

SPORTS

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
Warrenton's Ray Alcobendas takes his turn at bat in Thursday's game versus Nestucca.

Warriors lose opener to Nestucca Bobcats

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The clouds parted just long for the field to dry out, and the Warrenton baseball team finally opened the 2017 season Thursday, as the Warriors hosted Nestucca for a nonleague game at Huddleston Field.

With two games under their belt, the Bobcats had a slight advantage coming in, and it showed in a 13-2 Nestucca victory.

The Warriors were making their season debut ... and it was the high school baseball debut for 10 Warrenton freshmen players.

"We looked like we were getting our feet wet for the first time, no pun intended," said Warrenton coach Lennie Wolfe. "It was wet, but the field conditions weren't the issue. We were playing on our field for the first time. We had practiced twice on our football field, and that was it."

Still, the Warriors had two runs on two hits in their first at-bat of the day, which included a leadoff bunt single by Jake Morrow, and a two-run single from Austin Little.

Wyatt Link got the win for Nestucca, while Morrow — one of five Warrior pitchers on the day — took the loss.

Warrenton is scheduled to host a doubleheader with Regis Saturday.

Trail Blazers rout Knicks in 110-95 win

BY ERIK GARCIA GUNDERSEN
 Associated Press

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard knows what can happen in games like Thursday.

So with the New York Knicks sitting Carmelo Anthony and Derrick Rose, Lillard made sure the Portland Trail Blazers didn't go easy on the guys who did play.

Lillard scored 30 points and the Trail Blazers never trailed in a 110-95 victory.

"I know how these games can go," Lillard said. "You can come out and take for granted that guys like D. Rose and Carmelo are not playing and say, 'All right this is going to be an easy win.' I think it was my third year, towards the end of the year, we played Utah and everybody sat out. They came in here and beat us."

With that memory in mind, the Blazers rolled.

UP NEXT: BEAVERS

• Minnesota Timberwolves (28-42)
 at Portland Trail Blazers (33-38)
 • Saturday, 7 p.m.
 TV: CSNW, FSN

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — Astoria at Stayton, 4:30 p.m.; Cascade at Seaside, 4:30 p.m.
Softball — R.A. Long at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Baseball — Regis at Warrenton (2), 1 p.m.
Softball — Seaside at Warrenton (2), Noon



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton softball pitcher Niqui Blodgett spins a ball toward the plate in Thursday's win over Nestucca.

Warrenton girls score 22 runs on soggy day

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Whenever softball teams from the Northwest League and Lewis & Clark League meet on the field — take the team from Clatsop County, every time.

One day after Knappa pounded Portland Christian, 32-0, the two leagues met on the field again Thursday, as Warrenton hosted Nestucca.

And the Warriors led 22-0 after four soggy innings, on their way to an eventual 22-2 win over the outmatched Bobcats.

Warrenton pounded out 13 hits in just four at-bats, and scored three or more runs in every inning.

The Warriors had several multiple hitters, as Landree Miethe, Niqui Blodgett, Tyla Little, Natalie Duncan and Kenz Ramsey all had two hits apiece. Miethe, Rachel Dyer, Little and Ramsey all scored three runs each, with Dyer and Little driving in three runs apiece.

Blodgett did the rest on the mound, as she allowed just four hits with 10 strikeouts and six walks.

Miethe led off the game with a triple and scored moments later on a grounder by Dyer, and the Warriors took advantage of three walks and a hit batter later in the inning, scoring two runs on one wild pitch, and scoring a third on another.

The Bobcats also committed seven errors, as they drop to 0-3.



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton coach Staci Miethe, left, sends player (and daughter) Landree Miethe toward the plate for Thursday's first run in the win over Nestucca.

NCAA MEN'S TOURNAMENT

Ducks end Michigan's run

Oregon men face Kansas in Elite 8 matchup Saturday

By ERIC OLSON
 Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Tyler Dorsey's teammates call him "Mr. March."

Yeah, that fits.

Dorsey scored 20 points and made the go-ahead layup with 1:08 left, and third-seeded Oregon held on to end No. 7 Michigan's dramatic postseason run with a 69-68 victory in a Midwest Regional semifinal on Thursday night.

"We lean on him right now," the Ducks' Dylan Ennis said. "He's playing his best basketball, and it's coming at the right time."

Dorsey's recent surge has been timely, for sure. He's scored 20 or more points in six straight games, a stretch that has seen Pac-12 player of the year Dillon Brooks struggle with his shot.

Oregon didn't have the win secured until Derrick Walton Jr., who had carried the Wolverines the last three weeks, was off with his long jumper just before the buzzer.

For the Ducks (32-5), it's on to the



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Oregon guard Tyler Dorsey (5) drives to the basket over Michigan's D.J. Wilson, left, and Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman (12) during the second half of a regional semifinal of the NCAA men's college basketball tournament, Thursday in Kansas City, Mo.

Elite Eight for the second straight year. For the Wolverines (26-12), it was the end of a wild ride.

"The kids fought their hearts out this whole season," Michigan coach John Beilein said, "but particularly this

last six weeks to be more than a story. It was a great team. They were becoming a great team before the story. We weren't sharp as we would have liked to have been today, but you have to credit Oregon with that."

Astoria's Rogers shuts down Mark Morris, 11-5

The Daily Astorian

LONGVIEW, Wash. — Astoria won for the second time in three days Thursday, with a non-league softball victory at Mark Morris, 11-5.

McKailyn Rogers went the distance in the circle for the Lady Fishermen, who broke the game open with seven runs in the fifth inning.

Rogers struck out three and allowed seven hits, and she went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead the Astoria offense.

The Fishermen were on the verge of several more big innings, but stranded 14 base runners on the day. Astoria twice loaded the bases with no outs, only to come up empty.

Astoria improves to 2-1 overall, and is scheduled to host R.A. Long today. The Fishermen take part in the Seaside Tournament Monday and Tuesday.

In other nonleague softball action Thursday, Corbett defeated the Gulls 11-1 at Broadway Field.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

NCAA set to pick title sites, could leave out North Carolina

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The NCAA will start deciding on locations for its upcoming championships next week and has indicated it will leave North Carolina out of that process if the state hasn't changed a law that limits LGBT rights by that time.

In a statement Thursday, exactly one year to the day after the law was passed, the sports organization said its committees will begin picking championship sites for 2018-22 and will announce those decisions April 18. The statement also noted that "once the sites are selected by the committee, those decisions are final."

The NCAA stated its position has not changed since last fall, when it pulled seven championship events from the state because of the law known as HB2.

The law requires transgender people to use restrooms at schools and government buildings corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates. It also excludes gender identity and sexual orientation from local and statewide anti-discrimination protections.

Mariners option 1B Vogelbach to Triple-A Tacoma

Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — The Seattle Mariners have optioned first baseman Daniel Vogelbach to Triple-A Tacoma, meaning Danny Valencia will be the everyday first baseman when the regular season begins.

Seattle made the surprising roster move Thursday. Vogelbach, a left-handed hitter, and Valencia, who bats right-handed, had been expected to split time at first depending on pitching matchups. But Vogelbach has struggled in spring training, hitting just .228 and will now start the season in the minors.

Vogelbach appeared in just eight games for the Mariners late in the 2016 season. At Triple-A last season, Vogelbach hit .292 with 23 home runs and 96 RBIs in 133 total games.

Valencia, another offseason acquisition by Seattle, hit .275 against right-handed pitching last season with Oakland.

Taylor Motter will be the backup at first base.