

SPORTS

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SPORTS
IN BRIEFLady Fish
go down
swinging
in loss

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria volleyball team went down swinging Wednesday night at the Brick House, in the final regular season home match of the season.

Banks ultimately left with a three-game sweep, 25-17, 25-12, 25-22, but the state's fourth-ranked team at least had to work for it.

Astoria honored its two seniors — Aurora Grafton and Jacqueline Jarrett — before the match, and both had a few 'Senior Moments' during the match.

But most of the night belonged to the Braves, who improved to 7-2 in league play, tied with Tillamook for second.

The Braves trailed by a point early in Game 1, then reeled off a 13-2 run to take control.

Four ace serves by sophomore Bella Albert, a stuff block by Dani Neuman and two more aces from freshman Emma White highlighted the rally.

Grafton set up kills for Kes Sandstrom and Madi Landwehr to help the Lady Fishermen close to within 20-16, before Banks went on a 5-2 run to close the game.

A 10-1 start to Game 2 led to the easiest win of the night for the Braves, a 13-point victory highlighted by the play of senior Maddie Standley.

Astoria held its largest lead of the night in the third set, as Jarrett had a stuff block on Albert, Chelsea Christensen had a kill off a block, and Landwehr set Jarrett for another kill that led to a 6-2 lead.

The Braves responded with a 14-6 run to grab a 16-12 advantage — but Jarrett came up with a few senior moments in her final home match.

Jarrett had two more stuff blocks on Albert, tapped a ball over the Braves' front line for another point, and a third block on Albert gave the Lady Fishermen a 19-17 lead.

But the lead just wouldn't last against the multi-talented Braves, who outscored Astoria 8-3 to close out the match for another three-game sweep.

The Lady Fishermen showed last weekend that they could play with the Braves, winning one of three games (25-20) against Banks in Saturday's Seaside Tournament.

Astoria returns to action Saturday in the Corbett Tournament, then closes out the season Tuesday at Scappoose.

Lady Mooks spike Seagulls in sweep

The Daily Astorian



SEASIDE — In other Cowapa League volleyball action Wednesday, fifth-ranked Tillamook scored a three-game sweep at Seaside, 25-20, 25-21, 25-11.

The Lady Mooks kept pace with Banks in the league standings, with the two teams tied for second at 7-2, behind Valley Catholic (8-1).

Tillamook senior Jordan Zweifel, left, and Maddi Utti go one-on-one at the net in Wednesday night's volleyball match.

Jeff Ter Har/For the Daily Astorian

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Football — Banks at Astoria, 7 p.m.; Perdydale JV at Jewell, 7 p.m.

Volleyball — Knappa at Nestucca, 6 p.m.

Boys Soccer — Gladstone at Seaside, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Football — Tillamook at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Portland Christian at Warrenton, 7 p.m.; Neah-Kah-Nie at Knappa, 7 p.m.; Ilwaco at Willapa Valley, 7 p.m.

Cubs wait to see who they'll meet in NLCS

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**
 AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Best in the majors this season, the Chicago Cubs cleared their first big October hurdle. Now, they wait to see who's next.

The Cubs advanced to the NL Championship Series for the second straight year by knocking out the San Francisco Giants in a thrilling four-game NLDS. They will face the winner of Thursday's Game 5 between the Washington Nationals and Los Angeles Dodgers in what they hope will be another step toward the World Series championship that has eluded the franchise since 1908.

Game 1 is at Wrigley Field on Saturday.

"I think it validates on a lot of different levels the job that we have done to this point," manager Joe Maddon said. "I think if you're a player on this particular team within the organization, it's getting to the point now you want to expect to get to the postseason and you want to expect to get deeply into the postseason. It also speaks to the way we played."

Chicago is looking for more this time after getting swept by the New York Mets in the NLCS a year ago.

The Cubs dominated like no other team in the majors this season, running away with the NL Central championship. They got off to a 25-6 start and spent all but two days in first place on the way to a major league-best 103-

58 record — the most wins by the Cubs since they finished the 1910 season with 104.

For a franchise defined by heart-break rather than championships, one can only imagine the anxiety in Chicago had the NLDS returned to Wrigley Field for a Game 5 on Thursday. But instead of the billy goat and black cat and Bartman, all thoughts are on the next round for a team that has followed Maddon's advice to embrace the high expectations.

"I think we're growing every day," pitcher Jon Lester said. "The biggest theme for us is just never quit. We always battle and grind out until the last out and see what happens."

The NLDS sure was one wild grind.

That series had it all, whether it was Lester and Johnny Cueto dominating on the mound in Game 1, Javier Baez coming up with huge hits or spectacular plays, the Giants rallying in Game 3 and ultimately winning in 13 innings, or the Cubs scoring four in the ninth on Tuesday to wrap things up.

The Cubs joined the 1986 New York Mets (in Game 6 of the NLCS against Houston) as the only teams to rally from a three-run deficit in the ninth to win a playoff series clincher. They also stopped the San Francisco's 10-game winning streak when facing postseason elimination and squashed the possibility of another even-year championship.



