

SPORTS

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Warriors cruise to fifth straight win

Warrenton could challenge Rainier for a league title

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Two teams on a roll met on the field late Tuesday night to finish up the Seaside Spring Break Softball Tournament.

When it was over, the Warrenton Warriors were still on a roll.

The Warriors — who could be challenging Rainier for a league championship a month from now — continued their hot streak by cruising past Astoria 11-0 on a cold, rainy night at Broadway Field.

Warrenton pitcher Niqui Blodgett allowed just three hits with eight strikeouts and four walks, and her defense backed her up for the Warriors' fifth straight victory, with no losses.

"I am very pleased with our pre-season performance," said Warrenton coach Staci Miethe, off to one of her best starts ever. "At this time we have five players hitting over .500. That's pretty impressive, but what's more impressive is that three of them are freshmen. If we can continue to put the ball in play and make the easy plays we will be competitive."

Meanwhile, the Fishermen trailed just 3-0 through five innings, but some late-game defensive miscues allowed the Warriors to pull away for the win. Astoria finished with five costly errors, and a few more mental mistakes in the sixth and seventh innings.

Blodgett worked her way out of the few jams that she was in, as the Fishermen stranded six baserunners. Offensively, it was "Ground Rule Double Night" for the Warriors.

Back-to-back ground rule doubles in the top of the second inning led to three runs.

Freshman Melia Kapua reached

on an error to lead off and scored on another throwing error moments later.

Freshman Natalie Duncan had the first of her two ground rule doubles, and scored on a ground rule double by Claire Bussert, whose hit to the outfield bounced over the fence (not hard to do, since the fence was laying flat on the ground).

Bussert later scored on an error.

That was more than enough for Blodgett, the junior who was mowing down the Fishermen all night.

"Niqui hasn't pitched a game when it wasn't wet yet, and she is still solid," Miethe said. "We haven't been able to use all her arsenal yet, so I — like everyone else in the state — can't wait to play in normal softball weather."

"We've played games in conditions this year we wouldn't normally play in because we need to get games in," she said. "It's tough on the girls but at least we are getting on the field. I kept telling them that this

is the toughest conditions, so the fair weather games should be easy."

Blodgett struck out two in the fourth inning, giving up a single to Astoria's Lexi Lyngstad in between.

The Warriors had another potential rally squashed in the fifth, when Landree Miethe led off with a single, but was caught stealing by Astoria all-league catcher Caitlyn Hougham.

Warrenton returned the favor in the bottom of the fifth, when Rylee DeMander had a leadoff walk, but was thrown out at second by Miethe on a steal attempt.

Freshman Kenz Ramsey had a two-run single for the Warriors to highlight a five-run sixth inning, while Bussert and Ramsey had back-to-back run-scoring singles in the seventh to cap Warrenton's night.

Earlier in the day, Astoria defeated Cottage Grove 20-1, dropping the winless Lions to 0-7.

Warrenton (5-0) is scheduled to host a doubleheader with Willamina (0-1) Saturday at noon.

Astoria rallies for win over Madison

The Daily Astorian

Astoria overcame a 2-1 deficit through five innings with three runs in the sixth on its way to a 4-2 win over Madison in a nonleague baseball game Tuesday at CMH Field.

Astoria's three-day tournament concludes today at CMH, with the Fishermen (4-1 overall) taking on Yamhill-Carlton (1-0) at 1 p.m. Class 6A Madison falls to 0-5.

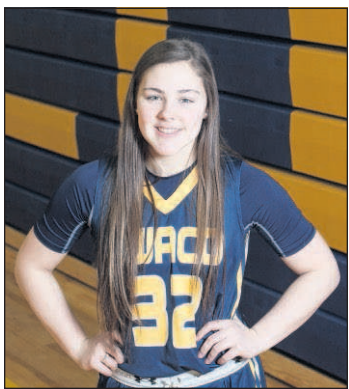
Kyle Strange and Jasyn Gohl had back-to-back singles in Astoria's sixth inning rally, with Strange scoring on a bases-loaded walk to tie the game.

Samboy Tuimato was hit by a pitch to force in the go-ahead run, and Gohl scored on a sacrifice fly by Zach Patterson for the final run.

Astoria starter Olaf Englund pitched four-and-a-third innings, allowing four hits with four strikeouts, three walks and four hit batters.

Englund gave way to Trey Hageman and eventually Fridtjof Fremstad, with Hageman picking up the win and Fremstad earning the save.

Madison stranded 10 baserunners in the loss.



Damian Mulinix/For The Daily Astorian
 Ilwaco, Wash., junior Makenzie Kaech was named first team all-state Monday.

Kaech named first team all-state

The Daily Astorian

ILWACO, Wash. — Ilwaco basketball player Makenzie Kaech was selected first team Class 2B all-state by the Associated Press.

Kaech is one of two juniors on the first team, with all five spots going to players from Southwest Washington District 4. The all-state team was voted on by sportswriters and editors from around Washington state.

The Class 2B state Player of the Year was senior Peyton Souvenir of Wahkiakum, while the state co-Players of the Year (for all classes) were seniors Jady Bush of Bishop Blanchet and Anna Luce of Mercer Island.

In addition to Kaech and Souvenir, the first team included seniors Parker Esary and Kaelyn Shipley of Kalama, and junior Mollie Olson of Napavine.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — Yamhill-Carlton at Astoria, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY

Baseball — Amity at Warrenton, 4:30 p.m.; Ocosta at Ilwaco (2), 3 p.m.

