went Astoria's way in a



The 2015-15 Astorian Fishermen 4A boys basketball team.

Tammy Loughran/For The Daily Astorian

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

Softball — Astoria at R.A. Long, 4 p.m.

#### TUESDAY

Baseball — Molalla at Seaside, 5 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Baseball — Warrenton at Nestucca, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Warrenton at Nestucca, 4:30 p.m.

Track — Seaside at Astoria, 3:30 p.m.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Class 4A State Tournament State Championship

Philomath 55, Seaside 45

SEASIDE (21-8): Austin Eagon 4-8 3-5 11; Hunter Thompson 4-13 0-0 10; Jaxson Smith 4-14 0-0 10; Jackson Januik 1-10 6-6 8; Zach Marston 3-5 0-0 6; Saoul Cazarez 0-1 0-0 0; Altikin Babb 0-6 0-0 0; Payton Westerholm 0-0 0-0 0; Michael Lewis 0-0 0-0 0; Otto Hoekstre 0-0 0-0 0; Chase Januik 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 16-57 9-11 45.

PHILOMATH (24-3): Austin Gerding 6-13 7-9 21; Riley Davis

5-9 2-4 12; Cal Stueve 2-8 8-12 12; Casey Croy 2-8 2-2 6; Logan Williams 1-2 0-0 2; John Noble 1-1 0-0 2; Kenan Conner 0-3 0-1 0; Tyler Pfarrer 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 17-44 19-28 55.

Seaside 9 10 13 13—45

Philomath 14 16 9 16—55

3-point FG: Seaside 4-24 (Thompson 2-9; Smith 2-4; Babb 0-4; J.Januik 0-7); Philomath 2-7 (Gerding 2-4; Croy 0-1; Conner 0-2). Fouled out: Seaside, Thompson. Rebounds: Seaside 40 (Eagon 13); Philomath 34 (Stueve 10). Assists: Seaside 7 (J.Januik 4); Philomath 11 (Williams 3). Total fouls: Seaside 19, Philomath 15. Technical fouls: Seaside-Thompson, J.Januik.

Players of the Game: Seaside: Austin Eagon; Philomath: Austin Gerding.

#### Fourth-Sixth Place

Astoria 56, Cottage Grove 46

ASTORIA (21-7): Kyle Strange 7-13 3-3 19; Justin Fruiht 7-9 0-1 14; Fridtjof Fremstad 3-8 4-4 10; Derek Jarrett 3-13 0-0 7; Olaf Englund 1-2 4-4 6; Clay Williams 0-0 0-0 0; Jackson Arnsdorf 0-2 0-0 0; Ryan Palek 0-4 0-0 0; Rory

Loughran 0-0 0-0 0; Alex Burchfield 0-0 0-0 0; Jasyn Gohl 0-0 0-0 0; Kyle Meisner 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 21-51 10-11 55.

#### COTTAGE GROVE (20-9)

Blake Sentman 6-15 0-0 16; Kory Parent 6-13 0-0 15; Chance Hopkins 3-6 1-2 7; Jayden Tucker 2-7 0-0 4; Hunter Gipson 1-3 0-0 2; Tucker Porter 1-2 0-0 2; Josh Claffin 0-0 0-0 0; Trenton Grover 0-0 0-0 0; DeJean Alonzo 0-0 0-0 0; Jesse Ellingworth 0-1 0-0 0; Kendrick Murphy 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-47 1-2 46.

Astoria 13 11 11 21—56

Cott. Grove 14 13 10 9—46

3-point FG: Astoria 3-7

(Strange 2-2; Jarrett 1-3; Fremstad 0-1; Arnsdorf 0-1); Cottage Grove 7-24 (Sentman 4-10; Parent 3-9; Tucker 0-3; Gipson 0-1; Ellingworth 0-1). Fouled out: None. Rebounds: Astoria 32 (Englund 10); Cottage Grove 26 (Hopkins 9). Assists: Astoria 13 (Englund 4); Cottage Grove 9 (Sentman 3; Gipson 3). Total fouls: Astoria 10, Cottage Grove 11.

Players of the Game: Cottage Grove: Blake Sentman; Astoria: Kyle Strange.

frenzied final eight minutes of regulation.

A 10-0 run helped put the Fishermen in front, 52-51, and the teams eventually headed to overtime, knotted at 55-55.

Astoria scored four quick points to start the extra frame, but Marshfield rallied and took a 61-60 lead on a 3-pointer by Kasey Banks with 1:20 left.

That, however, would be the final points of the day for the Pirates.

Astoria's Kyle Strange answered with a trey of his own, Olaf Englund made

four straight free throws, and Strange tacked on two more at the end to give the Fishermen an eight-point victory.

There were several key stretches or plays that could be considered "turning points," but Goin said it was a technical foul — on himself — that served as a motivator.

Goin was T'd up with 38 seconds left in the third quarter. Jake Miles made both free throws, giving Marshfield a 44-28 lead.

"I've never gotten a technical that I didn't want, and I wanted that one," Goin said. "I got after it. I had to make

something happen. It didn't make a whole lot of difference at the time, but it got our kids fired up, and they played."

Fruiht said, "When we saw that happen, we realized we were still in the game, and coach knew it. It gave us confidence."

From there, it was Astoria's aggressive defense that sparked the comeback.

Taking advantage of the more physical-style defense that teams can get away with at state, the Fishermen forced 10 turnovers in the fourth quarter alone.

his final high school game. "My sophomore year (5-19 overall, 1-9 in league) was definitely a hard one."

