

Astoria airs it out in win over Valiants

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

It's about that time of the season — the midway point and the beginning of league play — when we start learning which teams are the pretenders, and which are the contenders.

The Astoria Fishermen ... are definitely contenders.

Astoria reached the halfway point of the regular season Friday, and scored yet another big victory over a top 10 team.

The Fishermen rallied from an early deficit and scored five touchdowns over the second and third quarters, on their way to a 33-20 win over Valley Catholic.

The Valiants came in rated fourth in the latest OSAA 4A rankings. Astoria entered the game ranked 18th — but the Fishermen and Valiants will soon be swapping spots, especially if Astoria continues to march past the competition.

On the offense

The Fishermen have corrected their defensive problems, and their offense is racking up numbers at a record pace.

In fact, it's looking a little too easy for the Astoria offense.

Senior quarterback Fridtjof Fremstad completed his first seven passes for 131 yards Friday, while opposing defenses are having an impossible time trying to stop the Fishermen.

"We're clicking really well," Fremstad said. "Our linemen are working just amazing this year. They're working hard in practice."

And it's not uncommon to see five or six different players catching the ball for the Fishermen.

"I just like getting my teammates involved," Fremstad said. "Every one of my receivers I've had for about eight years now, and I have confidence in all of them."

"We've been playing together since we were little guys like they had out here at halftime."



Astoria's Ryan Palek completes a catch for a touchdown during the first half as Astoria faces off against Valley Catholic on Friday at CMH Field in Astoria.

'Air Astoria' rolled up another 399 yards in total offense in Friday's win, including 289 passing. Fremstad finished 13-of-17.

Kyle Strange caught five passes for 93 yards, but Fremstad's big target continues to be Ryan Palek, who had four receptions for 117 yards.

The 6-foot-5 senior is open on pretty much every play, or whenever Fremstad needs him.

"Ryan Palek, he wants the ball, man," Fremstad said. "I give kudos to him. I threw a couple bad balls tonight, but he came down with them."

In Astoria's three wins the last three weeks, Palek is averaging 26 yards per reception

(13 catches for 338 yards and eight touchdowns).

And if Fremstad doesn't lead the state in passing, he's close. Fremstad's numbers over the last three weeks: 45-of-67 for 899 yards (19.9 yards per completion) and 10 touchdowns, with just one interception.

Capturing the lead

Meanwhile, Valley Catholic led 6-0 after one quarter, but the lead disappeared in the second period. Tyler Lyngstad had a 1-yard touchdown run and Palek caught a 15-yard scoring toss from Fremstad for a 13-13 halftime tie.

The Fishermen took the opening kick of the second half

and drove 63 yards in seven plays, capped by Fremstad's 1-yard TD plunge.

The Valiants fumbled three plays later, Astoria recovered and scored in five plays on a Samboy Tuimato 1-yard run, the first of his two touchdowns in the third quarter.

Fremstad's 63-yard pass to Strange on Astoria's third possession of the second half led to a three-play scoring drive.

Fremstad and Strange both had interceptions on defense, while Fremstad made a few monster hits on Valiant ball carriers.

The Astoria offense will continue to put up big numbers, but it's the defense that could



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
Teamates surround Astoria's Samboy Tuimato after he scores a touchdown in the second half against Valley Catholic on Friday at CMH Field.



Astoria's Kyle Strange attempts avoiding a Valley Catholic tackle on a play Friday at CMH Field.

MORE ONLINE

More photos of Friday's game available online at DailyAstorian.com/sports

be leading the Fishermen to a league title.

"We're playing as a team, and we're hitting hard," Fremstad said. "Like coach Rub tells us, we've got to start off strong and just hit hard from the get-go. And that's what puts us on top of teams here. We've got a bunch of relentless seniors and juniors on this team who aren't afraid."

Looking ahead, the Fishermen will be huge favorites in their next two games vs.

Seaside and Tillamook, and a league championship will likely be on the line in their final two games against Banks and Scappoose.

First things first, said Fremstad.

"Our focus is Seaside for Homecoming," he said. "We have to please the home crowd here. Seaside has a lot of young guys, but we're not going to underestimate them. We're going to work hard and have a good week."

