

SPORTS

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Late score gives Tillamook league title

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria boys soccer team was within 2 1/2 minutes of handing the seventh-ranked Tillamook Cheesemakers their first non-win in Cowapa League play Tuesday night at CMH Field.

But in a hotly contested match with a fast and furious finish, the Cheesemakers scored with just 2:28 left on the clock for a 2-1 win over the Fishermen.

The victory clinched the Cowapa League title for Tillamook, 6-0 in league ahead of Seaside (4-1-2).

The Cheesemakers have 10 seniors on their 16-player varsity roster.

Astoria (2-5) held a slight edge in time of possession, and when Gustavo Velazquez scored with 11:53 remaining to tie the game, it appeared that the Fishermen would hang on for at least their biggest tie of the season.

But a little less than 10 minutes later, Tillamook's Paul Donant took a pass into the box, fielded a high

hop and delivered a close range shot into the lower left of the net for the game-winning goal in the 77th minute of the 80-minute game.

The Cheesemakers scored the game's first goal just over 17 minutes into the contest, when Lorenzo Mazzolari took a crossing pass in from the left side and scored up the middle for a 1-0 lead.

The two teams were scoreless over the next 48 minutes of action.

Astoria goalkeeper Kyle Birge managed to stop a couple breakaways

for the Cheesemakers, as Tillamook's Luis Macias was unable to finish.

More bad luck for Macias — in the third minute of the second half, the Fishermen were called for a foul in the penalty area, resulting in a penalty kick for Macias.

But the sophomore pushed his kick wide left of the post, and the Fishermen stayed within a goal.

Meanwhile, Astoria was unable to take advantage of six corner kick opportunities (four in the first half), while the Fishermen also had numer-

ous direct free kick chances on Tillamook fouls within 30 yards of the goal.

Shots on goal by Rafael Alcantar and Cole Beeson were either saved by the Tillamook keeper or missed.

Astoria did not score the equalizer until the 68th minute, when Luis Herrejon tapped a short pass ahead to Velazquez, who scored into the right side of the net for the 1-1 tie.

Donant's go-ahead goal for the Cheesemakers came at the 77:32 mark, and Astoria was unable to possess the ball in the final two minutes.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Gulls blank Valiants at Broadway, 2-0

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Seaside scored a goal early in each half Tuesday, on its way to a 2-0 win over Valley Catholic in a Cowapa League boys soccer game at Broadway Field.

With Tillamook's win at Astoria, the Gulls lost their chance at playing the Cheesemakers for the league title, but still locked up second place in league, and will get a home game in the Regional Play-in round.

The Gulls scored less than two minutes into the first half, as James Kennedy assisted on a goal by Colton Carter for a quick 1-0 lead.

And in the first minute of the second half, Will Garvin crossed a pass to Jackson Januik, who scored for a two-nil advantage.

The Gulls had to scramble for a goalkeeper before the game.

Starter Jesus Perez sprained his ankle shortly before the end of warm-ups, forcing the Gulls to start Ashton Boyd in goal.

Boyd played the first half, and Christian Hernandez played the second half in goal for Seaside, which played solid defense and allowed very few opportunities for the Valiants.

The Gulls close out league play Thursday at Tillamook.

Lady Fish score win at Tillamook

The Daily Astorian

TILLAMOOK — Astoria scored its third win of the season Tuesday night at Tillamook, as the Lady Fishermen dominated the Lady Mooks, 5-0, in a Cowapa League girls soccer game.

Astoria outscored Tillamook 11-1 in the two-game series this season, helping the Fishermen improve to 3-8-1 overall, while Tillamook falls to 0-12, and 0-45-2 since 2014.

No details were available.

Knappa volleyball swept by Vernonia

The Daily Astorian

VERNONIA — The Knappa volleyball team finished up league play Tuesday, and will now turn its attention to the league playoffs.

In a Logger Showdown at Vernonia, the host Loggers of Vernonia scored a three-game sweep over Knappa, 25-15, 25-14, 25-10.

Knappa finishes in a fifth-place tie with Columbia Christian in the Northwest League standings at 5-6.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Football — Oregon Deaf School at Jewell, 7 p.m.

