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Athletes of the Week

(FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 20-25)



SYDNEY VILLEGAS
Seaside



JASON MILLER
Knappa

The “Unsung Hero” award of the season for Seaside girls basketball goes to Sydney Villegas. The senior wing is almost always the second-leading scorer behind teammate Maddi Utti, as she was last week in a 57-33 win over Junction City in a 4A Regional Play-in game. Seaside’s victory clinched a spot in the Sweet 16 for the Gulls, for the fourth year in a row. Villegas scored 17 points, including the first two points that started a 32-0 run for the Gulls. She was recently named first-team Cowapa All-League.

Knappa’s “Unsung Hero” doesn’t always score a lot of points, but the senior guard was always among the team leaders in rebounds, assists and steals. Miller pulled down 10 rebounds and also had two free throws in the closing seconds in Knappa’s 46-44 league playoff win over Life Christian. In a must-win regular season game against Nestucca, he had five assists, six points and seven rebounds. Miller capped his senior season by being selected honorable mention on the Northwest All-League team.

Four Loggers on NWL all-league team

The Daily Astorian

No team in the Northwest League will have more returning all-league players next season than the Knappa Loggers, who will be set to challenge at the 2A level in 2017-18. The Knappa boys had four players selected to the all-league squad, announced at the recent league tournament. Three of the four will return next season. League champion Columbia Christian had just three players on the all-league squad, all seniors. Life Christian senior Zeke Quinlan was selected as the league’s Player of the Year; and Vernonia had four players named all-league (three seniors, one junior). Knappa junior Dale Takalo was named first team all-league; Logger junior Colton Weirup was selected to the second team; and senior Jason Miller and sophomore Timber Engblom were named honorable mention. Coach of the Year honors went to Vernonia’s David Weller. Meanwhile, the Knappa girls had two players earn all-league honors — seniors Kaitlyn Landwehr and Devin Vandergriff, the Loggers’ top two scorers this season. Faith Bible junior Sarah Fajer was named NWL Player of the Year, and City Christian’s Nicole Damazio earned Coach of the Year honors.



Krissy Barendse-Goodman/
For the Daily Astorian

Knappa junior Dale Takalo was one of four Loggers selected to the 2016-17 Northwest All-League team.



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Washington’s Kelsey Plum reacts after scoring against Utah in the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in Seattle in February. Plum became the NCAA’s all-time leading scorer on the final weekend of the regular season, leaving the quality and depth of the Pac-12 to be the showcase when the conference tournament kicks off today.

With records out of the way, focus on NCAAs for Pac-12

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Kelsey Plum’s chase of the NCAA scoring record was supposed to put an added spotlight on the Pac-12 women’s tournament. Washington’s senior star had other plans and became the NCAA’s all-time leading scorer on the final weekend of the regular season, leaving the quality and depth of the Pac-12 to be the showcase when the conference tournament begins today. “It’s a war every night and it always has been. I think the depth is amazing,” Oregon State coach Scott Rueck said. “I think everybody who makes (a) postseason tournament, no matter what it is, is going to be well-prepared.”

The conference tournament gets underway with four opening-round games: California vs. USC; Arizona State vs. Utah; Washington State vs. Colorado; and Oregon vs. Arizona. No. 6 Oregon State, No. 10 Stanford, No. 11 Washington and No. 15 UCLA received byes to Friday’s quarterfinals. The depth of the conference is such that California finished eighth in the regular season and is still under consideration for an NCAA at-large bid. Utah ended up with the No. 12 seed in the conference tournament but threatened Washington on the final weekend of the regular season after winning at Washington State. There is a clear delineation between the top four, which are among the national elite, and the rest of the conference.

But the conference as a whole is collectively better. “I think the bottom is up a little bit. I think the top is good. I think the top has been good,” Rueck said. “I mean, I remember a year ago, we didn’t feel like our conference was bad. . I thought last year was ridiculous, too.” Oregon State, Washington, Stanford and UCLA are locks for the NCAAs and three of the four could end up hosting first- and second-round games. Stanford can’t do so this season because of a conflict at Maples Pavilion. Arizona State and Oregon seem likely to be in the NCAA field, leaving only a couple of possibilities for teams to play their way into the tournament with a strong showing in Seattle.

