SPORTS

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VOLLEYBALL

Baker edges Astoria in four games

The Daily Astorian

BAKER — The 2017 season came to a close Saturday afternoon for the Astoria volleyball team in four close, hard-fought games at Baker.

The No. 7-seeded Bulldogs stayed one step ahead of the No. 10-ranked Lady Fishermen, 27-25, 21-25, 25-21, 25-22, in a first-round state playoff match.

Baker advances to the state tournament and the final eight, which will include three Cowapa League teams (Scappoose, Tillamook and Valley Catholic).

A year after finishing 0-10 in league play, Astoria finishes the second year under coach Jessie Todd with a 13-9 overall record, 6-4 in league matches.

And Saturday's playoff "could have gone either way," Todd said. "(The Bulldogs) were good. They had a middle who could hit both angles, and a very good outside hitter who could really hit."

Meanwhile, the Lady Fishermen were able to spread their attack around, as Chelsea Christensen led with six kills, followed by Madi Landwehr, Julia Norris and Kes Sandstrom with five kills apiece. Darian Hageman added three blocks.

Astoria loses six seniors who will be tough to replace, Todd said.

"This group of seniors has been fantastic," she said. "They were a big part and a big reason why we made it so far. Their leadership, maturity and desire inspired the rest of the team.

"And overall I was real happy with how we played. To have to travel so far was a new experience for them, and I thought they played great."

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

Estacada 30, Astoria 14

Astoria	0	8	6	0—14
Estacada	0	0	14	16—30

Second Quarter
Ast: Niko Caruana 6 run (Karsten Johnson run) 4:33
Third Quarter
Est: Wyatt Riedel 33 run (Nick Keller run) 8:32
Ast: Trey Hageman 23 run (kick failed) 5:25
Est: Keller 30 run (kick failed) 5:06
Fourth Quarter
Est: Riedel 7 run (Keller run) 7:05
Est: Keller 7 run (Keller run) 1:36

Clatskanie 35, Warrenton 20

Clatskanie	7	12	8	8—35
Warrenton	6	7	0	7—20

First Quarter
War: Logan Fischer 24 pass from Jacob Morrow (kick failed)
Cla: Kees Tjaarda 2 run (kick good)
Second Quarter
Cla: J'Kari Combs 15 pass from Cooper Blodgett (kick failed)
Cla: Combs 3 pass from Blodgett (conversion failed)
War: Fischer 15 pass from Morrow (Gabe Breitmeyer kick)
Third Quarter
Cla: Blodgett 35 run (Tjaarda run)
Fourth Quarter
Cla: Blodgett 1 run (Blodgett run)
War: Fischer 4 run (Breitmeyer kick)
Clatskanie Statistics
Rushing: Tjaarda 23-171, Blodgett 11-74. **Passing**: Blodgett 9-14-150-2. **Receiving**: Combs 5-86, Shockley 2-41, Tjaarda 1-14, Osborn 1-9.
Warrenton Statistics
Rushing: Fischer 24-115, Jackson 2-8, Morrow 8-(-21). **Passing**: Morrow 11-22-148-1. **Receiving**: Miller 6-68, Fischer 2-39, Jackson 2-27, Martinez 1-14.

Ilwaco 52, North Beach 18

North Beach	0	0	6	12—18
Ilwaco	25	14	13	0—52

First Quarter
Ilw: Trenton Cox 75 kick return (pass failed)
Ilw: Alex Kaino 5 run (kick failed)
Ilw: Allen Chetwood 43 run (kick failed)
Ilw: Tenyson Ramsey 38 pass from Brandon McMullen (Jorge Galvan kick)
Second Quarter
Ilw: McMullen 20 run (Galvan kick)
Ilw: Kaino 38 pass from Ethan Personius (Galvan kick)
Third Quarter
NB: Brandon Chaney 33 run (run failed)
Ilw: Chetwood 35 run (conversion failed)
Ilw: Brandon Duke 5 run (Galvan kick)
Fourth Quarter
NB: Keenan Miller 35 pass from Chaney (conversion failed)
NB: Miller 13 pass from Chaney (conversion failed)
Ilwaco Statistics
Rushing: McMullen 15-163, Chetwood 2-78, Duke 4-66, Kaino 6-39, Wilkin 2-4, Cox 1-4, Personius 1-5, Simonson 2-6, Thompson 3-7, Team (-20). **Passing**: Personius 5-5-68-0, McMullen 1-2-25-0. **Receiving**: McMullen 3-21, Kaino 2-13. Ramsey 1-38.

