

SPORTS

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Astoria edges Scappoose in season opener



The Daily Astorian

SCAPPOOSE — The Astoria Fishermen opened the Cowapa League baseball season on a winning note Tuesday night.

Astoria snapped a 1-1 tie with two runs in the top of the sixth, then added one in the seventh for a 4-2 victory at Scappoose.

Fishermen starter Jackson Arnsdorf

gave up just two hits with 10 strikeouts in five-and-a-third innings, but Astoria stranded 10 base runners before the Fishermen finally pushed across three runs in their final two at-bats.

Astoria scored first in the second inning, with Burke Matthews connecting for a run-scoring single.

Scappoose tied the game on Hunter Holmason's double in the bottom of the fourth, and after a scoreless fifth,

the Fishermen finally heated up in the sixth.

Cade O'Brien singled off Scappoose pitcher Logan Travis for the go-ahead run, and Astoria tacked on one more in the sixth and one in the seventh.

Fridtjof Fremstad pitched the final one and 2/3 innings, striking out two.

Jasyn Gohl went 3-for-3 to lead Astoria's 10-hit attack off four Scap-

poose pitchers, who combined for just three strikeouts, five walks and two hit batters. Samboy Tuimato returned to his specialty, drawing two HBPs.

In other Cowapa League season openers Tuesday, Valley Catholic defeated Seaside 10-1, and Banks scored a 19-0 win over Tillamook.

Astoria hosts Scappoose for a single game Thursday at Tapiola Park, 5 p.m.

Ducks prepare to open spring practice

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Oregon is trying something a little different for a few practices this spring: new coach Willie Taggart is welcoming the public.

Oregon will practice in front of fans at Kilkenny Field on campus on Friday morning and Saturday afternoon, then again at Portland's Jesuit High School on April 15. The Ducks warn however that inclement weather could force the open practices to be rescheduled.

Taggart said Tuesday that he was excited to get started, joking it was like Christmas time.

"I think we have some awesome kids here — I shouldn't call them kids, but young men — that really want to win. And they really want to do it the right way," he said.

Taggart is taking over an Oregon team that finished last season 4-8 overall and at the bottom of the Pac-12 North standings at 2-7 — snapping a run of nine straight winning seasons in conference play.

Three days after a loss to rival Oregon State in the final game of the season, Oregon dismissed coach Mark Helfrich. Taggart, head coach at South Florida for the past four years, was hired in December.

Taggart guided South Florida to a 10-2 mark last season and a spot in the Birmingham Bowl. He is the first coach Oregon has hired from outside the school since 1976. The Ducks' previous three coaches — Mike Bellotti, Chip Kelly and Helfrich — were assistants who were promoted.

Kelly closed spring practices to the fans and media in 2012.

This season fans could get a look at newly arrived freshman quarterback Braxton Burmeister, who enrolled in school early and will compete for the job with incumbent Justin Herbert, as well as Travis Jansen and Terry Wilson Jr.



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert (27) blocks the shot by Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, during the first half in an NBA basketball game Tuesday in Salt Lake City.

Hayward, Gobert lead Jazz to 106-87 win over Blazers

By KAREEM COPELAND
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Smaller, quicker guards have given the Utah Jazz fits in many instances this season. Tuesday wasn't one of them.

Gordon Hayward scored 30 points and Rudy Gobert added 20 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Jazz to a 106-87 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Jazz controlled the game most of the night with a defensive effort that bottled up everyone not named C.J. McCollum, and the Blazers never found a consistent offensive flow.

"We have so much respect for their guards and our guys know the urgency it takes to guard them," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "So we're working hard. At the same time, you have to be fortunate with those guys. A lot of shots they missed tonight, they're capable of making."

"You kind of knock on wood a little bit."

On the other end, Hayward

UP NEXT: TRAIL BLAZERS

- Minnesota Timberwolves (31-46)
- at Portland Trail Blazers (38-40)
- Thursday, 7:30 p.m. TV: TNT

was an efficient 12 for 20 from the floor, including 4 for 6 from behind the arc. Gobert recorded his 57th double-double and continued to show his offensive growth in the pick-and-roll game. He also had three blocks and constantly altered shots in the paint.

"The way they guarded me tonight, I was able to get some looks early," Hayward said, "with the big being back and so there was a lot of space to operate. That got me going early."

"Rudy did a good job screening them and freeing me, then I could attack the big downhill and kind of have whatever I wanted. Once you see a couple shots go in, too, that definitely makes you feel better."

The Jazz opened the fourth

quarter with a 15-6 stretch to take a 90-70 lead that put away the game.

McCollum scored 25 for the Blazers and Damian Lillard finished with 16.

"I didn't shoot the ball well," Lillard said. "Didn't impact the game as much as I would have liked. ... They're on a string out there on the defensive end and they made it tough for us. You got to give them credit. But I also felt like I had some looks I should have made, I usually do make that I didn't."

"We're ready to go home and finish the season out strong and we know that we control what happens."

The Jazz took a 47-41 lead into halftime after a hot start and surviving a second-quarter tear from McCollum.

