

SPORTS

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Knappa boys demolish Gaston

KNAPPA — It was another blowout victory Thursday night for the Knappa Loggers in Northwest League boys basketball action.

The Loggers only led 33-18 at halftime, before pulling away in the second half for an 82-47 win over Gaston.

Dale Takalo scored 30 points to pace the No. 3-ranked Loggers.

Knappa foul trouble kept the game close over the second and third quarters, with the Loggers outscoring the Greyhounds just 34-31, before Knappa went on a 25-8 run in the fourth quarter, sparked by Takalo.

"He was the best player on the court tonight," said Knappa coach Chris Spencer. "He was very impressive.

"But we got into some foul trouble in the first half, and our bench did an incredible job," he said. "Thanks to Kaleb (Miller), Ty Vanderburg and Braedon Eltagonde, they came in and gave us a halftime lead. Then Dale just took over in the second half."

Takalo had 23 of his 30 points in the second half, with a pair of 3-pointers in the final minutes.

Since losing to Columbia Christian Jan. 11, the Loggers have won three games by a combined 90 points. Knappa (8-1 in league) hosts winless Delphian (0-7) Saturday.

Comeback sends Gaston over Knappa girls

KNAPPA — The first half belonged to the Knappa girls basketball team, but the Gaston Greyhounds had the momentum on their side in the second half, outscoring the Loggers 27-8 over the final two quarters for a 39-26 win.

Sophomore Lilly Johnson scored 12 points and Diana Lewis added 10 for Gaston, leading the Greyhounds to the Northwest League victory.

Madelynn Weaver had nine points and four steals for Knappa, while Sophia Carlson had six points and Aiko Miller pulled down 12 rebounds.

"In the first half, we really focused on Charity (Hall) and (Taylor) Bassel," said Knappa coach Maria Green. "They combined for 29 points the last time we played."

Hall and Bassel combined for just 11 in Thursday's game.

"We came out firing and attacking," Green said. "It was really a hard-fought game."

C.S. Lewis beats Jewell boys

JEWELL — The Jewell boys played their best game of the season Thursday, according to head coach Mark Fick. But a 21-10 run by C.S. Lewis helped the Watchmen pull away for a 60-45 win over the Blue Jays in a Casco League basketball game.

Jewell's Ben Stahly had a career game, scoring 16 points with nine rebounds. Nathan Nelson and Ryan Kane added eight points apiece for the Jays, who lost their ninth straight.

Jewell girls hammer C.S. Lewis, 45-22

JEWELL — Jewell had all the points it would need early in the second quarter Thursday in a 45-22 Casco League girls basketball win over C.S. Lewis.

Gabi Morales scored 15 points with nine rebounds. Teammates Emma Guillen and Haley Norman added eight points each.

Norman also had six rebounds, six steals and five assists, and Guillen pulled down seven boards, for the Lady Jays, who led 21-2 after one quarter.

— *The Daily Astorian*



Astoria's Davis Wingard comes up for air.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Astoria splashes to dual meet victory over Valley Catholic

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

With districts coming up fast, the times and places get a little more important for high school swimmers.

Which was a positive for the Astoria swim teams Thursday afternoon, as the Fishermen swept a dual meet with Valley Catholic at the Astoria Aquatic Center.

Astoria swimmers also set personal best marks across the board, and won 18 of the 22 events.

"I would say 85 to 90 percent of our swimmers had season (personal records) today," said Astoria coach Kathryn Zacher. "We had quite a few season PRs, and that's what I like to look at. Are we getting faster each week, and are we headed in the right direction?"

The Lady Fishermen defeated the Valiants 113-65, while the Astoria boys won a 137-59 decision.

Highlight swims for Astoria girls included wins for Tori Smith in the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle races, with times of 2 minutes, 21.01 seconds and 6:17.57, respectively.

Grace Peeler won the 200-yard indi-

vidual medley in 2:38.73, against the only other swimmer in the event, Valley Catholic's Sundari Arunarasu.

For the Astoria boys, "Riley Cameron, a sophomore, won the 200 free in a best time and a close race," Zacher said.

"And all of our 200 medley and 200 free relay teams had their best times all season," she said. "Our goals are pretty high for those relays."

Next up for Astoria is a home meet Tuesday against Scappoose, followed by the Cowapa League championship meet Feb. 2, and districts Feb. 9-10 at Astoria.

"Tuesday's meet with Scappoose is kind of like our dress rehearsal for districts," Zacher said. "It's our last dual meet, and Scappoose is really strong, boys and girls."

"We have 16 training days left, including today, before districts," she added. "I keep reminding the kids that we should do really well at districts, because we're doing well at the invites, and we do have a lot of depth."

