

# SPORTS

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## Athletes of the Week

(FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8-13)



**MASON HOVER**  
 Knappa

**DALE TAKALO**  
 Knappa

Krissy Barendse-Goodman/For The Daily Astorian

The Northwest League title is always a given for the Knappa baseball program. And the Loggers formally clinched this year's title with "our best pitching performance of the year," said coach Jeff Miller, after a 9-2 win at Vernonia May 9. Takalo pitched four-and-a-third innings, and Hoover finished, as the two combined on a four-hitter, with 13 strikeouts and two walks. Three days later, Knappa swept Vernonia 13-3 and 14-3 in a doubleheader at CMH Field. Takalo was 5-for-7 at the plate with a double, and Hoover was 4-for-6 with a double in both games. The bad news for the rest of the Northwest League — both Hoover and Takalo are juniors for the No. 2-ranked Loggers.



**DARIAN HAGEMAN**  
 Astoria

"Three" was the magic number for the Astoria junior last week. In her third year of high school track, Hageman won three events in the Cowapa League championship meet in St. Helens Friday and Saturday. She cleared a season-best 10-6 in the pole vault, jumped 17-2 in the long jump and 37-3½ in the triple jump. Hageman tied for the title in the high jump, clearing 5-2 along with Valley Catholic's Kate MacNaughton. Hageman's victories helped Astoria to its third straight Cowapa League title. The Lady Fishermen now have their sights set on their third straight state title this week. An Astoria state championship would be the first time that a 4A team has won three in a row since Henley won three straight in 2007, '08 and '09. Summit has won 10 straight championships at the 5A level.

## Logger girls win one and lose one

The Daily Astorian

FOREST GROVE — One year after a disappointing, season-ending loss to Neah-Kah-Nie in a Northwest League playoff, the Knappa softball team evened the score Wednesday.

Competing in the league playoffs at Pacific University, the Lady Loggers opened with an 8-4 win over Neah-Kah-Nie in Game 1, ending the Pirates' season.

But Knappa's season came to a close just hours later, as Gaston scored a 10-7, loser-out victory over the Loggers to earn the Northwest League's No. 2 seed. Knappa finishes the season 8-17 overall.

In Wednesday's opening win over the Pirates, Neah-Kah-Nie scored three runs in the top of the first, but Knappa answered with four runs in its first at-bat.

Jaden Miethe drew a lead-off walk, and Alisha Murphy and Paris Vanderburg followed with singles.

The Pirates committed an error on a grounder by Kaitlyn Truax, scoring Miethe; Madelynn Weaver reached on another error that score Murphy; and a bases-loaded walk to Lacie Hendrickson scored Vanderburg.

The Loggers tacked on two runs in the second and two in the fifth.

Knappa had just five hits, but took advantage of 11 walks.

Weaver allowed six hits, with six strikeouts and three walks.

Truax had a double for her only hit, and drove in four runs. Vanderburg had one hit and walked three times.

### Gaston 10, Knappa 7

It was Gaston that built an early lead in the second game, as the Greyhounds scored eight runs in the bottom of the Game 1, ending the Pirates' season.

Gaston still led 10-5 going into the top of the seventh, when the Loggers staged a brief rally.

Truax led off with a solo home run, and Weaver followed with a single, took second on an error and advanced to third on a passed ball. She scored on a grounder by Hendrickson, but that would be Knappa's last run, as Gaston pitcher Charity Hall struck out the final batter to preserve the win.

Weaver gave up 11 hits in the loss, while Hall allowed eight hits with four strikeouts.

"Gaston hit the ball well, and had that one good inning," said Knappa coach James Nichols. "Otherwise, we played right with them."

"We've got a lot coming back next year," he said. "Madelynn and K.K. (Truax) both return, and Paris has really come on and hit the ball well the last couple weeks. Knappa softball has a bright future."



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Christian Bergman throws to an Oakland Athletics batter during the fifth inning of a baseball game Wednesday in Seattle.

## Bergman has best career start in Mariners' 4-0 win over A's

By DAIMON EKLUND  
 Associated Press

SEATTLE — Christian Bergman had the best start of his career right when the Seattle Mariners needed it.

Bergman pitched into the eighth inning Wednesday night, holding the Oakland Athletics to two hits with a career-high nine strikeouts in Seattle's 4-0 win.

It was the first time in his career Bergman (1-1) had reached the eighth inning in a start, and his strikeout total tied James Paxton for the most in a game by a Mariners pitcher this year. He held Oakland without a hit until the fifth and earned his first win since May 5, 2016, when he was a member of the Rockies. It was his first win as a starter since Sept. 21, 2014.

After the game, Bergman said the strikeouts, more than anything, made him realize this was a special night.

"If I strike out five or six in a game it feels like 10. It's not something I normally do," Bergman said. "It felt like a lot tonight. It was a good night."

### UP NEXT: MARINERS

• Chicago White Sox (17-21)  
 at Seattle Mariners (19-22)  
 • Today, 7:10 p.m. TV: CSCh, RTNW

Bergman's start gave the Mariners' bullpen a much-needed rest. Seattle has already used nine starters this season, tied for the league high, and the bullpen has been taxed recently.

