

SPORTS

CONTACT US

Gary Henley | Sports Reporter
ghenley@dailyastorian.com



FOLLOW US

facebook.com/
DailyAstorianSports

Astoria: Last play comes up short in playoffs

Continued from Page 1A

helmet coming off — you should be able to get another down,” said Astoria coach Howard Rub. “I’ve never seen that. That was just a crazy way to end it.”

Final play aside, “what a tremendous season,” Rub said. “These kids are great, and gave great effort, not only in season, but in the off-season preparing for it. To have a Cowapa League championship and win that game at Scappoose like we did is something these guys will remember forever. The seniors especially.”

Cottage Grove coach Gary Roberts was not used to seeing his team trail in the fourth quarter — or trail at all.

The Lions came in 9-0, winning all nine games by an average of 34 points.

“We haven’t been behind in a ballgame ... I can’t remember the last time we were behind in a game,” he said. “We were tied at the end of last week’s game, but I don’t think we’ve been down in a game this season.”

The win “ranks right up there with some of the special games we’ve played. Astoria has a ton of athletes and a great coach, and we knew coming in that it was going to be a dogfight.”

Low-scoring first half

Meanwhile, the Lions looked impressive on their first drive of the game, which ended with a missed field goal and set the tone for the first three quarters.

The Fishermen grabbed a 7-0 lead midway through the first half, as Fremstad threw a 25-yard strike to Ryan Palek, then hit Olaf Englund on a slant route in the end zone from 13 yards out.

Cottage Grove’s Erick Giffen kicked a 33-yard field goal in the second quarter, but every other drive came up empty for both teams, including Astoria’s 81-yard march to end the half, which ended with a missed field goal.

The Fishermen grabbed the momentum to start the third quarter, as Fremstad keyed a 78-yard drive with an 18-yard pass to Palek, a 17-yard toss to Englund, an 8-yarder to Jacob Olson, and finally a 13-yard TD pass to Palek for a 14-3 lead.

On Cottage Grove’s next offensive play, Astoria junior Zac Patterson intercepted a deep pass down the middle (he later knocked down a pass in the end zone), and the Fishermen were in a position to put the game on ice.



Astoria’s Samboy Tuimato down the field Friday. After an eight-game win streak, Astoria’s season ends.

Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian



Astoria’s Tyler Ranta runs down the field against Cottage Grove.



Astoria players embrace after their loss, and as their season comes to an end at 8-2 overall.

two-point conversion cut Astoria’s lead to 21-18.

“After we scored, I got the sense that (the Fishermen) were getting a little tired, and our kids were still fresh and wanted to fight,” Roberts said.

Rub said, “We have a lot of two-way starters, but we’re well-conditioned. We just didn’t execute well enough offensively, and because of that, the defense was on the field too much. So the defense could have been tired, being on the field as much as they were.”

Astoria was forced to punt on its next drive, but the Fishermen defense stopped the Lions on a fourth-down play after that, and Astoria took over at the Cottage Grove 35, with just 3:12 left.

But two straight plays by the Fishermen lost 14 yards, and a personal foul (a player removed his helmet before coming off the field) pushed

the ball back to the Astoria 36.

The Lions took over at their own 36 with one time out and 2:45 left.

Sentman hit Hayden Glenn for a 9-yard gain, Levings ran 18 yards to the Astoria 37, and Sentman hit Jacob Woods for a 13-yard gain on a fourth-down play to the Astoria 21.

And the two hooked up again on the very next play, a pass to the sideline, where Woods broke one tackle, sidestepped another and raced to the end zone for a 21-yard touchdown and a 4-point lead.

“The fourth down pass to Woods was huge,” Roberts said. “And the touchdown that Woodsy broke after the fourth down play. There were a lot of good plays both ways.”

With 1:16 remaining (plus two time outs), the Fishermen had one final drive, and made the most of it.

Fremstad twice hit Englund for fourth-down conversions, and his 14-yard completion to Palek put the ball at the 16 with one second left. But Fremstad’s helmet came off while breaking a tackle on the final play, and the Lions celebrated their stunning win.

There’s no telling what would have happened, but Fremstad had a lot of open turf in front of him as he broke past the line of scrimmage on the last play.

“The kid’s a great quarterback, but his helmet comes off, so it’s a dead ball and the game’s over,” Roberts said. “We’ll take it any way we can get it.”

He added, “I told our kids at half-time, the team that wants it the most and is willing to fight for it would be the team that wins. It was scratch and claw both ways until the very end. We were able to make one more play, and we got a little bit lucky at the end, on the last play.”

Looking back, Rub said, “We had a great drive to open the second half, then Zac immediately got that interception. I felt we had good momentum, but we went backwards on first down and had to punt after three plays.

“That was big for momentum,” he said. “We had it all, then needed to run with it at that point. We had opportunities to take this game, and let it get away.”

In his final game with Astoria, Fremstad was 18-of-30 passing for 259 yards and two touchdowns, capping one of the greatest seasons ever for a Fishermen quarterback. Englund caught nine passes for 112 yards in his final contest, giving him 17 receptions for 302 yards in his last two games.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lillard scores 32 in Blazers win

Associated Press

PORTLAND — A fiery half-time speech from coach Terry Stotts spurred the Trail Blazers over the Nuggets.

Portland had fallen behind 57-50 at the break and the defense was struggling.

“He got after us, and pretty much told us what we were doing was not acceptable and we couldn’t keep doing it — putting ourselves in that position and not playing smart as we’re capable of and not playing as hard as we need to be to give ourselves a chance,” Damian Lillard said.

