

SPORTS

CONTACT US
Gary Henley | Sports Reporter
 ghenley@dailyastorian.com

FOLLOW US
 facebook.com/
DailyAstorianSports

Warrenton, Knappa wrestle in Clatskanie

The Daily Astorian

CLATSKANIE — Local wrestling teams, including Warrenton and Knappa, tuned up for this week's Pac Rim Invitational by competing in the Clatskanie Winter Classic, where nine schools met Saturday for a full day of wrestling.

Rainier won the team title with 221.5 points, followed by St. Helens, Vernonia, Ilwaco and Warrenton.

"We were missing a few wrestlers, but we were super proud of the way other wrestlers picked up the slack," said Warriors' coach Corey Conant.

At 145 pounds, Warrenton's Giovanni Martinez was 5-0 to win his bracket.

"Gio was on the receiving end of a tournament error, and he had to wrestle an extra match," Conant said. "He didn't let it slow him down and wrestled the max number of matches

allowed in a day. This was a great win for him."

Elsewhere, first-year wrestler Sam Irwin stepped into the 220-pound spot and delivered for the Warriors, battling his way into the finals, then pinning his opponent to take first place.

Warrenton's Beau Reynolds also made the finals at heavyweight, and finished second.

Knappa finished last in the team standings, but the Loggers had one

wrestler take first, as Luke Goozee was 3-0 at 132 pounds.

"Luke Goozee wrestled really good," said Knappa coach Dan Owings. "Kaleb Roe is greatly improving, but hurt his arm in the last match. Jade Somoza (tied for third at 113 pounds) had an exciting match with the senior girl from Vernonia who eventually got first. She was ahead by two points until the last few seconds of the last round."

The tournament was tough, Owings said, "especially with most of the schools being larger schools. Vernonia and Knappa were the only two schools from the 2A division."

Team results: Rainier 221.5, St. Helens 198.5, Vernonia 194, Ilwaco 186, Warrenton 149, Clatskanie 142, Jefferson 138, Scappoose 117.5, Knappa 81.

The Pac Rim Invitational takes place Friday and Saturday at Seaside High School.

Seaside swimmers compete at invite

The Daily Astorian

NEWPORT — The Seaside swim team took part in the Holiday Invitational meet Saturday in Newport.

The Cubs hosted four other schools to close out 2017 in one of the first meets at the new pool, part of the Newport Recreation Center.

It was Seaside's first time at the new pool, said Seaside coach Shane Spell. "It's a great facility, with some great teams we don't normally get to see until district and state."

As for the Gulls, Spell said his team was depleted "due to vacation travels, illness and other conflicts. But those that made it had some great swims. It was nice to have a meet during the break to keep us focused."

The Seaside girls finished third in the team standings behind Sweet Home and Newport, while the Seaside boys took fourth behind Newport, Sweet Home and Taft.

Highlights for Seaside included Kendy Lin winning the girls' 100-yard backstroke in 1 minute, 9.87 seconds; Emily Philbrook dropped almost 12 seconds in her 100 backstroke, taking sixth in 1:31.66; and Isaiah Collins dropped 14 seconds in his 200-yard freestyle, finishing sixth in 2:21.10.



Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson answers questions a day after the last game of the season in the Seahawks locker room as other players clean out their lockers on Monday.

Seahawks spend New Year's lamenting what went wrong

By TIM BOOTH
 Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — An unfamiliar situation played out inside the Seattle Seahawks headquarters on Monday with packing boxes being filled and memorabilia getting autographed far earlier than any season in recent memory.

For five straight seasons, the Seahawks didn't just play in January. They won at least one playoff game in each of those seasons.

It made Monday's site of clearing out lockers at the conclusion of the regular season jarring for those who became accustomed of only knowing playoff football during Seattle's

five straight years in the postseason.

"At the end of the day it's just disappointing. I think everybody is disappointed," Seattle tight end Luke Willson said.

"The locker room we thought we had was pretty special. But it didn't work out and I think everyone is at a loss for words."

Only five Seattle players on the active roster from Sunday's finale were around the previous time the Seahawks didn't make the postseason in 2011. At that time, Seattle was an ascending franchise.

The tweaks and changes made by Pete Carroll and John Schneider were starting to take form by the end of the 2011 season, and the drafting of Russell Wilson and Bobby Wag-

ner before the start of the 2012 season was a catalyst in Seattle's rise to being a mainstay in the postseason.

So is this 9-7 season and missing the playoffs the start of a backslide and the first step in a major rebuild?

"We want to obviously get better because the trend that we are on right now is not good," Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin said.

Universally the Seahawks believe they're not that far away from still being among the elite in the NFC. Three of their losses were by a combined eight points and in part were due to kicking woes from Blair Walsh, including his missed 48-yarder in the final minute on Sunday in the 26-24 loss to Arizona.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TONIGHT

Girls Basketball — Cattin Gabel at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Cattin Gabel at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 7 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Heritage 55, Astoria 44
 Heritage 12 11 17 15—55
 Astoria 11 5 13 15—44

HER (55): Sanjeet Singh 21, Vanriper 13, Zhuchenko 6, Gorman 4, Struthers 4, Tucker 3, Pitre 2, Jorgensen 2.