Heather Perkins

Trey Hageman drops back to pass for the Astoria Fishermen during Friday's play-in game against Estacada.

Late scores lift Estacada over Astoria

The Daily Astorian

ESTACADA — Estacada did not complete a pass the entire night — but the Rangers apparently didn't need to, as Estacada's ground game carried the load in a 30-14 win over Astoria, in a Class 4A Regional Play-in game at Buzz Randall Field.

The season comes to close for the Fishermen (4-5 overall), while Estacada (7-2) advances to the first round of the state playoffs.

Astoria's defense was in its "bend-but-don't-break" mode in a low-scoring first half. Estacada's first four possessions ended with a fumble, two punts and an interception.

Astoria had the only score of the half, as Niko Caruana capped a 14-play, 63-yard march with a 6-yard touchdown run, with 4:33 left in the second quarter. Karsten Johnson ran in the two-point conversion.

Astoria quarterback Trey Hageman highlighted the drive with an 11-yard pass to Ephriam Tice, on a fourth-and-10 play from the Ranger 22.

The 8-0 lead held up through one half, before Estacada scored a tying touchdown and two-point conversion on its first possession of the third quarter.

Astoria responded quickly, driving 69 yards in just eight plays, Hageman scoring on a 23-yard run midway through the third period to give Astoria a 14-8 advantage.

But that's where the scoring stopped for the Fishermen, and the momentum turned Estacada's way.

Following a big kick return after the Astoria touchdown, the Rangers scored on the very next play from scrimmage, a 30-yard burst by junior quarterback Nick Keller. The Rangers also missed the point-after kick, and the two teams went to the fourth quarter in a 14-14 tie.

After the Fishermen turned the ball over on downs, Estacada went on a time-consuming, 67-yard drive, capped by a 7-yard run from Wyatt Riedel.

And the Rangers' ground game picked up steam from there, grinding out a short nine-play drive late in the fourth quarter, ending in a 7-yard touchdown run by Keller, who scored on his third two-point conversion for a 16-point lead.

Astoria's last drive in the final minute was highlighted by a hook-and-ladder play (Hageman to Johnson to Tice) for a 51-yard gain — but the Fishermen went backwards from there and turned the ball over on downs.

Estacada's only pass attempt of the night was intercepted by Astoria's Ebin Hillard.

Astoria advances with win over Gladstone

By WALT POSTLEWAIT
For The Daily Astorian

GLADSTONE — One goal was all it took to send the Astoria boys soccer team to the first round of the state playoffs for the first time since 2013.

In a very tight match in which the Fishermen were out-shot by the Gladstone Gladiators 2 to 1, Astoria junior Christian Medina-Perez drew Gladiator keeper Andrew Prom off his line in the 37th minute, then Medina-Perez's crossing pass was deflected by Prom to the waiting senior Trevor Byrd, who headed home the only goal of the afternoon for a 1-0 Astoria victory.

Both teams had additional chances, which kept Astoria goalkeeper Jake Hurd busy, but Hurd was able to pick up his third shutout in the last four games. The Fishermen are on a four-game win streak, having outscored the competition 11-1.

The momentum of Saturday's match ebbed and flowed throughout the entire 80 minutes.

The Gladiator supporters erupted in cheers when Gladstone found the back of the net on a corner kick play in the 67th minute, only to see the flag up on the far side of the field signaling offside, the result of a disciplined Astoria team that held a strong defensive line as the ball was in play in front of the goal.

The Fishermen responded well to the Gladstone attack, with the Gladiators playing a strong defensive mindset, dropping eight and clogging the middle when defending.

Walt Postlewait/For The Daily Astorian

Astoria goalkeeper Jake Hurd goes high to make a stop in Saturday's playoff victory.

During the final 10 minutes, Gladstone played at a frantic pace, forcing the ball forward, finding the Fishermen defenders swarming about getting a clear.

Hurd came up big in the 74th and again in the 76th minute with saves that secured the Fishermen a clean sheet, and a date against Stayton Wednesday. Stayton is the No. 2-ranked team at the 4A level, and the only team to beat No. 1 Seaside.

It was not Astoria's prettiest of matches, but it was a complete match that saw solid play from all the Fishermen.

"The boys have come a long way from the summer and worked out a lot of bugs," said Astoria coach Lee Cain. "We have some technically very talented players, and they're trying hard and have responded well towards the tactical direction that we've wanted to go in.

