

SPORTS

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GIRLS WRESTLING

Warrenton sixth at Lady Elks Invitational

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

HOOD RIVER — The Warrenton girls wrestling team tuned up for this week's state tournament by taking part Saturday at the Lady Elks Invitational in Hood River.

And the Warriors will have high hopes at state following another successful meet, as Warrenton placed sixth out of 26 teams.

Wrestling powerhouses Thurston (196 points) and Hood River Valley (155.5) finished first and second, respectively, followed by Century (115), Columbia White Salmon (110), Bend (87) and Warrenton (86).

'We gained valuable experience.'

Corey Conant
 Warrenton coach

"We gained valuable experience and stood toe to toe with some of the better wrestlers in the state," said Warrenton coach Corey Conant.

Highlights for the Lady Warriors included a third-place finish (out of 21 wrestlers) for Alma Bolanos in the 129-pound bracket.

Bolanos capped her day with a pin (2:39) over Century's Nawal Maysi in the third-place match.

After a first-round bye, Bolanos scored falls over wrestlers from Century and Scappoose, before a loss to Hood River's Lexie McCafferty.

"Alma never quits, she tires people out and frequently pins girls when she is behind in the match," Conant said.

Teammate Anna Schenbeck placed eighth in the same bracket.

Warrenton junior Sahanna Rodriguez took fifth at 104. Sophomore Isabella Carr did not place at 139, but was leading the eventual champion (Hood River's Elena Kroll) until the final seconds of the third round.

At 184, junior Libby Rehnert took third and sophomore Dom Verley finished fifth.

At 224, sophomore Jade Freniere finished third, pinning Aryah Nelson of Columbia White Salmon in 1:11 in the consolation final. Ruby Dyer was second out of two wrestlers at 285.

"We pinned a lot of wrestlers and finished one point out of the top five," Conant said. "The schools that finished above us have four to five times as many students as we do, but the girls that we bring out have done a phenomenal job all season. It's on to state next weekend and we look forward to seeing how high this team can finish."

The state competition will take place at Thurston High School in Springfield.

Team scores (top 10): Thurston 196, Hood River 155.5, Century 115, Columbia White Salmon 110, Bend 87, Warrenton 86, Columbia Burbank 53, Liberty 47, Lincoln 37, Scappoose 30.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Boys basketball — Astoria at Tillamook, 6 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 6 p.m.; Portland Adventist at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Neah-Kah-Nie at Knappa, 7:45 p.m.; Ilwaco at Raymond, 7 p.m.; Naselle at Columbia Adventist, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball — Astoria at Tillamook, 7:45 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 7:45 p.m.; Portland Adventist at Warrenton, 7:30 p.m.; Neah-Kah-Nie at Knappa, 6 p.m.; Oregon School for the Deaf at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.; Naselle at Columbia Adventist, 5:30 p.m.

Swimming — Scappoose at Astoria, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Wrestling — Astoria/Banks at Seaside, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Girls basketball — Knappa at Vernonia, 6 p.m.; Life Christian at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

Boys basketball — Knappa at Vernonia, 7:45 p.m.; Firm Foundation at Naselle, 7 p.m.

BOYS WRESTLING

Knappa competes in Lumberjack Classic

The Daily Astorian

LONGVIEW, Wash. — Knappa scored 56 points to place eighth Saturday in the Lumberjack Wrestling Classic.

The Loggers were one of two schools from Oregon in the 10-team

meet, along with ninth-place Clatskanie. Centralia won the team title with 183.5 points, ahead of Castle Rock.

"The team competed well again, considering we are a small school and small team," said Knappa coach Dan Owings. "This is the competition we need to help us do better at District."

Knappa had two third-place finishes. Isaac Goozee won three and lost one for third at 182 pounds, and teammate David Patterson went 3-1 at 220. Kaleb Roe added a fourth-place finish at 170.

The Loggers compete Wednesday (4 p.m.) at Neah-Kah-Nie, a meet

which will seed wrestlers for the upcoming district meet, Feb. 2-3.

Team scores: Centralia 183.5, Castle Rock 130.5, Fife 127, East Valley Yakima 110.5, Mountain View 94.5, RA Long 91, Mark Morris 82.5, Knappa 56, Clatskanie 41, Woodland 15.



AP Photo/Alessandro Trovati

Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States loses her balance during a World Cup giant slalom in San Vigilio di Marebbe, Italy.

Shiffrin opens up on struggles in recent races

By **ANDREW DAMPP**
Associated Press

SAN VIGILIO DI MAREBBE, Italy — Mikaela Shiffrin doesn't need to look at social media to see what people are saying about her.

