

SPORTS

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SPORTS
IN BRIEFR.A. Long girls
down Astoria

The Daily Astorian

R.A. Long's Khloe Snair scored 19 points and sophomore teammate Eastyn Reeves added 18 Monday night, to help the Lumberjills score a 55-44 win over visiting Astoria in a nonleague girls basketball game.

The Lady Fishermen played evenly with R.A. Long for the first, third and fourth quarters, but a 12-3 run by the Lumberjills in the second quarter proved to be the difference.

R.A. Long also finished 16-of-24 at the free-throw line, to Astoria's 6-of-8.

Brooklynn Hankwitz led the Lady Fish with 11 points, while Alexis Wallace and Julie Norris scored 10 apiece for Astoria, which returns to action today (4:30 p.m.) at home vs. Estacada.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Girls Basketball — Estacada at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.; Cascade at Seaside, 7:45 p.m.; Warrenton at Portland Christian, 7:45 p.m.; City Christian at Knappa, 6 p.m.; Jewell at Oregon School for the Deaf, 5:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Estacada at Astoria, 6:15 p.m.; Cascade at Seaside, 6 p.m.; Warrenton at Portland Christian, 6 p.m.; City Christian at Knappa, 8 p.m.; Jewell at Oregon School for the Deaf, 7:15 p.m.; Ilwaco at Ocosta, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Wrestling — Astoria, Seaside at Tillamook, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Astoria 66, R.A. Long 64
RAL (64): Coby Rothwell 27, Mawae 11, Childers 8, Rybnikar 7, Wallace 5, Lewis-Clark 4, Kotera 2.

AST (66): Jasyn Gohl 20, Palek 11, Englund 10, Arnsdorf 10, Johnson 8, Wallace 7, Burchfield, Olson.

RA Long 16 7 15 26—64
Astoria 14 14 14 24—66

Field goals: RA Long 22-46; Astoria 26-40. **3-Point goals:** RA Long 7-16 (Rothwell 3, Childers 2, Wallace, Rybnikar); Astoria 5-7 (Gohl 2, Johnson 2, Wallace). **Free throws:** RA Long 13-17; Astoria 9-14. **Fouls:** RA Long 18, Astoria 13. **Turnovers:** RA Long 13, Astoria 13.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

R.A. Long 55, Astoria 44
AST (44): Brooklynn Hankwitz 11, Wallace 10, Norris 10, O'Brien 6, DeMander 3, Gimre 2, Hemsley 2.

RAL (55): Khloe Snair 19, Reeves 18, Maryott 7, Kirzy 5, Allen 4, Arruda 2.
Astoria 15 3 15 11—44
RA Long 16 12 17 10—55

Quinn downplays
personal stake in
Seahawks' rematch

Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Falcons coach Dan Quinn is determined to make sure he's not the story in Saturday's NFC divisional-round playoff game against Seattle, his former team.

Quinn spoke briefly on Monday about his personal connection to Seattle and then offered a polite request.

"Hopefully for everyone listening that will be the last question we hear about it this week," Quinn said.

Quinn, the Seahawks' former defensive coordinator, took Atlanta to the NFC South title and a wildcard round bye in his second season as coach.

He made his first return to Seattle on Oct. 16, when the Seahawks rallied for a 26-24 win. A trip to the NFC championship game will be on the line Saturday, and Quinn said that overshadows any personal motivations in the rematch against Seattle and his former boss, Pete Carroll.

"I so never wanted the spotlight to be about me," Quinn said. "I want it to be about our team and the way they compete and the toughness they have."

He acknowledged that he's glad he already has his first game against his former team out of the way.

UP NEXT: SEAHAWKS

• Seattle Seahawks (10-5-1)
• at Atlanta Falcons (11-5)
• Saturday, 1:35 p.m. TV: FOX



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Astoria's Jackson Arnsdorf shoots for the basket in the first half during a game against R.A. Long on Monday in Astoria.

FISHERMEN HOLD OFF
LUMBERJACKS' RALLY

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The R.A. Lumberjacks went down swinging Monday night at the Brick House. Swinging and making 3-point shots.

Trailing by 12 points with a little over two minutes left in regulation, the 'Jacks definitely made it interesting — and made the Astoria Fishermen work for their 66-64 win.

Astoria took its final lead in the opening seconds of the second quarter, and threatened more than once to blow the game open, in the contest that was originally scheduled to be played Dec. 9.

R.A. Long kept it close until midway through the second half, when Astoria's Tristan Wallace and Karsten Johnson both hit 3-pointers in a 12-3 run that had the Fishermen in front, 51-41 with 6:02 left.