One ace standing: Nats' Scherzer to face Dodgers

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
 AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — While going to ace Clayton Kershaw on short rest helped the Los Angeles Dodgers stave off elimination in their NL Division Series against the Washington Nationals, it also has raised the question:

Who will start Game 5 for the Dodgers?

"I know Kershaw isn't pitching," Nationals manager Dusty Baker said. "Thank God."

While there will be no Kershaw and LA manager Dave Roberts still has not named his starter, the Nationals will hand the ball to Cy Young Award candidate Max Scherzer in the decisive Game 5 at home Thursday night.

With a spot in the NL Championship Series against the Chicago Cubs at stake, Scherzer is the man Washington wants on the mound and he's embracing the pressure.

"I've kind of said over the past few days, I've said that a handful of times throughout my career, 'Hey, this is the biggest start of my career,'" Scherzer said Tuesday. "How you handle that, going out there using the emotion of that scenario, that everything is on the line, look, I'm not going to shy away from it. This is the biggest start of my career."

Scherzer (20-7, 2.96 ERA) lasted only six innings and lost Game 1 after giving up home runs to Corey Seager and Justin Turner. While Scherzer is looking for some redemption, the Dodgers are

looking forward to another shot at him.

"I mean, we beat him once already," first baseman Adrian Gonzalez said. "We put some pretty good at-bats against him in Game 1, and we're confident that we can do that again."

The Nationals also had some good at-bats against LA lefty Rich Hill, beating him in Game 2. Hill (12-5, 2.12) will most likely be the Dodgers' starter in Game 5, though Roberts will use a "collection of arms" and could quickly turn to fresh 20-year-old lefty Julio Urias if there's trouble.

Washington's bullpen has been strong, but Scherzer is in the spotlight.

"I know who Max is and how he goes about it," right fielder Bryce Harper said. "I think there are things we can do in the bullpen, as well, if Max doesn't get to the ninth. He's got a lot of help. So hopefully we'll get a couple of runs early and do what we can to stay with our approach and stay within ourselves (and) just have a lot of fun."

Scherzer considers the big stage plenty of fun. He said it doesn't matter that it's not him against Kershaw again and expects the Dodgers' best effort and a charged atmosphere.

"It's going to be a heck of a ballgame," Scherzer said. "These are two great teams. We've seen great pitching, we've seen great offense, great bullpens, clutch hitting. We've seen it all. So the opportunity to go out there in Game 5, back in D.C. with our fans, it's going to be a heck of an experience."

Beaver's Collins excels in new receiver role

Former QBs
making impact at
other positions for
Pac-12 teams

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
 AP Sports Writer

CORVALLIS — The change in position for Oregon State quarterback Seth Collins seemed inevitable at the end of last season, when he was used in several roles in the finale against Oregon.

The writing was on the wall: Utah State transfer Darell Garretson would be eligible to play this season, and it looked like that was where the Beavers were leaning at quarterback. Collins decided to leave Oregon State and go somewhere where he could play at quarterback — but he never actually left school.

Instead, he became a receiver. Collins has embraced his new role, joining a handful of prospective QBs across the Pac-12 who have traded positions. These shifts are usually out of necessity if they want playing time because another quarterback in

the so-called "Conference of Quarterbacks" is established as the starter.

In Collins' case, he was named Oregon State's starter at the beginning of last season, coach Gary Andersen's first with the Beavers. Fast and athletic, Collins turned heads when he actually hurdled a defender in a game against Weber State.

Collins would go on to start seven total games. He threw for 936 yards and six touchdowns, while also rushing for 580 yards and eight scores. Sidelined by injury for four games, he returned in the Civil War, lining up at running back, receiver and quarterback.

In adjusting to his new multidimensional role this season, Collins has caught 24 passes for 268 yards, averaging 11.2 yards a reception.

Last week Andersen said that senior team captain Sean Harlow had pointed to Collins' passion during a team address.

"In life, I love the word 'edgy,'" Andersen said about Collins. "I want to be around people that they might make you a little bit nervous. That's good. I love it. That's where you want to live, and there's nothing wrong with that, because you know that they're going to compete at whatever they're doing."



AP Photo/Timothy J. Gonzalez
Oregon State's Seth Collins, left, gets behind Boise State's Brandon Arnold, right, to make a catch in the second half of an NCAA college football game in September in Corvallis.

Sounders
battle to
0-0 tie with
Dynamo

By **MARK MOSCHETTI**
 Associated Press

SEATTLE — Most nights, Stefan Frei would be thrilled with a shutout on the scoresheet and a point in the standings.

On Wednesday, the Seattle keeper and the rest of the Sounders clearly were hoping for more.

Frei made five saves, deflecting one shot off the right post, and the Sounders played to a 0-0 tie with the Houston Dynamo.

The draw moved the Sounders (13-13-6, 45 points) closer to securing a spot in the MLS playoffs. The Dynamo (7-13-12, 33 points) already have been eliminated.

Seattle, which has surged to a 7-1-4 record since Brian Schmetzer took over coaching duties in late July, could have clinched a spot with a win.