

# SPORTS

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## Athletes of the Week



**CHELSEA CHRISTENSEN**  
 Astoria



**PAYTON WESTERHOLM**  
 Seaside

**T**he senior outside hitter highlighted a four-game win at Seaside Oct. 3 with 10 kills and 29 digs, helping the 10th-ranked Lady Fishermen to their fourth league win of the season. Christensen added 12 kills in a four-game loss to No. 4-ranked Tillamook two nights later. With just one match left in the regular season (Oct. 17, at Scappoose), Astoria is almost assured of a spot in the regional play-in round, and will be seeking its first trip to the state playoffs since 2014.

**T**he junior quarterback has the Gulls primed for a big run in the state playoffs, as Seaside continues to storm through the competition, outscoring the opposition 102-0 the last two games. In last Friday's 62-0 win over Valley Catholic, Westerholm completed six passes, four for touchdowns. The week before, he was 10-for-15 for 152 yards and three touchdowns in a 40-0 Clatsop Clash win over Astoria — making it seven TD passes in two weeks for the No. 9-ranked Gulls.

### SCOREBOARD

#### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

##### TODAY

**Football** — Astoria at Banks, 7 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 7 p.m.

**Volleyball** — Warrenton at Rainier, 6 p.m.; Vernonia at Knappa, 6:30 p.m.

##### FRIDAY

**Football** — Rainier at Warrenton, 7 p.m.; Vernonia at Knappa, 7 p.m.; Willapa Valley at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.; Mary M. Knight at Naselle, 7 p.m.

**Girls Soccer** — Tillamook at Astoria, 7:15 p.m.; Valley Catholic at Seaside, 7 p.m.

**Boys Soccer** — Astoria at Tillamook, 7:15 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 6 p.m.

##### SATURDAY

**Volleyball** — Seaside Tournament, 9 a.m.; Knappa at City Christian, 3:30 p.m.

**Cross Country** — George Fox Classic, 10 a.m.

#### OSAA RANKINGS

##### (Top 10)

##### 4A Football

1. Cottage Grove Lions
2. Marshfield Pirates
3. Scappoose Indians
4. Henley Hornets
5. Mazama Vikings
6. Banks Braves
7. La Grande Tigers
8. Sweet Home Huskies
9. Seaside Seagulls
10. North Bend Bulldogs

##### 2A Football

1. St. Paul Buckaroos
2. Monroe Dragons
3. Knappa Loggers
4. Gold Beach Panthers
5. Grant Union Prospectors
6. Santiam Wolverines
7. Heppner Mustangs
8. Lost River Raiders
9. Kennedy Trojans
10. Central Linn Cobras

##### 4A Volleyball

1. Sisters Outlaws
2. Valley Catholic Valiants
3. Hidden Valley Mustangs
4. Philomath Warriors
5. Tillamook Cheesemakers
6. Sweet Home Huskies
7. Marshfield Pirates
8. Cascade Cougars
9. Baker Bulldogs
10. Astoria Fishermen

##### 4A Boys Soccer

1. Stayton Eagles
2. Brookings Harbor Bruins
3. Seaside Seagulls
4. Cottage Grove Lions
5. McLoughlin Pioneers
6. Molalla Indians
7. Madras White Buffaloes
8. Phoenix Pirates
9. Newport Cubs
10. Hidden Valley Mustangs

## Like most seasons, some unsung players emerging for Seahawks

By **TIM BOOTH**  
*Associated Press*

**S**EATTLE — At some point in nearly every season of Pete Carroll's tenure in Seattle, someone unexpected, or undervalued in another place, finds his way into being an important reason the Seahawks have success.

The Seahawks aren't unique in finding overlooked players and it could be just for a single game, or a specific package or role. But the frequency by which Seattle unearths these gems has become part of who the Seahawks are.

The latest discoveries appear to be running back J.D. McKissic, cornerback Justin Coleman and defensive end Marcus Smith. Those three were deemed expendable by others. Whether through injuries or earned opportunity, they have already been important additions for the Seahawks.

"I would never say the bottom of the roster," Carroll said. "I would say that guys who have come to us; the new guys in the program."

The success of the Seahawks will always be foremost due to the play of their stars, as has been the case this season. It's been Russell Wilson or Bobby Wagner or Michael Bennett or Earl Thomas at the core of why Seattle sits at 3-2 at the bye, coming off one of the more important road wins of the past few seasons by knocking off the Rams last weekend.

But throughout Carroll's tenure, it's often unsung players that came through. In previous years it's been the likes of Thomas Rawls, DeShawn Shead and Jermaine Kearse that have been this year's version of Smith, McKissic or Coleman. Guys that were on the fringes to make a roster who earned prominent roles when given a chance.

"We have always pretty much had the mentality that the next guy is going to do all right," Carroll said. "We are never really worried about that. I think the indication is to show you why, and here we are again. So we will count on those guys to do



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson  
**Seattle Seahawks defensive end Marcus Smith forces a fumble from Indianapolis Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett.**

#### UP NEXT: SEAHAWKS

- Seattle Seahawks (3-2) at New York Giants (0-5)
- Sunday, 1:25 p.m. TV: CBS

a nice job whether they are coming off the bench or starting. We do have good depth and have a roster that we have felt strongly about for some time. I think that kind of shows."