Indians jump over Gulls in first quarter

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Scappoose quarterback Quinn Searle ran for a 47-yard touchdown and threw three TD passes;

Jerad Toman scored on a 2-yard run and Trey Bispham returned a fumble 20 yards for a score.

And that was just the first quarter Friday night at Sea-

side, where the Indians held a 41-0 lead after one period, on their way to a 62-6 win over the Gulls at Broadway Field.

The game was under a

running clock in the second quarter, before Seaside's Alexander Teubner caught a 10-yard scoring toss from Garret Kiser to help the Gulls avoid the shutout.

Colton Vikings score win over Loggers

The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — Colton — a 3A football team out of the PacWest Conference — improved to 4-0 on the season with a 40-16 win at Knappa Friday night.

Braeden Eltagonde and Kaleb Miller each had rushing touchdowns for the Loggers, while Eltagonde and Luke Goozee both ran for 2-point conversions.

Other than that, the Loggers hurt themselves with turnovers and failed fourth-down conversions.

"We didn't take care of the ball," said Knappa coach Aaron Barendse. The Log-

gers "had too many dropped passes and didn't tackle well. It's a game we'll put behind us and go into league more focused."

The Loggers finish their nonleague schedule with a 1-3 record, but will head into league play as the highest-ranked Northwest League team in the current OSAA ratings.

No team in the five-team NWL has a winning record. Knappa will open the league season Friday at Gaston.

"We'll be at full strength for the first time since Week 1," Barendse said. "Hopefully we can go to Gaston and turn this thing around."

Nestucca Bobcats blank the Warriors

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The struggles continue for the Warrenton football team, which suffered its third shutout defeat in four games Friday night.

Nestucca scored its first vic-

tory of the season with a 22-0 win at John Mattila Field, where the Warriors continued their six-game nonleague schedule before league play begins Oct. 14.

Warrenton visits Corbett Friday, followed by an Oct. 7 game at home vs. Blanchet Catholic.

Naselle crushes Evergreen

The Daily Astorian

NASELLE, Wash. — Naselle scored three touchdowns and converted all three two-point conversions to build a 24-0 lead after one quarter Friday, in

a 46-8 win over Evergreen Lutheran.

Eric Lund and D.J. Wirkkala scored two touchdowns apiece and Parker Dalton caught a 40-yard scoring toss from Cole Dorman to highlight the Comets' night.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Arnold Palmer, a golfing king with common touch, dies at 87

Arnold Palmer charged across the golf course and into America's living rooms with a go-for-broke style that made a country-club sport popular for the everyman. At ease with presidents and the public, he was on a first-name basis with both.

He never lost that personal touch. That's what made him the King.

Palmer died Sunday in Pittsburgh at 87. Alastair Johnston, the CEO of Arnold Palmer Enterprises, said Palmer was admitted to the UPMC Hospital on Thursday for cardiovascular work and weakened over the last few days. Palmer was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997, which was caught early.

"Arnold transcended the game of golf," Jack Nicklaus said. "He was more than a golfer or even great golfer. He was an icon. He was a legend."

President Barack Obama tweeted: "Here's to The King who was as extraordinary on the links as he was generous to others. Thanks for the memories, Arnold."

Palmer's place in golf history went well beyond his seven major championships and 62 PGA Tour wins. His good looks, devilish grin and hard-charging style of play made the elite sport appealing to all. He arrived about the time television moved into most households.

"If it wasn't for Arnold, golf wouldn't be as popular as it is now," Tiger Woods said in 2004 when Palmer played in his last Masters. "He's the one who basically brought it to the forefront on TV."

'A lot of pain' — Marlins cope with Fernandez's death

MIAMI — Jose Fernandez made his major league debut against the New York Mets in 2013 and was scheduled to face them again Monday night.

Instead, Miami mourns and the Marlins must push on without their ace, who was killed in a boating accident early Sunday.

"Deep in our hearts there is a lot of pain," third baseman Martin Prado said. "Somehow we've got to overcome that."

Fernandez and two other men died when their 32-foot vessel slammed into a jetty off Miami Beach, authorities said. The capsized boat was found shortly after 3 a.m., and the news sent shock waves throughout Major League Baseball.