MLS celebrates 22 teams in 22 years this season

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

The theme for Major League Soccer this season is 22 in 22, as the league embarks on its 22nd year with 22 teams — including two new teams in the Atlanta United and Minnesota United. The theme could just as easily be expansion, expansion, expansion. Launched with 10 teams in 1996, MLS has plans to expand to 28 teams in the coming years. The replacement for the defunct Chivas USA, Los Angeles FC, joins the league next season. It is hoped that a long-anticipated Miami fran-

chise, an effort led by David Beckham, will materialize as the league’s 24th team. There were 12 bids submitted earlier this year for the final four teams. In a preseason interview with The Associated Press, Commissioner Don Garber said a decision about two of the teams could come by the end of this year and they could begin play in 2020, while the final two will be announced sometime thereafter. “I think it’s fair to say that this year and the last number of years we’ve been very focused on strategically growing the league and celebrating new markets coming in and building

a fan base, helping to create this soccer nation that we’ve been so focused on,” Garber said. “And this year is probably no different. We’ve got a team coming in that is setting records for attendance in Atlanta, and a team in Minnesota that’s similar to Portland in that it is coming into Major League Soccer after many decades of support for the professional game. “I think you’ll continue to see more and more stories coming out of our league that are about growth, but I try to focus as much on celebrating all the great things that have gone on in so many markets for the last number of years.”

Spaghetti feed for Seaside baseball on tap

The Daily Astorian

The Seaside High Baseball Spaghetti Feed is 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Seaside American Legion. Tickets are being sold in advance for the fundraiser for the Seaside baseball. Prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, or \$20 per family. For more information, contact Seaside coach Joel Dierickx at jwdierickx@seaside.k12.or.us.

Falcons coach finds some good

INDIANAPOLIS — Falcons coach Dan Quinn has sifted through the wreckage of his team’s Super Bowl collapse, and found some good in it. He thinks the monumental loss to New England, in which Atlanta blew a 25-point lead, can serve as an inspiration for the Falcons to come back even stronger next season.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY
Girls Basketball — Washington 2B State Tournament: TBA vs. Ilwaco (at Spokane), 3:45 p.m.
FRIDAY
Boys Basketball — 4A State Playoff: Cascade at Seaside, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY
Girls Basketball — 4A State Playoff: Seaside at Molalla, 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Northwest All-League Girls
Player of the Year: Sarah Fajer, Faith Bible
Coach of the Year: Nicole Damazio, City Christian
First Team
Sarah Fajer, Jr., Faith Bible
Vivianna Bustamante, Sr., Vernonia
Kristina Dickinson, Sr., City C.
Megan Ely, Sr., Vernonia
Katie Fajer, Jr., Faith Bible
Charity Hall, Jr., Gaston
Second Team
Samantha Howard, Sr., Columbia
Jessica Irving, Sr., Faith Bible
Jakayla Jackson, Jr., Nestucca
Maddie Lambert, Jr., NKN
Kaitlyn Landwehr, Sr., Knappa
Devin Vandergriff, Sr., Knappa
Boys
Player of the Year: Zeke Quinlan, Life Christian
Coach of the Year: David Weller, Vernonia
First Team
Zeke Quinlan, Sr., Life Christian
Levi Dalzell, Sr., Columbia C.
Bo Quinlan, Jr., Life Christian
Clay Sullivan, Jr., Vernonia
Dale Takalo, Jr., Knappa
Robert Wagner, Sr., Columbia C.
Second Team
Tristan Adams, Sr., Vernonia
Brett Elliott, Sr., Vernonia
Hunter Endresen, Sr., Columbia C.
Max Halverson, Sr., NKN
Cole Strober, Jr., Nestucca
Colton Weirup, Jr., Knappa
Honorable Mention (Knappa)
Timber Engblom, So.
Jason Miller, Sr.