

SPORTS

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Athletes of the Week



PARIS VANDERBURG
 Knappa



ROBERT PIÑA-MORTON
 Knappa

After five straight three-game losses and with their season on the line, the Knappa girls came through with a five-game win (25-22, 15-25, 9-25, 25-17, 15-13) Saturday at City Christian to qualify for the league playoffs. One of six Logger seniors, Vanderburg led the way in the numbers department, with a "triple-double" 14 assists, 10 kills and 10 digs, to go with four ace serves and two blocks. With a 3-8 league record, the Lady Loggers play at Delphian tonight as they look to qualify for the state playoffs.

The sophomore runner had one of the biggest weeks for a Logger runner in recent years, highlighted by an individual Northwest League championship. At the Bigfoot Invitational Oct. 10, Piña-Morton finished second overall behind a Clatskanie runner, but first among NWL runners, covering the 5,000-meter course in 20 minutes, 29 seconds. The 15-year-old Piña-Morton previously won the Vernonia Invitational in a personal best 17:40; and won the Rainier Invitational Oct. 14 in 18:13. He is working to be the first Knappa runner to qualify for state since Stevie Allen in 2007.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

GIRLS SOCCER



Brad Mosher/Tillamook Headlight Herald
Seaside's Audrey Kunde, left, and Tillamook's Mea Upton challenge for a ball during Wednesday night's 0-0 tie.

Banks edges Astoria, 2-0

The Daily Astorian

BANKS — In Cowapa League girls soccer action Wednesday, Banks scored a little payback on Astoria 2-0, as the Braves avenged a 1-0 loss to the Lady Fishermen Sept. 28.

The Lady Fishermen are still alone in third place at 4-4-1 in league play, ahead of Banks (3-5-1). Both teams have one game remaining. Astoria hosts Scappoose next Tuesday.

The Indians locked up the league title Wednesday with a 2-0 victory over Valley Catholic. Elsewhere, Seaside and Tillamook battled to a 0-0 tie.

Seahawks expected to place Avril on injured reserve

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Defensive end Cliff Avril is expected to be placed on injured reserve by the Seattle Seahawks as he continues to deal with a neck injury.

Avril was injured three weeks ago in a game against the Indianapolis Colts. While chasing down Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett, the back of Brissett's foot caught Avril in the chin as he lunged to make the tackle. Avril was seen shaking his arms and flexing his hands after the impact.

Head coach Pete Carroll said Wednesday in an interview with Sirius XM NFL Radio that Avril will go on injured reserve.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Cross Country — Cullaby Lake 3K, TBA
Volleyball — Lewis & Clark League
playoff: Warrenton at Oregon Episcopal, 6 p.m. **Northwest League playoff:** Knappa at Delphian, 6:30 p.m.

Gulls show off their No. 1 ranking in 5-0 win

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — It was just a formality Wednesday night at Broadway Field, where the No. 1-ranked Seaside boys soccer team put the finishing touches on another Cowapa League championship season.

Seaside sealed the deal with a decisive 5-0 win over Tillamook, as the Gulls (8-0-1 in league) defeated the defending league champs for the second time this season.

"Just an 'all team' effort," said Seaside coach John Chapman, "in crazy weather."

The defense "did a bang-up job again," he said. "We will remain humble and prepared. Still things to work

on and adjust."

The wind was the 12th man in Wednesday night's game at Broadway Field, where a strong south wind was an advantage for whoever was heading for the north goal, while a constant rain led to a second half soaker.

But it didn't make much difference in the final numbers — the Gulls dominated with the wind in the first half, building a 3-0 halftime lead, and Seaside scored twice going against the wind in the second half.

Five different players scored goals for the Gulls, while the Seaside defense posted its sixth straight shutout victory, and eighth shutout of the season, most at the 4A level.

It took the Gulls just over six minutes to score the game's first goal,

as Colton Carter punched in a close range shot on a scramble in front of the net.

Just over two minutes later, Seaside freshman Dodger Holmstedt powered in a rocket shot from nearly 30 yards out for a 2-nil lead.

The Gulls peppered the net with shots on goal for the remainder of the half, finishing with 12 shots, seven on frame. They also had 10 corner kick opportunities in the first half.

Seaside's third goal came with 17:54 left in the half, as freshman Westin Carter centered a pass to senior Rafi Sibony, who one-touched the ball into the net from 20 yards away, his first goal of the season.