SATURDAY

Baseball — Willamina at Warrenton (2), Noon; Knappa at Santiam (2), 1 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Warrenton 11, Astoria 0
 Warrenton 030 005 3—11 11 2
 Astoria 000 000 0—0 3 5
 WP: Niqui Blodgett (8 K's, 4 walks).
 LP: McKailyn Rogers (2 K's, 1 walk).
 RBI: War, Ramsey 3, Bussert 2, Miethe, Duncan. 2B: War, Duncan 2, Bussert; Ast, Hougham. HBP: War, Kapua. LOB: Warrenton 5, Astoria 6.

BASEBALL

Astoria 4, Madison 2
 Madison 101 000 0—2 4 0
 Astoria 001 003 x—4 4 0
 Bennett, Powers (6) and Dunster; Englund, Hageman (5), Fremstad (7) and Gohl. W: Hageman. L: Powers. S: Fremstad. RBI: Mad, Glenn, Bains; Ast, Tuimato, Patterson, Arnsdorf. HBP: Mad, Powers, Bennett, Bains, Stuhr; Ast, Tuimato. LOB: Madison 10, Astoria 6.



Seaside's GeriAnn Klaffke attempts to tag out a runner at third base.
 Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Lady Gulls fall short against Valley Catholic despite rally

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Seaside had the winning runs on second and third Tuesday, when Valley Catholic recorded the final out for an 11-10 win over the Gulls on Day 2 of Seaside's Spring Break Tournament.

The Valiants jumped out to a 7-0 lead after a half-inning, before the Gulls rallied and eventually took the lead.

Seaside's Jetta Ideue came on in relief in the second inning pitched a great game, finishing with

seven strikeouts.

The Gulls scored one run in their first at-bat, followed by two runs in the second, one in the third and two in the fourth to take the lead.

Valley Catholic retook the lead in the top of the fifth, and the Gulls answered with four in the bottom of the fifth, with their rally falling one run short.

Seaside opened the day against Jefferson, which posted a 16-7 win over the Gulls.

Ideue started and struck out eight, while Emma Meyer entered in the fourth inning and finished with two strikeouts.

Blazers defeat Nuggets to take 1-game lead for 8th seed in Western Conference

By ERIK GARCIA
 GUNDERSEN
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Jusuf Nurkic knows what his former team is missing. He illustrated that Tuesday night and got serenaded by his new fans in the process.

Nurkic had a career-high 33 points with 16 rebounds against his ex-teammates. CJ McCollum had 39 points and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Denver Nuggets 122-113 on Tuesday night to take hold of the eighth seed in the Western Conference.

"They know definitely what they're missing," Nurkic said. "But they're happy for me that I find my spot, and I'm happy for me, too."

Portland leads Denver by a game

UP NEXT: TRAIL BLAZERS

• Houston Rockets (51-23)
 at Portland Trail Blazers (36-38)
 • Thursday, 7:30 p.m. TV: TNT

for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. The Blazers also clinched the season-series tiebreaker with the Nuggets, giving them an upper hand with eight games to play.

After the game, Nurkic's former coach could only tip his hat.

"Jusuf Nurkic kicked our ass," Nuggets coach Mike Malone said. "(He) was very physical."

Jameer Nelson led Denver with 23 points.

The Blazers got Nurkic involved early against his former team. On

Portland's first possession, Nurkic scored on a post-up play against Nikola Jokic, who took Nurkic's starting spot in Denver.

After another first-quarter basket, Nurkic called on the crowd to pick up the noise, which was a theme for him throughout the night, even while on the bench.

When Nurkic left the game late in the third quarter, he did so to a standing ovation.

It wouldn't be his last of the night, as Blazers coach Terry Stotts pulled Nurkic for a curtain call with 19 seconds left.

Nurkic spoke to the crowd after the game, even taking a shot at his former team.

"I wish those guys a happy summer," Nurkic said.

Loggers drop two on eastern road swing

The Daily Astorian

IRRIGON — The Knappa softball team ran into a tough Grant Union squad Tuesday afternoon on the second day of the Loggers' road swing through eastern Oregon.

Hours after an eight-inning loss to Burns, the Loggers went down in five innings to Grant Union, which posted a 13-2 win over Knappa.

Paris Vanderburg was 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI's for the Loggers, and Sophie Carlson added a hit.

Knappa held a 6-1 lead in Tuesday's opener with Burns, before the Hilanders rallied.

Vanderburg was 2-for-3, and Katie Denny highlighted a Knappa rally with a two-run single.

Logger freshman pitcher Madelynn Weaver struck out eight with two walks.

Tryouts for Merchants youth softball this Sunday

The Daily Astorian

Tryouts for North Coast Merchants 2017 softball season are Sunday at Warrenton High School, rain or shine.

There are two teams in the association, which provides competitive fast-pitch softball for North Coast girls ages 10-14: a 12-and-Under team (2004 birthday or younger) and a 14-and-Under team (2002 birthday or younger).

Summer fees are \$200 per player. Tournaments are two-day events out of town.

Sunday's tryout will be from 10 a.m. to noon for 12U, and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for 14U. There is a \$10 tryout fee for all new players.

To preregister or for more information, leave a message on the North Coast Merchant Facebook page or email coach Staci Miethe at: stacimiethe@msn.com.