"We've got some pretty big goals. This could be the best possibility to send the boys to state. Some of these seniors have never been to state. This is the best chance they're going to get."



Astoria's Moira Welsh competes in the 200-yard freestyle.



Astoria's Jose Gonzalez swims in the 50-yard freestyle.

Lillard leads Trail Blazers past Pacers

By **NICK DASCHEL**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Portland's home court was once one of the NBA's toughest for visitors — but was a source of frustration for the Trail Blazers earlier this season.

But they appear to have their home mojo back, as the Blazers won their fifth consecutive home game Thursday night, beating the Indiana Pacers 100-86.

Damian Lillard scored 26 points and Jusuf Nurkic had 19 points and a season-high 17 rebounds to lead Portland (24-21). C.J. McCollum scored 16 points and Shabazz Napier 13 for the Blazers.

Just six weeks ago, the Blazers lost six consecutive games during a late-November, early December stretch. But starting Dec. 28 with a victory over Philadelphia, Portland has returned to its winning ways in Moda Center.

"Overall our team has just locked in a little bit more," Lillard said. "We had a rough stretch. We're not the first team or the last team that'll have that. The important thing when you have times like that is to stay together and stay with it. I think we're just in a better place on the floor as a group."

Several wins during this streak looked like Thursday's, a game in which Portland had most of the answers during the fourth quarter. Tied at 74 after three quarters, the Blazers outscored Indiana 26-12 during the final period to pull out the win.

"In the third quarter, I thought we



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard shoots over Indiana Pacers center Domantas Sabonis during Thursday's game in Portland.

AP Photo/Craig Mitchell/Idyer

UP NEXT: BLAZERS

- Dallas Mavericks (15-30) at Portland Trail Blazers (24-21)
- Saturday, 7 p.m. TV: NSNW

gave them a lot of opportunities," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "In the fourth quarter, it was good to see the lead expand without having very many mistakes."

Portland took control late in the third quarter, when the Blazers held Indiana scoreless for more than five minutes. It was part of Portland's 21-2 run, during which Shabazz Napier scored eight points to help erase a six-point deficit and give the Blazers an 89-76 lead midway through

the fourth quarter.

Napier kick-started the rally during the final seconds of the third quarter, when he made a backcourt steal, then hit a corner 3-pointer as time expired to tie the game at 74.

Victor Oladipo and Darren Collison scored 23 points each for Indiana (24-21).

Indiana coach Nate McMillan had an eye on the stat sheet in assessing what went wrong for the Pacers. Portland outrebounced Indiana 57-46, and scored 24 second-chance points to the Pacers' 10.

"That's the hustle game you have to win," McMillan said. "We have to give help to our bigs down in the paint. They outworked us, and won that game."

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Boys basketball — Seaside at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie, 6 p.m.

Girls basketball — Seaside at Astoria, 7:45 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie, 7:30 p.m.; Jefferson at Knappa, 7 p.m.; Raymond at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

Wrestling — Astoria at Tillamook, TBA

SATURDAY

Boys basketball — Delphian at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Knappa 82, Gaston 47
Gaston 8 10 21 8—47
Knappa 23 10 24 25—82
GAS (47): Riley Marshall 14, Lund 10, Gottschalk 9, Fox 8, Spidal 4, Barnes 2.
KNA (82): Dale Takalo 30, E.Takalo 14, Ramvick 8, Vanderburg 8, Miller 7, Phillip 4, Hoover 3, Hunt 3, Weirup 2, Green 2, Eltagonde 1, Goodman.

C.S. Lewis 60, Jewell 45
CS Lewis 11 14 21 14—60
Jewell 11 8 10 16—45
CSL (60): Micah Grobey 23, More 19, Stroup 11, Dovers 4, McClatchey 3.
JWL (45): Ben Stahly 16, R.Kane 8, Nelson 8, Lilley 7, N.Kane 4, Lyon 2, Chronister, Berg, Meehan.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Gaston 39, Knappa 26
Gaston 6 6 16 11—39
Knappa 8 10 4 4—26
GAS (39): Lilly Johnson 12, Lewis 10, Hall 9, Clark 5, Bassel 2, Jordan 1.
KNA (26): Madelynn Weaver 9, Carlson 6, Miller 3, Inman 3, Vanderburg 2, Taggart 2, Ramvick 1, Tischer.

Jewell 45, C.S. Lewis 22
CS Lewis 2 6 10 4—22
Jewell 21 12 6 6—45
CSL (22): Ally Trowbridge 14, Mault 6, Wooding 2.
JWL (45): Gabi Morales 15, Guillen 8, Norman 8, Meier 6, A.Wammack 2, R.Wammack 2, Kaczanski 2, Shaw 2, N.Morales, Olvera, DeWees, Haddock.