"We had two limping players not at full potential and one player ineligible. So the game wasn't our prettiest, and Gladstone played some determined ball, but luckily for us had some wide shots that might have tested Jake even more."

But, "the win has to go to a team effort, with standout defensive performances from senior captain Jose Gonzalez and stalwart goalkeeping by Jake. They've gotten us to the playoffs and now we are going to get ready for what promises to be a very challenging game at Stayton, and the boys are excited. I think we will be ready for it and will play to our full potential as long as we are a healthy and complete team."

Since 2014, the Fishermen were 0-2 in Regional Play-in contests, which included a 3-2 loss to Gladstone in 2014.

Astoria's last appearance in the state playoffs was 2013 (a 3-2 loss to North Bend); their last win in the state playoffs is 2008 (2-1 over La Grande).

The No. 1-seed Seaside Gulls will host Philomath Wednesday. The Gulls topped Hillsboro (the No. 3-ranked 5A team), 4-1 in a nonleague match Saturday at Broadway Field.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

GIRLS SOCCER

Philomath blanks Astoria

The Daily Astorian

PHILOMATH — Philomath senior Carrie Lillis scored three goals and added two assists, helping the Warriors score a 6-0 win over Astoria in a 4A girls soccer Regional Play-in game Saturday afternoon.

Quincy Pittman, Halle Hewitt and Braedyn McNeely added the other goals for Philomath, which will play a first-round game at Gladstone Tuesday.

The season comes to a close for Astoria, which finishes 6-7-2 overall, 4-5-1 in league play, their best season since 2013.

The Cowapa League has two teams in the final 16 — Scappoose will host Baker, and Valley Catholic plays at Junction City, both Tuesday.

FOOTBALL

Clatskanie holds off Warrenton

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton football team missed out on the playoffs, but the Warriors managed to finish the 2017 season on a positive note Friday, in a 35-20 loss to No. 7-ranked Clatskanie at John Mattila Field.

Once again, the Warriors held an early lead on Jacob Morrow's 24-yard touchdown toss to Logan Fischer, and Fischer's 15-yard touchdown grab from Morrow had Warrenton trailing just 19-13 at halftime.

But the next two scores belonged to the Tigers, on touchdown runs of 35 yards and one yard by Clatskanie quarterback Cooper Blodgett.

Fischer added a late, four-yard scoring run for the Warriors, as the senior running back rushed for 115 yards on 24 carries in his prep finale.

Defensively, Preston Miller intercepted two passes for Warrenton, which finishes 1-8 overall, 0-3 in league play.

Ilwaco defeats North Beach

The Daily Astorian

ILWACO, Wash. — The Ilwaco Fishermen had all the points they would need by the end of the first quarter last Thursday, in a 52-18 win over North Beach in Pacific 2B League football action.

Touchdowns by Trenton Cox (75-yard kick return on the opening kickoff), Alex Kaino, Allen Chetwood and Tenyson Ramsey had the Fishermen leading 25-0 after the opening quarter.

Ilwaco's lead reached 52-6 after three quarters. The Fishermen had 438 yards in total offense, led by Brandon McMullen's 163 yards rushing on just 15 carries.

Ilwaco gained 353 yards on the ground. Chetwood carried the ball just twice, for touchdown runs of 43 and 35 yards.

Knappa Loggers close out Gaston, get ready for playoffs

The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — Knappa put the finishing touches on yet another perfect league season Friday, with an easy 50-0 win over Gaston in a Northwest League football finale.

The Loggers (8-0 overall) will host Bandon (4-5) in a first round state playoff, 1 p.m. Saturday at CMH Field.

For the second year in a row, Knappa went through league play unchallenged, winning its four league games by scores of 52-7, 36-20, 40-7 and 50-0.

For the Loggers, the "kids came out and did their jobs from the opening kickoff," said Logger coach Aaron Barendse. "Our senior group played their final regular season game at home, and they were impressive from the start. Completely focused."

The Loggers were not even distracted, "being Senior Night, Homecoming and outright league title on the line," he added. "But our kids really were tuned in. Those seniors really have the rest of the team following their lead."

A Gaston player was injured late, which put a damper on the game.

"The game ended early and our thoughts and prayers are with the kid injured," Barendse said. "You never want to see anyone injured and unable to walk off the field. It's just a game and things like that put things into perspective fast. We look forward to our next challenge and I know our kids will give everything they have."

The Loggers have given up just 53 points in eight games, the least among all 2A teams. The next fewest is 91 points allowed by Grant Union.