AST (44): Ian Hunt 17, Brockman 7, K.Johnson 7, Stenblom 6, Olson 3, Long 2, Tice 2.

Battle Ground 39, Astoria 21
 B.Ground 5 14 16 4—39
 Astoria 3 5 6 7—21

BG (39): Brendan Beall 11, McCormick 6, Perry 6, Parker 6, Hunter-Holiday 5, Barton 3, Linville 2.

AST (21): Isaac Brockman 8, Stenblom 5, Olson 3, Johnson 3, Hunt 2.

Knappa 87, Naselle 57
 Knappa 25 22 22 18—87
 Naselle 12 8 22 15—57

KNA (87): Dale Takalo 25, Engblom 21, E.Takalo 11, Hunt 8, Ramvick 6, Weirup 6, Green 4, Vanderburg 4, Goodman 2, Miller.

NAS (57): Jacob Eaton 22, Glenn 15, Edwards 10, Dorman 7, Nolan 3, Fontanilla, Lindstrom.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rainier 46, Astoria 27
 Rainier 10 10 11 15—46
 Astoria 8 9 2 8—27

RAI (46): Desirae Hansen 22, As.Norman 9, Sanchez 7, Farrell 4, Bidix 2, Schimmel 2, Crape.

AST (27): Sam Hemsley 13, Hankwitz 3, Long 3, Cummings 2, O'Brien 2, Fausett 2, Rogers 1, Norris 1.

Warrenton 58, Harrisburg 34
 Warrenton 11 17 17 13—58
 Harrisburg 8 9 11 6—34

WAR (58): Tyla Little 25, Alvarez 11, Dyer 7, Bloodgett 7, Heyen 6, Diego 2, Ramsey, Foster.

HAR (34): Stephanie Pelkey 10, Cheek 6, Bucher 4, Campbell 4, Brown 3, Langley 2.

Naselle 58, Knappa 38
 Knappa 11 4 10 13—58
 Naselle 23 8 12 15—58

KNA (38): Paris Vanderburg 13, Carlson 6, Weaver 6, Marchello 4, Miller 2, Hendrickson 2, Strain 2, Inman 1, Ramvick, Tischer.

NAS (58): Kenzie Glenn 16, Gudmundsen 15, Zimmermann 10, Hendrickson 9, Steenerson 4, Scrabbeck 2.

S-E-C! S-E-C! Alabama vs. Georgia for national championship

By RALPH D. RUSSO
 Associated Press

S-E-C! S-E-C!

Alabama and Georgia won their College Football Playoff semifinals on Monday and will meet in the national championship next week in Atlanta, the home of the Southeastern Conference title game.

"Couldn't have scripted it better in some ways," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said. "It will be one of the sweetest drives from Birmingham (Alabama, where the SEC offices are located) to Atlanta that we've ever experienced."

The fourth-ranked Crimson Tide smothered No. 1 Clemson 24-6 in their Sugar Bowl rubber match after the third-ranked Bulldogs won the first overtime in Rose Bowl history, a wild 54-48 victory that eliminated No. 2 Oklahoma and Heisman Trophy winner Baker Mayfield.

It will be the second time in seven seasons that the national title will come down to two SEC teams. Alabama beat LSU in New Orleans to win the 2011 championship.

At least this all-SEC affair next Monday night won't be a rematch: Georgia and Alabama did not play in 2017.

Both will be making a return trip to Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Alabama started its season in the shiny



Georgia tailback Sony Michel celebrates with teammates after scoring the game-winning touchdown in the second overtime.

UP NEXT: NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

• Georgia Bulldogs (13-1)
 vs Alabama Crimson Tide (12-1)
 • Monday, 5 p.m. TV: ESPN

new home of the Atlanta Falcons by beating Florida State. The Tide hoped it would be the first of three trips to Atlanta, but it let the second one slip away. Alabama's regular-season finale loss at Auburn cost the Tide the SEC West and spot in the conference title game

against Georgia.

It did not, however, cost the Crimson Tide a playoff spot. The College Football Playoff selection committee gave Alabama the final spot even though the Tide failed to win its conference. Did Alabama deserve the benefit of the doubt after a season in which it was low on marquee victories? Ohio State fans didn't think so, and the Buckeyes finished fifth in the final CFP rankings.

Fueled by the doubters, Alabama smashed the defending national champions from Clemson. The Crimson Tide will be playing in the



Alabama wide receiver Calvin Ridley celebrates his touchdown reception in the Sugar Bowl.

title game for the third straight season and looking for its fifth national championship under Nick Saban since 2009.

The Bulldogs made the playoff by avenging a late-season loss to Auburn, beating the Tigers in the SEC title game on Dec. 2 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, about 70 miles from its campus in Athens.

"Going back home to Atlanta," Georgia star tailback Nick Chubb said. "We've been there before and hopefully we can get the same outcome, but we've got a lot of preparation to do before that."