Three consecutive scores from Jasyn Gohl, Ole Englund and Ryan Palek gave Astoria its largest lead at 59-46, but the Lumberjacks would not — and did not — go quietly.

Led by 6-foot-3 senior guard Coby Rothwell, R.A. Long rallied with four 3-pointers in the final two minutes.

Rothwell made three 3s in the final period, in which he had 13 points in the quarter (and



Astoria's Ryan Palek shoots against R.A. Long on Monday in Astoria. Palek had 11 points, and the Fishermen won 66-64.

27 for the game), while sophomore teammate Jacob Childers made a pair of 3-pointers in the final 28 seconds.

His second came with just three seconds

left, and the Fishermen were able to inbound the ball and run out the remaining seconds.

"They're physical, they're big and they've got some good athletes," Astoria coach Kevin Goins said of R.A. Long. "And they're kind of in the same boat as we are, with a couple of their good players out with injuries or the flu."

"But I was pleased with how we played," he said. "We shot very well (13-for-14 from the field in the second half) and we moved the ball a lot better than we have been. We had four in doubles (figures), one with 8 and one with 7, so we're getting balanced scoring."

"Tristan, K.J. and Jasyn all hit some big shots, we shot well in the fourth quarter and we made our free throws in the second half (including 8-for-9 in a five-minute stretch of the fourth period). And that was big, because (the Lumberjacks) got hot. Seven 3s in the second half."

Gohl led Astoria with 20 points, followed by Palek with 11, and Jackson Arnsdorf and Englund with 10 apiece.

The Fishermen return to action tonight at home vs. Estacada.

"We're still without a couple guys (Fridtjof Fremstad and Kyle Strange), but I've been impressed with how other kids are stepping up," Goins said.

Column: Thank you, Clemson and Alabama

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Thank you, Clemson. College football needed this.

Thank you, Alabama. A fallen champion, but thoroughly magnificent.

In a sequel that proved to be even more of a blockbuster than the original, Deshaun Watson and the Tigers went to the 59th minute and 59th second of the national championship game to finally topple one of the greatest dynasties in the history of sports Monday night.

When Watson rolled out to his right and zipped a 2-yard touchdown pass to Hunter Renfrow with a single second left on the clock, the Crimson Tide's bid for a fifth national title in eight years was snuffed out by a 35-31 defeat.

That was a welcome development for everyone outside of Tuscaloosa. The sport desperately needed someone to stare down Nick Saban's juggernaut. It's always good to spread things around a bit.

Watson was the one who did the staring, and all it took was another superhuman effort. The NFL-bound quarterback, who already graduated from college in three short years, calmly guided the Tigers to three fourth-quarter touchdowns against the



AP Photo/John Bazemore

Clemson's Hunter Renfrow catches the national championship winning touchdown pass from QB Deshaun Watson with one second left.

biggest, baddest defense in the land. It was stunning to watch.

Just imagine what it was like to live it.

"I want to be legendary," said Watson, who was thinking all along about Vince Young's performance in that off-the-charts Rose Bowl 11 years ago.

Mission accomplished. But hand it to Alabama: No great champion goes down meekly, and the Crimson Tide fought and struggled and clawed right to the very end.

"I will remember this team as a group of winners," said Nick Saban, who was denied his sixth national title as a coach, which would've tied

him with Bear Bryant for the most championships in the poll era.

Alabama went into the fourth quarter with a 24-14 lead.

Saban's record with a double-digit lead in the final period was 97-0 during his decade of dominance at Alabama, but this game was just getting started.

When it was done, he was 97-1. Watson threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Mike Williams in the opening minute of the fourth to cut the deficit to 24-21. Then the quarterback guided his team from nearly one end of the field to the other on an 88-yard drive that put the Tigers ahead for the first time all night, capped off by

Wayne Gallman's 1-yard run.

Then it was Alabama, with 18-year-old freshman Jalen Hurts running the offense, going 68 yards in a mere six plays to reclaim the lead with just over 2 minute remaining. The young quarterback covered the last 30 yards himself, breaking free up the middle and cruising into the end zone for what looked to be a championship-clinching score.

But Watson had one more crack at it.

He used every last second to deliver the Tigers their first national title in 35 years, helped along by several catches that somehow clung to his receivers' fingertips.

"It was calm," said Watson, who finished 36 of 56 for 420 yards — even more than he had in last year's 45-40 loss to Alabama in the title game. "No one over there panicked. I walked up to my offensive line, my receivers, and I said, 'Let's be great.'"

That they were. So was Alabama. "It was an unbelievable, unprecedented run," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said of his alma mater, where he won a national title as a player in 1992. "I've never seen anything like it. But they lost the wrong game."

Really, there were no losers. For that, we say to both teams: Thank you.