

SPORTS

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

BOYS SOCCER

Astoria scores road win at Banks

BANKS — A short-handed Astoria team played well enough to win on the road Thursday, a 3-1 victory at Banks in a Cowapa League boys soccer game.

The Fishermen built a 2-0 half-time lead behind goals from Cole Beeson and Christian Medina-Perez, and each team had one goal in the second half, as Josh Condit scored off an assist from Beeson for Astoria's third goal.

Astoria keeper Jake Hurd took it from there, limiting the Braves to one goal, as the Braves had nine shots on goal, five on frame.

"Jake did a good job in goal today," said Astoria coach Lee Cain. "And Banks played hard. A credit to Banks."

Astoria was missing four players, including three starters, out with illnesses.

The Fishermen return home for three straight games, against Scappoose, Valley Catholic and a possible first-place showdown with Seaside Oct. 10 at CMH Field.

First-place Seaside wins at Tillamook, 2-0

TILLAMOOK — Seaside continues to close in on the state's top ranking at the 4A level, as the Gulls scored another win Thursday, 2-0 at Tillamook.

The Gulls led nine seconds into the game, with Colton Carter scoring off an assist from Chase Januik.

Carter scored on a penalty kick for the second goal, as Seaside scored its third shutout win of the season.

VOLLEYBALL

Valley Catholic sweeps Astoria in big showdown

BEAVERTON — In a much-anticipated Cowapa League showdown, Astoria's two-match win streak came to a quick halt Thursday as No. 1-ranked Valley Catholic scored a three-game sweep over the visiting Fishermen, 25-18, 25-11, 25-18, in volleyball action in Beaverton.

In other Cowapa League matches Thursday, Scappoose defeated Seaside 25-14, 25-18, 26-24; and Tillamook outlasted Banks in five, 25-20, 25-27, 15-25, 25-18, 15-11.

— *The Daily Astorian*

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Football — Astoria at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Corbett at Warrenton, 7 p.m.; Knappa at Nestucca, 7 p.m.; South Bend at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.; Taholah at Naselle, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Cross Country — Nike Portland XC, 9 a.m.



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Fishermen offense chases a loose ball during Thursday's soccer match against Banks.

Lady Fishermen defeat Banks Braves in 1-0 win

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

The Banks Braves fought the "Law" Thursday night at CMH Field, and the Law won.

The Astoria girls soccer team did not have an abundance of shots on goal in the Cowapa League match, but when you have the best goalkeeper in the league, you don't need many.

Astoria scored on one of its two shots on goal in the first half, and goalkeeper Lexi Law did the rest, shutting out the Braves in a 1-0 win for the Lady Fishermen.

And now the Lady Fish find themselves in a place where they haven't been for a while, if ever: challenging for a league title as they near the midway point of the season.

Astoria improves to 5-2-1 overall (equaling a 5-2-1 start in 2010) and 3-1 in league play, just a half-game behind Scappoose and Valley Catholic, both 3-0 (the Indians and Valiants played Thursday night, but no score was reported).

Astoria has pretty much secured a top three spot in league, as Banks drops to fourth place, at 1-3. And now the Fishermen can set their sights on the Indians and Valiants, Astoria's next two opponents, both on the road.

"I was pleased with the first half," said Astoria coach Tim Fastabend. "We controlled for most of the half, but we couldn't seem to string together that third pass. Then Banks started playing well and had a good second half."

And so did Law.

The senior keeper made six saves in the first half, then four more in the second.

"The girls have confidence in her, and I never have to worry about her," Fastabend said of his goalie. "She makes all the easy saves, and makes it look routine. It's never too



The Astoria Fishermen defense chases down an opponent on Thursday during their game against Banks. Find more local sports photos online at DailyAstorian.com/sports

exciting with her back there."

After Astoria controlled the first 20 minutes of the game, the Braves put together a couple of attacks in 23rd minute.

Marissa Dotson was wide left on a free kick, and Law made the save on a follow-up attempt by Aspen Slifka.

And Law's punt down the center of the field was picked up on the run by Hannah McCarley, who sprinted ahead of the Banks defense and won the one-on-one with Braves' keeper Lillie Breadon, as McCarley's shot slipped through Breadon's hands for the game's only goal with 16:33 left in the first half.

Astoria had just two more shots on goal in the second half, a free kick by Sarah Lertora, and an open field attempt by Libby Whitsett, both saved by Breadon.

The Lady Fishermen were short-handed, playing without goal-scoring freshman Hayley Kelley, who suffered a concussion at Tillamook.

"We had to move Haley Ranta to the mid-field from the back line, and Libby Whitsett has also been doing a great job lately," Fastabend said. "That's the good part about this team — we can put 'em anywhere, and they still play well and don't complain."

NFL: Message being lost in political firestorm over anthem



AP Photo/Michael Conroy
Players for the Cleveland Browns take a knee Sunday during the national anthem before an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapolis. The NFL says the message players and teams are trying to express is being lost in a political firestorm.

Spokesman says views distorted

By **BARRY WILNER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL says the message players and teams are trying to express is being lost in a political firestorm.

The issues have been "overtaken by political forces," NFL spokesman Joe Lockhart said Thursday, referring to President Trump's criticism of the league, team owners and players for kneeling during the national anthem.

More than 200 players either knelt or used other means as expressions of unity last weekend. Lockhart said such actions are not a protest against the anthem or the flag.

"One of the impacts is to distort the views of the NFL and particularly our

players," Lockhart said.

Trump said NFL owners fear his players, and he renewed calls for action against those who kneel during the anthem.

"I think they are afraid of their players, if you want to know the truth, and I think it's disgraceful," he said in an interview that aired Thursday on "Fox and Friends." He says "most people agree" with him.

The players knelt last weekend in response to social injustice. Full teams, along with some team owners, linked arms either before or during the anthem. Three teams — Pittsburgh, Seattle and Tennessee — did not take the field until after the anthem.

"They are under attack now and the (original) lesson has been forgotten," Lockhart said. "It is important for everyone to understand what they are talking about, to not see everything in terms of who is up or down politically.

"The NFL players are men of character, many of whom are leaders in their community. They are patriotic, support the military. ... They understand their platform can be used to make the country a better place."

Lockhart insisted there will be no "leaguewide directive" for future demonstrations.

"This is an issue that should involve the owners of the 32 clubs, the coaches and players to work out together," he said. "There is very regular dialogue going on between the players, coaches and owners. This is an issue that has sort of gripped the headlines. We all care very deeply about this."

"All of our owners don't always agree with even each other, and the players often have a position at odds with the league, and we work hard to resolve those," he added. "We have been united on this issue."

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Joe Lockhart | NFL spokesman