

SPORTS

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Athletes of the Week



SAM HEMSLEY
 Astoria

The Daily Astorian

Hitting key baskets and scoring off steals, Hemsley sparked Astoria's 41-30 win Jan. 19 over Seaside at the Brick House. It was Astoria's first victory in the Clatsop Clash series since February 2012, and snapped a streak of 11 straight Seaside wins. Seaside held a 13-5 lead midway through the second quarter, but Astoria finished the first half with a 9-1 run, capped by Sam Hemsley's bank shot in the closing seconds. The junior guard led Astoria with a game-high 15 points. The Lady Fishermen are ranked 12th in the state at the 4A level.



XANH QUANG

CAM'RON GRAHAM

James Graham/For The Daily Astorian

The two Clatsop County martial arts competitors, both 10 years old, brought home four medals from the Ground Warrior Submission Challenge, held Jan. 20 at the Salem Armory. Quang won a gold medal in the No-Gi division, and a third-place bronze in the Gi competition. Graham was second (silver medal) in the No-Gi category, and took home a bronze in the Gi division. Both Graham and Quang have been competing for just over a year. No-Gi Submission Grappling is a popular alternative to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. It is similar to Jiu-Jitsu, but without wearing a Gi (kimono), where the goal is to obtain a submission using submission holds.

Jones, Thome, Guerrero and Hoffman elected to baseball Hall

By **BEN WALKER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Over 600 home runs. More than 600 saves. A .300 career average.

In the age of baseball analytics, there's still room in the Hall of Fame for big, round numbers you can count on.

Chipper Jones, Jim Thome, Vladimir Guerrero and Trevor Hoffman were rewarded Wednesday, easily elected in the newest class headed for Cooperstown.

"I don't know how you tabulate or calculate WAR," Jones said, referring to a sabermetric stat that didn't exist for much of his career.

"Yes, you can dig deeper," he said. But he added: "What I want to see is batting average, on-base percentage, runs produced."

Designated hitter Edgar Martinez came close after a grassroots campaign to promote him. Boosted by advanced metrics, he'll get his last chance on the ballot next year.

Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, both tainted by the steroids scandal, edged up but again fell far short.

A switch-hitter who batted .303 with 468 home runs, Jones was an eight-time All-Star third baseman for the Atlanta Braves.

He was a force for most of the Atlanta teams that won 14 straight division titles — his election put another member of those Braves clubs in the Hall, along with pitchers John Smoltz, Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux, manager Bobby Cox and general manager John Schuerholz.

Of the four new members, Jones was the only one to win a World Series. He joined Ken Griffey Jr. as the lone overall No. 1 draft picks to reach the Hall.



AP Photo/Craig Mitchell/Idyer

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard dribbles against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Lillard scores 31 and Blazers beat Timberwolves 123-114

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard figured Portland's 43-point third quarter against Minnesota might be the best span for the Blazers in recent memory.

Lillard had 31 points a day after getting his third All-Star nod and the Trail Blazers beat the Timberwolves 123-114 on Wednesday night.

He called that third quarter a "showcase." It was the most points Portland has had in a single quarter all season. "When we watch film and when we're in training camp and stuff like that, if we could just watch that whole quarter, they'd say, 'This is how we want to play, this is how we need to move, this is how the ball needs to screen, this is the pace we need to have. And what's going to allow us to do that is defending the way we did,'" said Lillard, who had 13 of his points during the period.

CJ McCollum added 28 points in Portland's seventh straight win at home, longest streak of the season. Lillard made six 3-pointers and the Blazers had 17 3s in the game, one shy of their season high.

UP NEXT: BLAZERS

• Portland Trail Blazers (26-22)
 at Dallas Mavericks (16-32)
 • Friday, 5:30 p.m. TV: NSNW

Andrew Wiggins had 24 points for the Timberwolves, who had won seven of their last nine games but trailed by 19 points early in the fourth quarter.