Said Fruiht, "I was here when we only won three games in a season, and to come so far so quickly is pretty amazing."

And a trophy and a win on the final day of the season can go a long ways for the future, Goin said.

"This is a big turning point. You win a trophy and a Saturday game ... there's only three teams that finish their season with a win. It's a momentum-builder, and we bring a lot of kids back," he said.

"We lose our two big guys (Fruiht and Jarrett), but we're moving in the right direction. We have the program going, we'll get some younger kids in to the mix, and I'm real excited for next year."

"I have to give our coaches a lot of credit — Paul (Jarrett), Mickey (Cereghino) and Pat (O'Brien) really made a difference, and they put in a ton of hours. I couldn't have done without those guys."

As for the game, Astoria trailed 37-35 after three quarters. But after rallying from a 44-28 deficit after the third the day before, a two-point difference was nothing.

"Generally speaking, we're a second half team," Jarrett said. "If we're down a few, that's extra motivation."

Jarrett opened the fourth quarter with a short jumper to tie the game, and Fruiht and Olaf Englund (who had 10 rebounds) added baskets to give Astoria a lead it would not relinquish. Their 15-3 run to start the final period took all the drama out of this one.

"We're a fourth quarter team," Fruiht said. "I had no doubt that we were going to win this game. We wanted it more. We were well-rested, but sore. Three days of basketball takes a toll."

Kyle Strange led the Fishermen with 19 points and four steals, and Fruiht added 14 points in his final game.

"We played our guts out," Goin said. "We kind of turned a corner (after Friday's win), and had a great start today."

"We got a trophy and we finished higher than we were seeded (seventh)," he said. "It was nice to get to where I thought we should be. It's nice to be home."

# Gulls soar past Indians in state tournament semifinals in 56-48 win

The Daily Astorian

HILLSBORO — The Gulls secured their spot in the championship game with a 56-48 win over Scappoose in a Friday night semifinal at Liberty High School.

Following a win over Astoria in the quarterfinals, Seaside found itself in another matchup with a Cow-

apa League rival, and trailed early in the Final Four contest vs. the Indians.

But just like they did twice in the regular season, the Gulls pulled it together to defeat the defending state champs.

Seaside controlled the boards (which included a whopping 14 offensive rebounds, giving the Gulls second and third shots on

almost every possession), withstood 12 lead changes through three quarters, and made its free throws down the stretch.

Jaxson Smith led Seaside with 17 points, which included a key three-point play with 2:05 left in regulation.

With the Gulls holding a narrow 45-42 lead, Smith scored off his own steal, drew the foul

and made the free throw to put Seaside in front, 48-42.

Smith and Jackson Januik combined to make 9-of-10 free throws in the final two minutes to clinch the win.

Austin Eagon added 12 points and eight rebounds, while Hunter Thompson tossed in 10 points with six boards. Januik dished out six assists, with nine rebounds.



Alex Pajunas/The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Austin Eagon goes back up with a shot against Scappoose's Boogie Davis after corraling an offensive rebound. More photos at [www.dailyastorian.com](http://www.dailyastorian.com)

## Seaside girls out after loss to Banks

By MIKE WEBER  
For The Daily Astorian

HILLSBORO — After losing two lopsided Cowapa League girls basketball regular season games earlier this year to the No. 2 ranked Banks Braves, the third time was almost a charm for the Seaside Seagulls. The sixth-ranked Seagulls led by double digits in the third quarter and had a golden opportunity to get what would've been their most impressive victory of the season, for a chance for the fourth-place trophy.

The Seagulls had a double-digit, third-quarter lead, but it slipped away in the fourth, along with their chance for a possible upset win. Banks outscored Seaside 26-11 in the fourth to pull out a 47-36 win in the OSAA basketball state tournament consolation contest Friday at Lib-



Jeff Ter Har/For The Daily Astorian  
Seaside's Maddi Uttil was the OSAA Player of the Game in Thursday and Friday's state basketball contests.

erty High School in Hillsboro. With the win, Banks (23-

4) moved on to Saturday's fourth-place trophy game versus the Brookings Harbor Bruins (22-5). The tough loss ended Seaside's season somewhat prematurely, as the Seagulls (20-7) had hopes of continuing to play Saturday in the eight-team, three-day event and possibly accomplish their goal of winning their first trophy since 2014. It marked the third-consecutive year that Seaside participated in the prestigious state tournament.

Senior guard Whitney Westerholm (10 points, three assists) and junior guard Maddi Uttil (11 pts.) led the Seagulls with double digit scoring. Uttil earned the Moda Health Player of the Game award for Seaside for the second-straight game. Uttil also won the Player-of-the-Game award in Seaside's 44-31 quarterfinal loss to Mazama on Thursday.



# THANK YOU!

The 8th Grade Tournament Basketball Team wishes to thank the sponsors of our tournaments: Lums Auto, Dr. Henson, McCall's Tire of Seaside, Pacific Power, and Astoria Youth Athletics.

Friends, families, and the community for all the generosity in our various fundraising activities in support of our travel to State. Astoria Ford for hosting a Car Wash. Astoria High School and Coach Mike Jacobson for the use of uniforms.

We appreciate the honor of representing Astoria at the Oregon Middle School State Basketball Championships and wear Purple and Gold with pride.

Players and Coaches Nathan Hankwitz, Pat O'Brien, Rob Niemi