Tillamook did not have a single shot in the first half, and crossed mid-

field just six times.

The Cheesemakers at least managed four shots in the second half, all by Eve Hernandez. Two sailed over the cross bar, and two were saved by Gulls' keeper James Petite, who shared the shutout in goal with Ashton Boyd.

Under a drenching downpour in the second half, Seaside scored twice in the final 7:11 — a goal by Bryce DeWinter off an assist from Colton Carter, and a penalty kick by Uly Corona with 59 seconds remaining.

The Gulls have one regular season game remaining, at Banks next Tuesday. The Braves have lost nine in a row, and postponed Wednesday's game at Astoria due to a lack of players.

Blazers hand Suns worst loss ever in season opener, 124-76

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Damian Lillard scored 27 points and the Portland Trail Blazers handed the Phoenix Suns the most one-sided season-opening loss in NBA history, 124-76 on Wednesday night.

It was also the largest defeat in the 49-year history of the Suns.

Pat Connaughton added a career-high 24 points, making 4 of 6 3-pointers. The Trail Blazers outshot, outrebounded and outthrustled the Suns from the opening tip.

The 48-point rout exceeded Denver's 139-93 (46-point) victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on opening day in 1987.

The blowout also topped Phoenix's 44-point loss to Seattle (151-107) on April 2, 1988.

The Blazers dominated even though they were without one of their best players, guard C.J. McCollum, who was suspended one game for leaving the bench area during a tussle involving Phoenix's Alex Len and Caleb Swanigan in a preseason game a week ago.

Portland led 60-35 at the half and outscored the Suns 64-41 in the second. The Blazers led by as many as 58, for a time flirting with the most one-sided game in NBA history, a 68-point blowout of the Miami Heat by the Cleveland Cavaliers on Dec. 17, 1991.

The Suns shot 31.5 percent to Portland's 49 percent, made 7 of 27 3-pointers to the Blazers' 14 of 24 and were outrebounded 57-33.

Phoenix had the league's second-worst record last season at 24-58 and looked at least that bad throughout the opener.

Eric Bledsoe scored 15 points on 5-of-18 shooting. Devin Booker added 12 on 6-of-17 shooting. Bledsoe was 1 for 6 on 3s, Booker 0 for 3. Portland's bench outscored Phoenix's 61-26.



AP Photo/Matt York
Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard drives around Phoenix Suns guard Tyler Ulis.

UP NEXT: BLAZERS

• Portland Trail Blazers (1-0) at Indiana Pacers (1-0)
 • Friday, 4 p.m. TV: NSNW

11 from 3-point range in the first two quarters to the Blazers' 7 of 13. Most tellingly, the Portland bench outscored its Phoenix counterparts 24-0.

The Blazers led a numbing 98-55 entering the final quarter.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: The one-game suspension, for taking a few steps off the bench in a preseason game, cost McCollum \$165,000. ... Connaughton, a fourth-round draft pick of the Baltimore Orioles, had a previous career high of 15 points. ... Portland had six players in double figures. ... Blazers have won four consecutive season openers. ... Trail Blazers don't play their home opener until next Tuesday against New Orleans.

MLB PLAYOFFS

Cubs face Dodgers' Kershaw trailing 3-1 in NLCS

Associated Press

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

ANOTHER DAY: The Cubs finally broke through for a win against the Dodgers in their NL Championship Series, but now they have to contend with ace Clayton Kershaw in Game 5. Kershaw limited Chicago to two runs over five innings in Game 1, a 5-2 win for Los Angeles. It's a tough matchup for the Cubs, who are averaging 2.7 runs over nine post-season games — including a 9-8 win over Washington in NLDS Game 5.

TAKE A BREAK: Jose Altuve, Carlos Corra and the slumping Astros get a day off, trailing the Yankees 3-2 in the AL Championship Series. Neither team is planning a workout at Minute Maid Park.

Houston led the majors in batting and scoring this season, but is hitting just .147 overall and has totaled only nine runs in the ALCS. George Springer and Josh Reddick, the 1-2 hitters in the Astros' lineup, are a combined 2 for 35.

FOR HIRE: Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa has left the Diamondbacks' organization, less than two weeks after Arizona lost the NL wild-card game to Colorado. He served as chief baseball officer in 2015-16 and became chief baseball analyst when the new regime of general manager Mike Hazen and manager Torey Lovullo arrived last spring.