



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Astoria's Ryan Palek, No. 5, reacts after flying out during the baseball game against Valley Catholic on Thursday.

Astoria bats silenced in 6-1 loss to Valley Catholic

The Daily Astorian

Life in Cowapa League baseball is getting tougher by the week.

Through two weeks of the league season, the Astoria Fishermen and the Scappoose Indians — both quarterfinalists in last year's state playoffs — are a combined 2-4, while Banks and Valley Catholic are tied for first at 3-0.

All four teams are rated in the top 10 of the latest OSAA rankings.

The Valiants (8-1 overall) won their third in a row Thursday night at CMH Field, where Valley Catholic scored two runs in its first at-bat, and never looked back in a 6-1 win over the Fishermen.

Valiant senior Ethan Cape had a single, double and a triple, and drove in three runs, while junior pitcher Chris Rapp tossed a complete-game five-hitter, with seven strikeouts and one walk.

Astoria junior Fridtjof Fremstad countered with six strikeouts and a walk. The Valiants had six of their eight hits in the first two innings, which included four extra-base hits. There was no scoring after the second inning.

Valley Catholic's Makoa Nakamura had a leadoff single in the first and scored on a triple by Cape, who later scored on a grounder by Jakob Pruitt.

Will Desmond beat out



Astoria's Ryan Palek, No. 5, attempts to get out Valley Catholic's Makoa Nakamura, No. 12, on a pick-off attempt.



Astoria's Fridtjof Fremstad, No. 2, pitches in the third inning.

an infield single in the second and scored moments later on a double by Alex Tranquill; Tranquill came in on a passed ball, and Rapp capped

the scoring later in the inning with a two-run double.

The Fishermen scored their lone run in the bottom of the first.

Kyle Strange drew a lead-off walk, advanced to second on a grounder, and scored on two straight wild pitches.

Astoria could not take advantage of a triple by Carter Wallace later in the inning.

Wallace drove a Rapp pitch to left, where it bounced on one hop to the softball dug-out fence in deep left field.

The Fishermen had singles by Strange, Fremstad, Samboy Tuimato and Cade O'Brien, but stranded five baserunners on the day.

Astoria plays at Valley Catholic today. The Fishermen are off to their worst start in league since 2012, when they began 0-2, but finished 12-3.

Gull golfers still perfect in league

The Daily Astorian

BANKS — The Seaside boys golf team is still in charge of the Cowapa League, as the Gulls remained perfect in league competition with a 357-378 victory over Banks Thursday at Quail Valley Golf Course.

Seaside's Aaron Richardson overcame an early triple-bogey followed by a double-bogey two holes later to shoot 77 and earn medalist honors.

Teammate Berkley Posalski carded an 87, Jackson Kunde shot 89 and Josef Barbic shot 104 to round out Seaside's scoring. Colby Lup-

fer shot 146 as the fifth Gull player.

"We didn't play our best today, but we came away with an important victory," said Seaside coach Jim Poetsch. "Aaron did a great job fighting back from some early adversity to come in with a pretty good score."

"He hit a bad shot on two then missed a short putt, which led to a triple, and on five he took a risk and ended up with a double," he said. "After that he played some great golf."

Seaside will have its first home match next Thursday at Gearhart Golf Links, where the Gulls will host Tillamook.

Cheesemakers win 5-2 at Broadway

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Tillamook pitcher Erik Reeves scattered four hits and struck out nine Thursday night in Seaside, where the Cheesemakers topped the Gulls 5-2 in a Cowapa League baseball game at Broadway Field.

The two teams combined to leave 17 runners on base, nine by the Gulls.

Seaside pitchers Jacob Bassett and Scott Plampin gave up 11 hits, with five strikeouts and two walks. They had help from their defense, which turned two double plays.

Simon Elinsky and Zack Macias had two hits apiece

for Tillamook, which rallied from an early 1-0 deficit with two runs in the third inning, one in the fourth and two in the seventh.

The Gulls scored their first run in the bottom of the first, as Dawson Blanchard's RBI single scored Brent Walsh.

Games postponed

Friday's scheduled baseball and softball doubleheaders at Warrenton have been postponed.

Due to a lack of officials, Rainier at Warrenton will play their doubleheaders Saturday, first pitch at 2 p.m. for both baseball and softball.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Baseball — Astoria at Valley Catholic, 5 p.m.; Knappa at Delphian (2), 3 p.m.; Naselle at Ilwaco, 4 p.m.

Softball — Scappoose at Astoria (2), 3:30 p.m.; Valley Catholic at Seaside (2), 3:30 p.m.; Knappa at Delphian (2), 3 p.m.

SATURDAY

Track — Daily Astorian Invitational, Seaside HS, 10 a.m. (Running events begin at noon).

Baseball — Astoria at Newport, 1 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton (2), 2 p.m.

Softball — Rainier at Warrenton (2), 2 p.m.

