

# Second-ranked Banks hangs on for 11-6 win

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

Considering the fact that it took the Astoria softball team six games to score their previous six runs against the Banks Braves, it was a victory of sorts for the Lady Fishermen Tuesday afternoon at CMH Field.

Astoria scored its most runs in eight years against the Braves, but the Lady Fish still came up short on the scoreboard.

Banks scored in every single inning and escaped with an 11-6 win over Astoria, which still had eight hits and scored more runs than anybody else has on the Braves this year, including Rainier.

Ranked No. 2 in the latest OSAA rankings, the Braves rapped out 15 base hits, seven for extra bases, as they improve to 7-0 in league play, 11-2 overall.

Lead-off batter MaKenna Partain had hits in her first three at-bats for the Braves, including a solo home run in the second inning, while the top three hitters in the Banks lineup (all left-handers) had a combined nine hits.

Still, the Fishermen rallied from an early 6-0 deficit with a run in the third (McKailyn Rogers, scoring on a sacrifice bunt by Sarah Lertora), one in the fourth and three runs in the fifth inning.

Abi Danen had a leadoff double in the fifth, Lertora drew a walk, and Taylor Mickle brought in both runners with a double to left.

Mickle later scored on a single by Caitlyn Hougham, as Astoria closed to within 8-5.

The Braves had to make two pitching changes over the final three innings to keep the Lady Fish from getting any closer. Starter Michaela Shaw re-entered in the seventh inning to close out the game.

Astoria's Libby DiBartolomeo took the loss, despite six strikeouts and walk.

Hougham and Lexi Lyngstad had two hits apiece for Astoria, which committed four errors defensively.

The Braves have now won 22 straight against the Fishermen. Astoria has not beaten Banks since a 5-2, 10-0 doubleheader sweep May 9, 2008.



Astoria's Mykka Abrahams tags out Banks' Keegan Wise at third during the seventh inning of the softball game Tuesday at CMH Field.



Astoria's Taylor Mickle steals third in the fifth inning of during the softball game against Banks Tuesday at CMH Field.



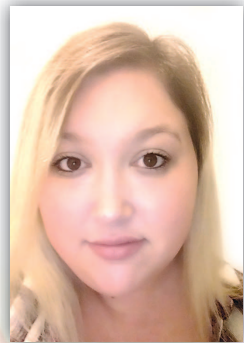
ABOVE: Astoria's Libby DiBartolomeo rounds third on her way to score in the sixth inning. LEFT: Astoria's Caitlyn Hougham connects with a pitch during the fifth inning of the softball game against Banks Tuesday at CMH Field.

Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

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