

SPORTS

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Athletes of the Week

(FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 9-JAN. 14)



SUMMER SPELL
Seaside



PAYTON WESTERHOLM
Seaside

Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

The senior swimmer played a key role in Seaside's 80-78 win over Astoria Jan. 12 in the Clatsop Splash dual meet at the Astoria Aquatic Center. Spell took seven seconds off her best time in the 500-yard freestyle, winning the event in 7 minutes, 13.15 seconds — nearly a full minute over the second-place swimmer.

Spell — the daughter of Seaside coach Shane Spell — also swam the anchor leg on the winning 200-yard medley relay, took second behind teammate Maya McGill in the 200-yard freestyle, and swam the third leg on the winning 400-yard freestyle relay, which had to place first in the event in order to win the team scoring.

After missing most of the football season with a broken leg, Westerholm is making a (first) name for himself on the basketball court in his sophomore year.

The son of Seaside coach Bill Westerholm, Payton has taken on an increased load in the scoring column, as he finished with 15 points in a Jan. 13 win at Knappa, and before that, he scored 19 points in a 93-62 win over St. Helens.

Westerholm also had several assists in the victory over the Loggers, as he prepares for his future as a floor-leader for the Gulls, who will lose Jackson Januik and Hunter Thompson to graduation after this season.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

No indication rubber playfields cause cancer

Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Health officials in Washington state say there's no indication synthetic turf playfields made of recycled rubber cause cancer in young people.

The Department of Health issued a report Wednesday that said if the crumb-rubber fields did so, there would be a lot more ill soccer players in Washington.

A University of Washington women's soccer coach, Amy Griffin, raised concerns after learning of several goalies who developed blood cancers. She eventually compiled a list of 53 soccer players who had developed cancer since the mid-1990s.

The review suggested soccer players actually get cancer less than the general population. Dr. Cathy Wasserman, a state epidemiologist, says if people are worried about exposure to carcinogenic chemicals from the rubber pellets, they can wash their hands or shower after playing.

Beckham top NFLer on Twitter

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Giants receiver Odell Beckham Jr., had the most engagement on Twitter among NFL players this season, while Colin Kaepernick was only a surprising 49th.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Boys Basketball — Astoria at Valley Catholic, 6 p.m.; Seaside at Scappoose, 6 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie, 8 p.m.; Ilwaco at Willapa Valley, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball — Astoria at Valley Catholic, 7:45 p.m.; Seaside at Scappoose, 7:45 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie, 6 p.m.

Swimming — Seaside at Tillamook, 4 p.m.

Wrestling — Seaside at Astoria, 5:30 p.m.; Warrenton at League 4-Way, Willamina, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

Boys Basketball — Knappa at Gaston, 8 p.m.; Jewell at C.S. Lewis, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball — Knappa at Gaston, 6 p.m.; Jewell at Seaside JV2, 6 p.m.; Raymond at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

Wrestling — Gary Seaney Tournament, Tillamook, TBA; Seaside at Nestucca, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY

Boys Basketball — Astoria at Seaside, 6 p.m.; Raymond at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball — Astoria at Seaside, 7:45 p.m.

Wrestling — Knappa at Gervais, TBA

HOMETOWN REPORT



TAYLOR CHRISTIE

Indiana State University

Astoria's Taylor Christie is in her first year of swimming with the Indiana State Sycamores.

Hunt jumps straight into basketball from volleyball

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

There wasn't much of an off-season for Chloe Hunt at the college level recently, as the former Astoria Lady Fisherman went straight from volleyball to basketball at Evergreen State College.

Hunt is one of several local graduates now competing athletically at the next level — in Hunt's case, in two sports.

Shortly after wrapping up the volleyball season with the Geoducks, Hunt is now averaging 4.4 rebounds and 2.3 points per game (through 18 games) off the bench for the Evergreen basketball team, in 14.9 minutes per game.

Most recently, Hunt had seven rebounds in a 65-54 win at Walla Walla Sunday.

Earlier this season, Hunt hit a six-foot jump shot at the buzzer to help Evergreen beat Pacific Lutheran, 67-66.

The Geoducks had to rally from a nine-point deficit in the final five minutes to win.

"The play was run for Chloe, and Chloee completely did instincts," said Evergreen coach Jen Schooler. "I wanted a lob but she saw her (defender) and she made an adjustment, and that's all Chloee."

Evergreen is currently 4-14 overall. The Geoducks made a coaching change after the season started, with Gil Rigell taking over for Schooler.



Chloe Hunt



Lower Columbia College

Seaside graduate Kaitlin Lewis is currently a starter for the Lower Columbia College basketball team.

The team lists just eight players on the current roster.

A few other local graduates still involved in sports:

ASTORIA

Taylor Christie, Fr., Indiana St. swimming

A freshman with the Sycamores, Christie continues her season this weekend, when Indiana State hosts Ball State and Eastern Illinois at Terre Haute.

She has a season-best time of 1 minute, 10.78 seconds in the 100-meter breaststroke, set at the (Cincinnati) Bearcat Invitational in November.

Jacob Hulti, Fr., Willamette swimming

Derek Jarrett, Fr., South Puget Sound CC basketball

Tawny Phillips, 1st year with the Blazer Dancers

Jon Williams, Sr., Linfield swimming

SEASIDE

Kaitlin Lewis, Lower Columbia basketball

Currently a starter for the Red Devils, Lewis went 3-for-3 from the field and finished with seven points and four assists in a recent 92-42 win over Pierce College.

Lower Columbia is 13-3 overall, 1-1 in conference.

WARRENTON

Mady Hanna, Warner-Pacific basketball

It's been an injury-plagued season for the former Warrior.

After overcoming an early-season hand injury, Hanna recently suffered a serious knee injury, ending her season.

From Hanna's Facebook page: "It's been a rough season for me but I'll do my best to keep my head up. I will need surgery and I will let you all know the next step after I know more. Thanks for all your support."

Walker, Hibbert lead Hornets past Trail Blazers

Charlotte stops five-game slide

By STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kemba Walker is focused on Charlotte's record. He isn't very interested in the All-Star game right now.

Walker scored 23 points, and the Hornets stopped a five-game slide with a 107-85 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday night.

"We haven't been doing a great job of winning consistently (so) the All-Star game is the last thing I'm going to think about right now," Walker said.

While Walker is brushing off talk about next month's game in New Orleans, he is making a strong case for a spot on the Eastern Conference team. He is averaging 23 points and shooting 41.3 percent from 3-point range this season.

Walker went 4 for 8 from behind the arc against Portland and 8 for 14 from the field overall. But he said he doesn't think he has done enough this year to make the All-Star game for the first time, citing the team's 21-21 record.

The Hornets snapped an eight-game streak of allowing at least 100 points.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Made all 11 free throws, but shot 8 of 31 from beyond the 3-point arc.

Hornets: Bench outscored Portland's reserves 44-22.

LOSING WAYS

Damian Lillard scored 21 points and C.J. McCollum had 18 for Portland, which has lost three straight and 16 of 22 since Dec. 5.

"As a group we have to let last year go," Portland center Mason Plumlee said. "If it was the first 10 games of the season we could talk about building on last year. This is a new team, this is a new group and we aren't playing how we did last year so it's a new season, new challenges. We have to make the most of this group and this team, and the situation we are in."

UP NEXT: BLAZERS

• Portland Trail Blazers (18-26) at Philadelphia 76ers (14-26)
• Friday, 4 p.m. TV: CSNW