The Marlins' game Sunday against Atlanta was canceled, but there were pregame tributes and moments of silence for him throughout both leagues. Boston Red Sox star David Ortiz asked the Tampa Bay Rays to cancel a pregame tribute they scheduled in his honor before his final game in their ballpark Sunday.

"I don't have the words to describe the pain I feel," Ortiz said. "Jose was one of the special cases. The story behind him and his family and the way everything happened. You know how remarkable his career was going. But the most important thing was his kindness and the kind of person he was. It's hard, man."

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Volleyball — Scappoose at Astoria, 7 p.m.; Banks at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Warrenton at Portland Christian, 5:30 p.m.; Columbia Christian at Knappa, 6 p.m.

Girls Soccer — Tillamook at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Valley Catholic at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer — Astoria at Tillamook, 7:30 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Astoria 33, Valley Catholic 20
V.Catholic 6 7 7 0—20
Astoria 0 13 20 0—33

First Quarter

VC: Aidan Welsh 14 run (run failed) 5:28

Second Quarter

Ast: Tyler Lyngstad 1 run (kick blocked) 11:57

Ast: Ryan Palek 15 pass from Fridtjof Fremstad (Andrew Schauer-mann kick) 7:41

VC: Kevin Eckrosh 8 pass from

Alex Tranquill (Tranquill kick)

Third Quarter

Ast: Fremstad 1 run (Schauer-mann kick) 9:11

Ast: Samboy Tuimato 1 run (Schauer-mann kick) 5:55

VC: Daniel Hardy 9 pass from Welsh (Welsh kick) 1:28

Ast: Tuimato 7 run (Schauer-mann kick) :28

Team Statistics

	VC	AHS
Total offense	283	399
First downs	14	14
Rushes-yards	25-112	32-110
Comp-Att-Int	16-30-2	13-17-0
Passing-yards	171	289
Sacked-yards	2-13	4-29
Penalties	10-66	9-68
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-1

Valley Catholic Statistics

Rushing: Welsh 13-48, Eckrosh 8-48, Tranquill 3-11, Eberhart 1-5.
Passing: Welsh 8-17-89-2, Tranquill 8-13-82-0. **Receiving:** Hardy 6-67, Bevins 3-36, Robbins 3-11, Eckrosh 2-17, Haggerty 1-21, Wilborn 1-19.

Astoria Statistics

Rushing: Tuimato 12-40, Ranta 3-29, Lyngstad 4-23, Olson 3-13, Fremstad 10-5. **Passing:** Fremstad 13-17-289-0. **Receiving:** Strange 5-93, Palek 4-117, Tuimato 3-32, Matteucci 1-47.

Scappoose 62, Seaside 6

Scappoose 41 14 0 7—62
Seaside 0 6 0 0—6

First Quarter

Scp: Michael Gift 49 pass from Quinn Searle (Jerad Toman run)

Scp: Nate Rieman 33 pass from Searle (Benji Davidson kick)

Scp: Toman 2 run (kick blocked)

Scp: Gift 8 pass from Searle (Davidson kick)

Scp: Searle 47 run (Davidson kick)

Scp: Trey Bispham 20 fumble return (kick failed)

Second Quarter

Scp: Colton Bush 2 run (Davidson kick)

Scp: Toman 37 run (Davidson kick)

Sea: Alexander Teubner 10 pass from Garret Kiser (pass failed)

Fourth Quarter

Scp: Carson Witt 9 run (Davidson kick)

Ilwaco 26, Toutle Lake 14
Toutle Lake 7 0 7 0—14
Ilwaco 0 20 6 0—26

First Quarter

TL: Zak Lukas 7 run (Riley Kent kick)

Second Quarter

Ilw: Brandon McMullen 6 run (kick failed)

Ilw: Alex Kaino 20 pass from Jack Odneal (McMullen from Odneal)

Ilw: Brandon Duke 7 run (conversion failed)

Third Quarter

Ilw: Odneal 1 run (conversion failed)

TL: Logan Grabenhorst 15 pass from Lincoln Kessler (Kent kick)

Ilwaco Statistics

Rushing: Duke 23-97, McMullen 22-78, Odneal 10-17. **Passing:** Odneal 8-19-77-2. **Receiving:** McMullen 3-17, Kaino 2-26, Bannister 2-21, Sheldon 1-13.