BASEBALL

Valley Catholic 6, Astoria 1

V.Catholic 240 000 0-6 8 0
Astoria 100 000 0-0 5 0

Rapp and Pruitt; Fremstad and Helmersen. W: Rapp. L: Fremstad.

RBI: VC, Cape 3, Pruitt, Tranquill. 2B: VC, Tranquill, Hyland, Cape. 3B: VC, Cape; Ast, Wallace. LOB: Valley Catholic 2, Astoria 5.

Tillamook 5, Seaside 2

Tillamook 002 100 2-5 11 3
Seaside 100 000 1-2 4 5

Reeves and Macias; Bassett, Plampin (6) and Landwehr. W: Reeves. L: Bassett. RBI: Til, Maloney 2, Werner, Witthoft; Sea, Blanchard. 3B: Til, Elinsky, Maloney. HBP: Til, Maloney, Macias; Sea, Bassett. LOB: Tillamook 8, Seaside 9. DP: Seaside 2.

Rip City returns: Blazers make playoffs despite doubters

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND— For the regular season finale, the Portland Trail Blazers passed out T-shirts reading "Never Doubt Rip City."

Just in case there are still some doubters, the "never" is underlined.

The Blazers defied preseason expectations and made the playoffs, claiming the fifth seed in the Western Conference. They open their third straight postseason on Sunday in Los Angeles against the Clippers.

It's almost as if the Blazers succeeded despite the cynics.

"One person picked as

what, 15 out of 15 in the West? I mean, the list goes on. I think everybody felt disrespected, like that's not what our season is gonna be," guard Allen Crabbe said. "It was everybody's goal since training camp that we were gonna play hard and it was us against everybody. Everybody stuck with that: We got better as the season went along and we had a helluva season."

Portland was expected to reach the playoffs last season — and did — with a starting lineup that included Damian Lillard, LaMarcus Aldridge, Wesley Matthews, Nicolas Batum and Robin Lopez. But Matthews' late-season Achilles injury messed with the team's

chemistry, and they were eliminated in the first round by a strong Memphis team.

Going into this season, the playoffs seemed a longshot.

All the starters except Lillard departed in the offseason, and coach Terry Stotts was tasked with assembling a cohesive unit around his talented point guard. One oddsmaker predicted Portland would win about 26 games.

Lillard and backcourt partner CJ McCollum went on to pace a group that finished the regular season 44-38. The Blazers won seven of their final nine games to close out the regular season.

"It's going to be tough like it has been all season long.

"They're a really good team," Lillard said about the Clippers. "But we know that we have a chance. So we've got to go out there and be ourselves, lock in and be ready."

In the finale Wednesday night against the Nuggets, a 107-99 Portland win, Lillard broke Matthews' franchise record for 3-pointers and now has 828 for the Blazers. He averaged 25.1 points, becoming just the third Portland player to average more than 25 — along with Clyde Drexler and Kiki Vandeweghe.

"His four years here have been remarkable," Stotts said. "He just continues to shine — sometimes you run out of words."



AP Photo/Steve Dykes

Portland Trail Blazers center Ed Davis (17) drives to the basket on Denver Nuggets center Jusuf Nurkic (23) and forward Kenneth Faried during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Wednesday. The Blazers won 107-99.

Warrenton: Compared to similar programs, South Jetty performed well

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Principal Rich Glinert, a district employee assigned to the prison.

South Jetty High School, southeast of Costco, is part of the state's Youth Corrections Education Program, providing school-age prisoners credit recovery, the chance at a diploma and counseling to help reduce recidivism.

Since the 2000s, Warrenton has staffed South

Jetty with certified teachers, an administrator and teaching assistants. The district receives twice the state average of funding per student for prisoners enrolled at South Jetty. Compared to the 10 other prison education programs, the school at the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility has performed relatively well, using a combination of online work and face-to-face instruction to help students quickly earn

school credits, potentially earn a diploma and have a plan for when they go free.

Break even

"In a (program) like this, when we have 35 to 50 kids, it's hard to make that pay," Jeffery said of the lack of an economy of scale. "We're running at break even with just two certified teachers and a certified administrator, along with our two educational assistants."

The school district has trouble finding teachers certified in multiple subjects or willing to work part time, he said, even though some warm to working with prisoners at South Jetty and end up staying long term. Jeffery said he also has concerns that the state is moving toward a more online model that will lessen the personal contact with educators that has helped South Jetty be successful.

The district is also in a

long-term planning process as enrollment grows, which Jeffery said will take up much of the district's time for the foreseeable future.

Who will step in?

Jeffery said ending the contract at South Jetty will require laying off the district employees assigned to the prison. The employees will have first dibs on their old positions once a new contractor is identified, he said.

Mitch Kruska, the state's director of education programs and assessment, said the Department of Education has reached out to school and educational service districts serving the other programs around the state, receiving interest from three so far. The state will send out a request for proposals, after which potential operators of South Jetty High School can submit their plan to provide educational services.