Lillard was named as an All-Star reserve Tuesday. He also spoke to reporters before the game about making the team after being snubbed in past years. "It's not my first All-Star game. But I did have to make this one happen. Everybody knows that the last two years I felt like I should have made it and I didn't. But I just had to keep on playing, stay with it and stay positive," he said.

Minnesota didn't have Jimmy Butler, who missed a third straight game with a sore right knee. Jamal Crawford returned after missing two games with a strained big toe on his left foot.

"We've got to be able to play through any situation," Karl-Anthony Towns said. "Jimmy's an amazing player, one of the best in the league so

when you lose him it puts a huge task at hand for us but we've got to be able to go out there next man up and get the job done."

The Timberwolves were coming off a 126-118 victory over the Clippers in Los Angeles on Monday night. Wiggins scored a season-high 40 points in the win that snapped a four-game road skid.

The Trail Blazers lost 104-101 in Denver on Tuesday, snapping a three-game winning streak.

Minnesota led by eight points early, but Lillard's 3-pointer got the Blazers within 27-25 late in the opening quarter. Portland finally caught up with the Timberwolves at the end of the half, pulling into a 54-all tie after Al-Farouq Aminu's 3-pointer and a pair of free throws from Lillard.

Lillard and Aminu each hit 3-pointers to push Portland's lead to 63-60. Aminu's dunk extended it to 76-68 midway through the third quarter. Lillard's two 3s put the Blazers up 88-74.

"We played the kind of game we wanted to play, from the effort standpoint and focus," Lillard said.

The Timberwolves won the first two meetings of this season's series, both at home.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

No DH in the lineup: Martinez falls short of Hall induction

SEATTLE — Edgar Martinez toiled for six years in the minors before finally becoming a major league regular in 1989.

He certainly knows all about waiting — and his bid for the Baseball Hall of Fame has been no different.

The former Seattle Mariners designated hitter and third baseman fell short again Wednesday, finishing with 70.4 percent of the vote in his ninth try. Players need 75 percent from the Baseball Writers' Association of America to make it to Cooperstown, and next year will be Martinez's last on the ballot.

But it was the second consecutive year that yielded a significant jump for Martinez in his attempt to join Frank Thomas as the only inducted players who were primarily designated hitters.

"Getting 70.4 percent is a big improvement and all I can think right now is that it's looking good for next year," Martinez said on a conference call about 90 minutes after the announcement that he wasn't included in the class of 2018. "It would have been great to get in this year, but it looks good for next year."

Woods confident his back will hold out this time

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods is more confident than ever that his return to the PGA Tour will be different this time.

It's not so much how he plays, but rather for how long.

"I have no more pain in my back," Woods said Wednesday.

That wasn't the case a year ago. Woods was coming off the longest break of his career following two back surgeries when he played the Hero World Challenge and showed promise by making 24 birdies against an 18-man field with no cut. But then he missed the 36-hole cut at Torrey Pines, and lasted one round in Dubai before withdrawing with back spasms.

Fusion surgery on his lower back followed two months later, and now Woods is on the same track as he was last year — with one exception.

"I was trying to manage the disk and the vertebrae," Woods said after his pro-am round in the Farmers Insurance Open. "But it's all finished now. It's fused, and the quality of life is infinitely better than it was last year at this point."

— *Associated Press*

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Girls basketball — Knappa at Vernonia, 6 p.m.

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

FRIDAY

Boys basketball — Banks at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Tillamook at Seaside, 6 p.m.; Warrenton at Catlin Gabel, 6 p.m.; Ilwaco at North Beach, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball — Banks at Astoria, 7:45 p.m.; Tillamook at Seaside, 7:45 p.m.; Warrenton at Catlin Gabel, 7:45 p.m.

SATURDAY

Girls basketball — Ilwaco at North Beach, 7 p.m.; Lake Quinalt at Naselle, 7 p.m.