Cross Country — Seaside at Taft, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY

Girls Soccer — Banks at Astoria, 7:30 p.m.; Tillamook at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer — Seaside at Tillamook, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Football — Astoria at Scappoose, 7 p.m.; Seaside at Banks, 7 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie, 7 p.m.; Knappa at Vernonia, 7 p.m.; Ocoosta at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

Astoria wins first game in four-set loss

The Daily Astorian

SCAPPOOSE — The Astoria Lady Fishermen saved their best for last Tuesday.

In their final match of the regular season, Astoria finally won its first game in a league match, but ultimately lost in four games to Scappoose.

The Indians — who had already locked up fourth-place in the Cowapa League — secured their fourth league win of the season with a 25-15, 15-25, 25-22, 25-12 victory.

Jacqueline Jarrett had nine kills and five blocks for Astoria, and teammate Aurora Grafton added 11 assists and seven kills for the Lady Fish.

"We played really well," said Astoria's first-year coach, Jessie Todd. "We came out and put the pressure on, and played well all the way through."

"I was really happy with the way we played, and the way we improved this season," she said. "We played a lot of close games, every night. The Cowapa League is definitely a

tough league (with three of its teams ranked in the top five in state), with five teams in the top 16, and they're all going to state."

Madi Landwehr chipped in 12 assists with five kills, and Hailey O'Brien finished with 21 digs. Chelsea Christensen added 15 digs, and Darian Hageman had three blocks for Astoria.

Dodgers beat Cubs 6-0 for NLCS lead

By **BETH HARRIS**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Rich Hill never strayed from his mindset of pitching in the moment, even when he was far from the major leagues playing independent ball with the Long Island Ducks.

Convinced there would be another opportunity to get back to the big leagues, he focused on executing pitches without worrying about his current circumstances.

Fourteen months later, Hill allowed two hits over six innings to beat Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta and the Chicago Cubs 6-0 Tuesday, giving the Los Angeles Dodgers a 2-1 NL Championship Series lead.

"It's the biggest game of my career," Hill said. "It's just putting in the work, putting in the time, having a routine, persevere, all those things that you can say to sum up some kind of endurance or resiliency. For me, that's all I've ever known is just work."

Rookie Corey Seager had three hits, including a go-ahead single in the third, and Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer in the fourth.

After winning a big league-high 103 games during the regular season and sparking belief they could win the World Series for the first time since 1908, the Cubs have been shut out in consecutive games for the first time since May 2014, managing just six hits — five of them singles. Their 18 straight scoreless innings mark the longest postseason drought in fran-



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Dodgers' Justin Turner celebrates after hitting a home run in the sixth inning of Game 3 against the Cubs Tuesday in Los Angeles.

chise history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"More than anything, I think we need to get a couple runs and hits and runs early to try to get that kind of feeling back," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said, "because, obviously, when you're not scoring any runs, it makes it even more difficult in the dugout."

Hill, who made two starts in the independent Atlantic League in August 2015 before signing a minor league deal with Boston, struck out six and walked two. Joe Blanton, Grant Dayton and Kenley Jansen finished. Playing their 200th postseason game, the Dodgers posted consecu-

tive shutouts for the first time.

Julio Urias starts Game 4 for the Dodgers on Wednesday and at 20 years, 68 days will become the youngest starting pitcher in postseason history. John Lackey starts for the Cubs.

"He's not scared of the moment," Seager said of Urias. "He's not scared of anything."

Hill was acquired from Oakland along with Josh Reddick at the Aug. 1 trade deadline. The 36-year-old left-hander struggled with a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand that landed him on the disabled list from mid-July to late August. The blister still bothered him in the final weeks of the regular season, and Dodgers

manager Dave Roberts pulled him after seven perfect innings against Miami on Sept. 10, saying the team had to keep its focus on bigger goals in October.

Hill was strong from the start against one of his former teams, retiring the side to open the game and later eight in a row. He's given up one run in 23 innings over four home starts for the Dodgers, lowering his ERA to 0.39.