After failing to finish two straight races with next month's Pyeongchang Olympics rapidly approaching, the overall World Cup leader knows what her critics are thinking.

"I can see it in my mind, 'Mikaela Shiffrin faltering before the Olympics.' And, 'The streak is coming to an end,'" Shiffrin said Tuesday after an uncharacteristic fall in the first run of a giant slalom. "But I'm not really worried about what other people think. That's a different place that I'm in this year compared to last year.

"I'm not invincible. I'm fighting every single race and you start to hear people say, 'It's boring because Mikaela is winning everything.' Well, it's not boring today," Shiffrin said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I am in a good place mentally and I don't feel like today or the race in Cortina (Sunday's super-G, in

which she missed a gate) is a sign. There are logical explanations for why I DNF'd in both races."

In the GS, Shiffrin lost control of her inside ski coming around a turn as she entered the toughest section of a slope named Erta, which translates as steep. With a gradient of 61 percent in that section, Shiffrin slid a long way down the course but immediately got up and was not injured.

"These things happen," said Jeff Lackie, one of Shiffrin's coaches. "They don't typically happen with Mikaela because she's so consistent. But anytime you add speed you have to be that much more diligent about being well balanced over the outside ski."

It marked the first time in more than six years that Shiffrin failed to finish two consecutive races. The last time came in back-to-back slaloms in Courchevel, France, and Flachau, Austria, in December 2011 — before the American registered her first World Cup podium.

"Now is a good time if it has to happen," Lackie said. "I would rather it happen now and give her the opportunity to

recalibrate and refocus."

Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany returned from two weeks in bed with the flu to claim her third win of the season, while Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway and defending champion Federica Brignone of Italy came second and third, respectively, at the Kronplatz resort.

Shiffrin had been undefeated this year in the technical disciplines of GS, slalom and parallel slalom with five straight wins. And while she has been dominant in slalom with seven wins in eight races this season, she has only won two of six GS races — with Rebensburg and Brignone gathering the other victories.

"There are many strong girls in the GS races," Rebensburg said "It's not just (Shiffrin)."

Still, Shiffrin was distraught after her error, retreating immediately to the team hotel without first stopping to review the race with her mother and coach, Eileen, as she usually does.

"I don't think she should be too disappointed," Eileen Shiffrin said. "She made a mistake getting on her inside ski. I'm sure she won't do that again."

Murray's 38 points lead Nuggets over Trail Blazers

By **MICHAEL KELLY**
Associated Press

DENVER — Jamal Murray showed he can be the closer the Denver Nuggets have been looking for all season.

The second-year guard scored a career-high 38 points, including a go-ahead three-point play in the final minute, and Denver beat the Portland Trail Blazers 104-101 on Monday night.

After a solid rookie season, Murray has emerged as a leader this year on a team that lacks a go-to player in the fourth quarter. He embraced that role Monday in a game the Nuggets needed.

"Jamal Murray's a guy that can make (shots) throughout the game but he can also make big plays down the stretch," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "It's great to see a young, 20-year-old guard, second year in the NBA, who's not afraid of the moment."

Nikola Jokic had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Will Barton hit four free throws in the final 10 seconds to secure the win and spoil Jusuf Nurkic's return to Denver.

The Nuggets had lost six of eight.



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

Portland Trail Blazers guard Shabazz Napier and Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray drive the lane to the rim in the first half of Monday's game in Denver.

"We needed this win," Murray said. "It was a division game and we had lost a few in a row. To come out here at home and get this W, it's going to get us back started again."

Nurkic had 19 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks in his first game back at Pepsi Center. Damian Lillard had 25

points and seven assists for Portland.

Nurkic played two-plus seasons with the Nuggets to begin his career, and was playing his first game in Denver since getting dealt to Portland last season. He received a smattering of boos when he was introduced as a starter and a few during the game.

Seahawks part ways with defensive assistant Jones

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The Seattle Seahawks have "mutually parted ways" with defensive assistant coach Travis Jones after five seasons with the team.

The Seahawks announced the decision Monday. Jones served as Seattle's defensive line coach from 2013-16 and moved into a defensive assistant role with the team for the 2017 season.

Jones, 45, joined Seattle the year the Seahawks won the Super Bowl with the best defense in the NFL. Before joining the Seahawks, Jones spent five seasons as a coach with the New Orleans Saints.

Clint Hurtt was Seattle's defensive line coach in 2017.

Jones is the fifth member of Seattle's coaching staff from the 2017 season that will not be returning.