"We talked before the game what we needed to do to give our bullpen a breather," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "I think it was only the second time our starters got us into the eighth inning. It's been a while."

Bergman, who was making his 17th start in 58 career appearances, joined the Mariners when he was selected from Triple-A Tacoma on May 7. He gave up seven hits and three runs over five innings in his previous start at Toronto on Friday. He quickly showed this time out would be different, retiring the first six batters of the game with three strikeouts. He walked just two, one of them coming in the eighth to the final batter he faced.

## EASTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

### LeBron, Love help Cavs rout Celtics 117-104

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
 Associated Press

BOSTON — So much for the Cavaliers being rusty.

LeBron James embarrassed every defender Boston threw at him and Cleveland picked up where it left off following a long layoff, rolling to a 117-104 victory Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

James had 38 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Kevin Love added a playoff career-high 32 points and had 12 rebounds to help the Cavaliers improve to 9-0 in the first three rounds of the playoffs. They opened 10-0 last season en route to their first NBA title.

"It was our two bigs that set the tone — Kev and Double-T (Tristan Thompson), they were phenomenal," James said. "I saw it in Kev this morning. I knew what type of game he was going to have. So he came through for us."

But there's no denying it has started with James, who has scored at least 35 points in five straight games.

Cavaliers coach Tyrone Lue said James' efficiency continues to make things easier for everyone on both ends.

"He's playing at a high level. And that's the reason why we're riding him so much," Lue said. "When LeBron's playing at that level other guys just have to be solid and we have a good chance to win."

Game 2 is Friday night in Boston.

## SCOREBOARD

**PREP SCHEDULE**  
**TODAY**  
**Softball** — 4A Regional Play-in: Astoria at North Bend, 4 p.m.; Lewis & Clark Playoff: Clatskanie vs. Warrenton (at St. Helens), 4 p.m.  
**Track** — 3A/2A/1A OSAA State Meet, Eugene, TBA  
**FRIDAY**  
**Baseball** — 4A Regional Play-in: Gladstone at Astoria, 5 p.m.  
**Track** — 6A-1A OSAA State Meet, Eugene, TBA  
**SATURDAY**  
**Track** — 6A/5A/4A OSAA State Meet, Eugene, TBA

**Neah-Kah-Nie 300100 0-4 6 3**  
**Knappa 420 020 x-8 5 2**  
 WP: Madelynn Weaver (6 K's, 3 walks). LP: Hannah Grider (3 K's, 7 walks). RBI: NKN, Lilly, Nelson; Kna, Truax 4, Hendrickson, Vanderburg, Weaver, McCall. 2B: Kna, Truax. HBP: NKN, Grider; Kna, Murphy. LOB: Neah-Kah-Nie 6, Knappa 10.

**Game 2**  
**Gaston 120 020 2-7 8 3**  
**Knappa 081 001 x-10114**  
 WP: Charity Hall (4 K's, 2 walks). LP: Madelynn Weaver (0 K's, 2 walks). RBI: Kna, Truax 2, Hendrickson 2, Murphy, Weaver; Gst, Heisler 2, Bessel 2, Clark 2, Hall, Jordan, Moore, Zawadney. 3B: Gst, Hall, Watkins. HR: Kna, Truax. LOB: Knappa 7, Gaston 4.

## Early rash of injuries causing daily headaches for Seattle

By TIM BOOTH  
 Associated Press

SEATTLE — In Robinson Cano, Felix Hernandez and James Paxton, the Seattle Mariners might have more star power on the disabled list than on the active roster.

Seattle has been slammed with injuries through the first six weeks of the season, leaving a club expected to contend in the American League desperately trying hang around .500 in the hope of getting close to full health near midseason. Seattle has not played

a game all season with the starting lineup and rotation it expected when spring training began in February, instead ending up in a constant scramble just to find 25 players.

"I don't know if there is any rationalization behind it. We've gotten bit by the bug," Seattle manager Scott Servais said.

"I've never gone through anything like this, ever," Servais added.

The injuries have created a dizzying whirlwind of activity in the front office. Seattle has made 69 transactions on the

40-man roster since the start of the regular season. From May 9 through Wednesday, the Mariners were forced to make 16 roster moves, most of them to a depleted staff that used 24 pitchers in the first 40 games.

For general manager Jerry Dipoto, it's been a daily chore trying to piece together the roster.

"It's a challenge for the players," Dipoto said. "Through absolute necessity, we've thrown a lot of new faces on a lot of different days, and we don't have much choice."

It's not so much the quantity of injuries — although it's becoming a significant total — but the quality of the players that have gone down.

Four of Seattle's five projected opening day rotation members are on the DL, and only Paxton (forearm strain) has a chance of being back around June 1. Hernandez (shoulder inflammation) likely won't return until mid-June, Drew Smyly (flexor strain) has yet to throw a regular-season pitch and Hisashi Iwakuma (shoulder inflammation) could be out until July.