The latest trio to make a mark all found their way to Seattle with varied histories.

Because of his position, McKissic has a chance to become the most impactful of the three. After being let go by Atlanta and inactive for the first three weeks, McKissic has flashed his skill as a runner and pass catcher in the previous two games.

McKissic's two touchdowns against Indianapolis provided a jolt to Seattle's lagging offense, and he followed with three receptions in the win over the Rams.

"I'm comfortable. Whatever role they have for me, I have to do my best," McKissic said. "Special teams, running the ball, catching the ball, I'm just going to do the best I can."

Coleman was part of New England's championship roster a year ago even though he was inactive during the postseason. Coleman felt his time with the Patriots was coming to an end when he was traded to Seattle on Sept. 1, nine days before the start of the regular season. Less than six minutes into that first game, Coleman was thrown in as Seattle's nickel cornerback after Jeremy Lane was ejected.

## Astoria defeats Banks in five games

*The Daily Astorian*

**BANKS** — For the second time this season, the Astoria Lady Fishermen robbed the Banks Braves of a victory, in another intense, five-game volleyball match won by Astoria, 25-17, 15-25, 25-13, 22-25, 16-14.

In their previous match with the Braves (at Astoria, Sept. 21), the Lady Fishermen lost the first two games and fought off match point in Game 3, rallying for an eventual five-set win.

In Wednesday's match on the Braves' home floor, the two teams split the first four games, and Banks held leads of 12-5 and 14-12 in Game 5, only to watch Astoria rally for the victory.

The win puts Astoria alone in third place in the Cowapa League standings at 5-4, one game ahead of Scappoose (4-5). The Indians and Fishermen wrap up the league season next Tuesday, at Astoria.

With the Fishermen trailing 12-5 in the fifth set, Astoria's Corrin Howard served up seven straight points for a 12-12 tie, before Banks came back and won the next two points, for match point.

But, as they did in the previous match, Astoria spoiled any victory celebrations for the Braves, reeling off four straight points. Julia Norris set Madi Landwehr for the final kill.

Chelsea Christensen led Astoria with 13 kills and 31 digs, with Norris and Kes Sandstrom adding eight kills apiece.

Darian Hageman and Landwehr each had three blocks, and Howard also came up with 31 digs.

Astoria takes part in the Seaside Tournament Saturday.

In other Cowapa action Wednesday, Tillamook defeated the Gulls in four games, 23-25, 25-13, 25-21, 25-15.

## MLB playoffs: Cubs, Nationals to settle NLDS in Game 5

*Associated Press*

A look at what's happening all around the majors today:

**GOING THE DISTANCE:** It's a win-or-go-home Game 5 in the NL Division Series between the Chicago Cubs and Washington Nationals at 5:08 p.m. Pacific. Kyle Hendricks pitches for the World Series champion Cubs after beating Stephen Strasburg 3-0 in the opener. Washington manager Dusty Baker was non-committal when asked about his starter, with Gio Gonzalez and Tanner Roark the most likely candidates.

Back home after saving their season Wednesday with a 5-0 win at Wrigley Field behind Strasburg, the NL East champions have a chance to avenge years of playoff heartache. The Nationals also made it to the playoffs in 2012, 2014 and 2016 and fell in the first round each time, including five-game losses to St. Louis in 2012 and the Los Angeles Dodgers last season.

"Once you get out there, that stuff doesn't really matter," said Michael A. Taylor, who hit a grand slam for Washington late in Game 4. "What we did last year doesn't help or hurt us once we're in between the lines."

The winner heads for Los Angeles to play the Dodgers in the NL Championship Series beginning Saturday.

**READY AND WAITING:** Jose Altuve and the Houston Astros are staying home to start the AL Championship Series. They will face the wild-card New York Yankees, who advanced Wednesday night with a 5-2 victory at Cleveland in Game 5 of their Division Series. Game 1 is Friday night in Houston. Dallas Keuchel is scheduled to start for the Astros, who went 5-2 against New York during the regular season. Houston reached the best-of-seven ALCS by eliminating

Boston in Game 4 on Monday. Altuve batted .533 in four ALDS games against the Red Sox.

**HELP WANTED:** The Boston Red Sox are looking for a new manager after firing John Farrell on Wednesday following the team's second consecutive loss in the AL Division Series. The team announced the move less than 48 hours after it was knocked out of the playoffs with a 5-4 loss to Houston. Farrell managed the Red Sox to a World Series title in 2013, his first season in charge, and his contract had been scheduled to run through the 2018 season. President of Baseball

Operations Dave Dombrowski said the team plans to move swiftly on its next hire and the next manager would "most likely not" be a member of Farrell's current coaching staff. Dombrowski said it would be important to be comfortable in front of media and relate to the team's current young core.

**CLEAN IT UP:** If the Cubs are going to win at Washington in the deciding Game 5 of their NL Division Series, they may need to tighten up their defense. Chicago has committed seven errors in the first four games of the series.