"When he's got that attitude out there, you can tell," Dodgers first baseman Adrian Gonzalez said. "That's when you know he's rolling, that his pitches are working, and he's doing what he wants to do out there."

Seager's go-ahead single ended an 0-for-15 slide with runners in scoring position in postseason play.

Grandal was 0 for 5 with three strikeouts against Arrieta in his career before he launched a 3-2 pitch into the right-field pavilion in the fourth for a 3-0 lead. Grandal drove in Reddick, who singled and stole second and third.

"He's been so good for the last couple years just because he doesn't give in," Grandal said of Arrieta. "He still made a really good pitch down in the zone. I was just lucky to put a swing on it and hit it out."

Justin Turner homered on the first pitch leading off the sixth to chase Arrieta, who gave up four runs and six hits in five innings. He dominated the Dodgers in his previous two starts against them, including a no-hitter at Dodger Stadium on Aug. 30, 2015. Los Angeles had gone 2 for 51 against him in two games.

Blue Jays stave off ALCS elimination, beat Indians 5-1

By **NOAH TRISTER**
AP Baseball Writer

TORONTO — Just in time, Josh Donaldson and the Toronto Blue Jays broke out the bats to save their season.

Now they have a chance to really make things interesting in this AL Championship Series.

Donaldson backed up his fiery pep talk to teammates before the game, hitting a home run and turning in a timely diving stop Tuesday to help the Blue Jays avert a sweep with a 5-1 win over the Cleveland Indians.

The Indians still lead the matchup 3-1, but with a couple of big hits and a strong outing by Aaron Sanchez, Toronto handed them their first loss of this postseason.

"I'm not going to give too much away of what I had to say, but just more so getting everybody's attention and focus and understanding," Donaldson said. "I mean, everybody knew coming into today how important today was. But at the same time I just wanted to kind of reiterate that and let the boys know that I was coming to play today."

Cleveland will try again Wednesday to win to earn its first World Series trip since 1997, but the big concern for the Indians coming into the series — an injury-riddled rotation — still lingers. In Game 5, Cleveland will start Ryan Merritt, who has



Frank Gunn/The Canadian Press

Blue Jays' Edwin Encarnacion hits a two-run single against the Indians during seventh inning of Game 4 in Toronto on Tuesday.

pitched just 11 innings in the majors, against Marco Estrada.

It was an emotional day all around at Rogers Centre, where the home crowd had fallen silent watching the season slipping away because of a slumbering offense that totaled only three runs in the first three games of the series.

"I thought we battled pretty good today, with the bats," Toronto manager John Gibbons said. "Naturally, when you score, which we haven't been doing, it always looks good."

Donaldson's solo shot to left-center field off Corey Kluber in the third put the Blue Jays ahead for the first time all series. Two innings after that, the star third baseman made an outstanding play to preserve a one-run edge.

Sanchez, the American League ERA champion, allowed a run and two hits in six innings, and the bullpen finished with three perfect innings.

Kluber was starting on three days' rest for the first time in his career.

"I felt fine. I don't think it physically affected me. I made a mistake to

Donaldson," Kluber said. "We're one win away from the World Series and that's what we're focused on."

Kluber hadn't allowed a run in either of his first two starts this postseason. Donaldson, the reigning AL MVP and sporting a still freshly shaved face, opened the scoring with his first home run of these playoffs.

The wild-card Blue Jays made it 2-0 in the fourth when Ezequiel Carrera's bloop fell between three Cleveland fielders in left-center for an RBI single.

Roberto Perez hit an RBI double in the fifth off Sanchez. Carlos Santana's two-out grounder to the left side might have had a chance to score him, but Donaldson made the play to his left, then popped up and danced off the field with a bit of a fist pump.

"I was locked in," Donaldson said. "It helps when you have a guy like Sanchez in the zone, where you can really focus in on a certain area of the strike zone. And I was able to get a really good read off the bat, and I was fortunate enough to be able to make the play."

The Indians didn't have another baserunner after that. Brett Cecil, Jason Grilli and Roberto Osuna pitched an inning each in relief for Toronto.

Taking no chances, Gibbons brought in Osuna, his closer, in a non-save situation to finish off Cleveland.