Utah opened the game with an 11-0 run and was having its way with a heavy dose of Gobert and Hayward, but Portland chipped away. McCollum had 10 second-quarter points on 5-for-8 shooting.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — Knappa at Clatskanie, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Baseball — Scappoose at Astoria, 5 p.m.; Valley Catholic at Seaside, 5 p.m.
Softball — Astoria at Clatskanie, 4:30 p.m.

Track — Astoria at Banks, 3:30 p.m.; Seaside/Scappoose at Tillamook, 3:30 p.m.; Lewis & Clark League Preview, at Riverdale, 3:30 p.m.

Boys Golf — Seaside at Astoria, 2 p.m.

Girls Golf — Seaside at Valley Catholic, Noon

FRIDAY

Baseball — Woodland (WA) at Seaside, 5 p.m.; Tillamook at Warrenton, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY

Track — Daily Astorian Invitational, at Seaside, 10 a.m.

Baseball — Warrenton at Monroe (2), Noon; Knappa at Taft, 2 p.m.

Softball — Knappa at Taft, 2 p.m.

BASEBALL

Astoria 4, Scappoose 2
Astoria 010 002 1-4 10 1
Scappoose 000 101 0-2 2 1
 Arnsdorf, Fremstad (6) and Gohl; Travis, Searle (6), Toman (7), Margheim (7) and Gill. **W:** Arnsdorf. **L:** Travis. **S:** Fremstad. **RBI:** Ast, Matthews, O'Brien, England; Sca, Holmason 2. **2B:** Sca, Holmason. **HBP:** Ast, Tuimato 2. **LOB:** Astoria 10, Scappoose 3.

Spieth looks to make new Masters memories

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — On a warm, sunny afternoon in Amen Corner, Jordan Spieth stepped up to No. 12 and stuck it right next to the flag.

A year too late.

"I really could've used that one 12 months ago," Spieth quipped Tuesday, mustering a smile before heading over the Hogan Bridge to take care of a tap-in delivered with an Arnold Palmer-like flourish.

The Augusta National patrons roared with laughter.

But for anyone who takes a bit of self-deprecation during a practice round as a sign that Spieth has gotten over the green jacket that got away, think again.

The sting is still there.

You can hear it in his voice.

"Certainly you don't want to hold stuff in," Spieth said. "That would be crazy."

If not for a meltdown at the shortest hole on the course, a mere 155 yards, the 23-year-old would've been talking Tuesday about his quest to become the first player to win the Masters three



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Jordan Spieth gestures on the 13th hole during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament Tuesday in Augusta, Ga.

years in a row.

Instead, he was reminiscing again about the biggest disappointment of his young, flourishing career.

In 2016, Spieth made the turn on the final day with a commanding five-shot lead. He gave away some of that cushion with back-to-back bogeys

at the 10th and 11th, but it was at the par-3 12th, the devilish little hole known as Golden Bell, that he lost the tournament.

First, he splashed his tee shot into Rae's Creek. Then, from the drop zone, he chunked another one into the water. Just like that, he was on the way

to a quadruple-bogey 7 that ensured it would always be one of those Masters remembered more for how it was lost than how it was won. (In case you've forgotten, the beneficiary of Spieth's collapse was England's Danny Willett, who is the first to acknowledge "it was a strange one last year.")

Back in December, when Spieth returned to Augusta National for the first time since that fateful day to play a round with friends, he was thinking about what happened on the last day of the Masters. When he played the 12th on Tuesday, in front of a large gallery but merely for practice, it was on his mind again.

When the tournament begins, he expects more of the same.

"It will surely be there and it has been there," said Spieth, wearing a green shirt that would be a perfect match for the jacket he hopes to don again on Sunday. "It is one of the many tournaments I've lost given a certain performance on a hole or a stretch of holes. It happens in this game. I stepped up today, first day back with the crowds, and hit it to about (a foot away), which is nice. Obviously, it's not the tournament."

McCann, Gonzalez push Astros past the Mariners

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Brian McCann's focus this offseason was finding a way to hit more balls to the opposite field like he used to earlier in his career.

On Tuesday night against the Mariners it paid off when he got his first hit with the Astros on an opposite field home run that helped Houston to a 2-1 win.

"A lot of work went into this offseason with my swing to be able to do that," he said. "Over the last two years I'd just become a dead pull hitter and I put a lot of hours in the cage for that swing right there. I was waiting for it to translate into a real game ... so it was nice for it to pay off tonight."

Marwin Gonzalez added a solo homer to back a solid start by Lance McCullers and give the Astros their second straight victory over Seattle to start the season.

McCann's homer off Hisashi Iwakuma (0-1) put Houston up 1-0 in the third inning, and Gonzalez broke a 1-all tie with his solo shot to left-center in the sixth inning.

McCullers (1-0), slowed by injuries for chunks of last season, allowed one run and five hits while fanning seven in six innings. It was his first start since August 2 after he missed the last two months of last year with an elbow injury.

"I felt really good most of the start. I felt pretty locked in," he said. "I thought I was working the fastball pretty good. The curveball mix was pretty good. I mixed in a couple changeups along the way, so it was good."

UP NEXT: MARINERS

- Houston Astros (2-0) at Seattle Mariners (0-2)
- Today, 5:10 p.m. TV: RTNW, RTSW