Lillard finished with 32 points and Portland handed Denver its fourth straight loss with a 112-105 victory on Sunday night.

CJ McCollum added 21 points for the Blazers, who have won five of their last six games. Portland came alive in the second half after Stotts’ speech and outscored Denver 36-15 in the third quarter.

“He got on us, he yelled at us a little bit, and it’s up to us to go out and answer the call,” Lillard said about the halftime talk. “I thought we did a great job responding.”

Jamal Murray hit a 3-pointer to pull Denver within 110-105 in the final seconds, but the rally came up short. It was the Blazers’ seventh straight victory over the Nuggets at the Moda Center.

UP NEXT: BLAZERS

• Chicago Bulls (6-4)
at Portland Trail Blazers (7-4)
• Tuesday, 7 p.m. TV: NBATV

Seahawks find some balance, toughness in win over Patriots

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Some of the best Seahawks teams under coach Pete Carroll have been the ones that gradually improved throughout the season.

Seattle’s latest climb may be underway.

The Seahawks put together perhaps their most balanced 60 minutes on both sides of the ball this season in Sunday night’s 31-24 win over the New England Patriots.

Not only did Seattle (6-2-1) force Tom Brady into his first interception this season, but it kept him without a passing touchdown for the first time in 2016 and denied the Patriots an opportunity to tie the game with a goal-line stand in the closing minute.

“It’s one of the great challenges that a team and a defense gets and we’ve had some bouts down there the last few weeks and our guys just came through and hung in there and fought for every inch,” Carroll said.

Quarterback Russell Wilson has typically been at his best outside the pocket, making plays with his feet. Leg injuries have kept him in the pocket recently, but he was still effective in keeping the Patriots’ defense guessing.

Wilson was sacked three times but passed for 348 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions, completing passes to seven different receivers.

Meanwhile, the Patriots (7-2) must regroup after suffering their first loss since Brady returned from his four-game “Deflategate” suspension this season. They’re still in

Grove 5-yard line.

Tyler Lyngstad scored on second down, and the Fishermen once again had a comfortable 21-10 lead.

But the Lions didn’t quit.

Roberts said, “We were saying, ‘we’ve got 7 minutes and we need two scores. We’ve done this. We can do this.’”

After a nice kick return, Sentman engineered a 41-yard drive, completing two short passes before throwing a 25-yard strike to Kory Parent in the end zone. His pass to Giffen on the



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin (89) catches a pass for his third touchdown of the game during the second half of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. The Seahawks won 31-24.

AP Photo/Steven Senne

UP NEXT: SEAHAWKS

• Philadelphia Eagles (5-4)
at Seattle Seahawks (6-2-1)
• Sunday, 1:30 p.m. TV: CBS

command of the AFC East but are on the road the next two weeks against the 49ers and Jets.

“We talked about it the last two weeks, how this game was going to

go all the way down to the last play. We knew it was going to be similar to the last game,” safety Devin McCourty said.

“We knew both teams were going to fight, no matter what happened in the game. They were going to just keep fighting and go blow for blow. We were prepared for it. But they just made a couple of more plays than us and that’s what decided the game.”

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

Cottage Grove 25, Astoria 21
Cottage Grove 0 3 0 22-25
Astoria 7 0 7 7-21

First Quarter

Ast: Olaf Englund 13 pass from Fridtjof Fremstad (Andrew Schauerermann kick) 2:07

Second Quarter

CG: Erick Giffen 33 FG, 7:45

Third Quarter

Ast: Ryan Palek 13 pass from Fremstad (Schauerermann kick) 6:35

Fourth Quarter

CG: Zane Levings 8 pass from Blake Sentman (Giffen kick) 11:55

Ast: Tyler Lyngstad 3 run (Schauerermann kick) 7:43

CG: Kory Parent 25 pass from Sentman (Giffen from Sentman) 6:12

CG: Jacob Woods 21 pass from Sentman (Giffen kick) 1:22

Team Statistics

	CG	AHS
Total offense	326	373
First downs	17	19
Rushes-yards	22-91	37-114
Comp-Att-Int	25-43-1	18-30-0
Passing yards	235	259
Penalties	4-50	8-90
Fumbles-lost	1-0	0-0

Cottage Grove Statistics

Rushing: Levings 16-91, Woods 1-10, Claffin 2-3, Parent 1(-1), Sentman 2(-12). Passing: Sentman 25-43-235-1. Receiving: Woods 9-95, Glenn 9-76, Levings 4-33, Parent 2-28, Giffen 1-3.

Astoria Statistics

Rushing: Tuimato 15-67, Ranta 7-49, Lyngstad 3-12, Fremstad 12(-14). Passing: Fremstad 18-30-259-0. Receiving: Englund 9-112, Palek 5-80, Tuimato 2-52, J.Olson 1-8, Ranta 1-7.

State Playoff Scores

4A Quarterfinals
North Bend 40, Banks 7
Estacada 44, Ontario 34
Cottage Grove 25, Astoria 21
Cascade 34, South Umpqua 21
3A Quarterfinals
Blanchet Catholic 35, Dayton 7
Salem Academy 34, Santiam Christian 28
Harrisburg 28, Rainier 12
Coquille 52, Cascade Christian 21
2A Quarterfinals
Regis 50, St. Paul 0
Heppner 46, Grant Union 0
Kennedy 47, Toledo 0
Stanfield 13, Santiam 0