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# SPORTS

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## Athletes of the Week



**CLAIRE BUSSERT**  
 Warrenton

Claire Bussert

**I**n a 42-37 win over Portland Adventist Jan. 23, Bussert made two free throws with 2:29 left for the eventual winning points. The junior guard scored a team-high 18 points. In the next game, she scored 18 points with five assists in a 53-27 win vs. Catlin Gabel. Bussert recently tied the school record for most assists in a game (11), equaling marks by Brooke Bridgens (1995) and Meredith Claterbos (2003). She also tied the school record for steals in a game, with 12 against Waldport (tying Jordane Marxer, 2008).



**PAYTON WESTERHOLM**  
 Seaside

The Daily Astorian

**W**ith his backcourt teammate (Chase Januik) out with a fractured wrist, Westerholm stepped up and scored 29 points, to go with 11 rebounds and 10 assists, in an 87-84 overtime win against Tillamook Jan. 26. The junior guard was 10-for-15 from the field and 9-of-12 at the free throw line. He recorded the triple-double even after finishing the first half with four fouls.

## Astoria girls score road win at Scappoose

The Daily Astorian

**SCAPPOOSE** — The Astoria girls basketball team completed the first half of the league season with a win Wednesday night, a 38-25 decision at Scappoose.

Sam Hemsley and Brooklynn Hankwitz scored seven points apiece for the Lady Fishermen, who made their final Cowapa League visit to Scappoose.

Astoria overcame a rough night from the field to improve to 3-2, alone in third place in the league standings behind Banks and Valley Catholic. The Lady Fish begin the second half of league play Friday with a big game at Valley Catholic, the second of three straight road trips for Astoria.

The Fishermen outscored Scappoose 21-10 over the second and third quarters in Wednesday's game.

## Scappoose rallies to top Astoria boys

The Daily Astorian

**SCAPPOOSE** — Two teams looking for their first league win of the season met on the court Wednesday night at Scappoose, where the Indians hosted Astoria for the last time as members of the same league.

Scappoose — which will be competing at the Class 5A level next year — scored their first league victory of the season, 55-47 over the Fishermen.

Karsten Johnson scored 18 points to pace Astoria, which held a 14-6 lead after one quarter.

"We played well again — we just didn't take care of some of the little things down the stretch," said Astoria coach Kevin Goin. "And we had to foul, and (the Indians) made their free throws."

Scappoose finished 16-of-24 at the line, to Astoria's 5-for-6.

Isaac Brockman was in foul trouble early, but still had 10 points for the Fishermen, who were outscored 19-9 in the second quarter. Astoria won the first period scoring, 11-10, to take a 36-35 lead going into the final quarter.

Chris Bendle led Scappoose with 21 points.

It's a short break for the Fishermen, who travel Friday to Valley Catholic.



AP Photo/Felipe Dana

**Matthieu Reeb, Secretary General of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, speaks during a press conference about Russian athletes who are challenging the decisions taken by the International Olympic Committee.**

## 28 Russian athletes have Olympic doping bans lifted

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH  
 Associated Press

**M**OSCOW — Twenty-eight Russian athletes had their Olympic doping bans overturned Thursday, throwing the International Olympic Committee's policy on the country into turmoil.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling was set to reinstate seven Russian medals from the 2014 Sochi Olympics, including gold in men's skeleton and men's 50-kilometer cross-country skiing.

"This does not mean that these 28 athletes are declared innocent, but in their case, due to insufficient evidence, the appeals are upheld, the sanctions annulled and their individual results achieved in Sochi are reinstated," CAS secretary general Matthieu Reeb said in Pyeongchang.

The IOC said it had taken note of the CAS decision "with satisfaction on the one hand and disappointment on the other," adding the decision "may have a serious impact on the future fight against doping."

The 28 who had their bans lifted could now seek late entry into the Pyeongchang Olympics, but the IOC said "not being sanctioned does not automatically confer the privilege of an invitation."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the ruling "can't fail to please us, and it confirms our position that the overwhelming majority of our athletes are clean athletes."

However, Putin also called for respect for the IOC, saying in com-

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ments reported by state news agency RIA Novosti that "there should not be any euphoria from our side and we need to be calm about this."

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko said at a televised cabinet meeting that the government would back further legal action to allow the athletes to compete in Pyeongchang "if the IOC does not accept them."

Eleven more Russians were ruled to have been guilty of doping but had lifetime bans imposed by an IOC disciplinary panel two months ago cut to a ban only from the Pyeongchang Games, which open next week.

In the urgent verdicts announced Thursday, the two CAS judging panels who heard 39 appeal cases last week in Geneva — and took testimony from Russian whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov — did not give detailed reasons.

"In 28 cases, the evidence collected was found to be insufficient to establish that an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) was committed by the athletes concerned," the sports court said in a statement.

CAS said it "unanimously found that the evidence put forward by the IOC in relation to this matter did not have the same weight in each indi-

vidual case."

The 11 whose appeals were rejected came from men's bobsled, women's cross-country skiing and women's hockey.

They included two-time bobsled gold medalist Alexander Zubkov. His re-tested samples had abnormal levels of salt, suggesting his tainted urine was swapped in the Sochi testing laboratory with previously stored clean urine, as Rodchenkov said.

Still, the CAS rulings will be seen as a victory for Russia, which has long denied it ran a state-backed doping program.

"It's a big victory for them and I'm relieved that justice has finally been done," Philippe Baertsch, a lawyer for the athletes, told The Associated Press. "This confirms what they've been saying since Day 1, namely that they are and they've always been clean athletes, and that they were wrongly sanctioned without any evidence."

The IOC has already invited 169 Russians to the Pyeongchang Olympics to compete under a neutral flag, but may now be forced to allow in athletes it deems dopers, eight days before the games begin.

"We do hope that the IOC will grant them the right to participate in Pyeongchang," Baertsch said in a telephone interview. "I think that the least the IOC could do is allow them to participate, so we will request that they are allowed to participate, and depending on the answer of the IOC, we will take the measures that are necessary."

## McCullum scores 50 in 3 quarters, Blazers beat Bulls 124-108

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
 Associated Press

**PORTLAND** — CJ McCollum had inspiration for his 50-point game: His 92-year-old great aunt was visiting Portland for the first time.

He gave her quite a show.

McCullum scored a franchise-record 28 points in the first quarter before finishing with a career-high 50 through three, and the Portland Trail Blazers took advantage of the short-handed Chicago Bulls for a 124-108 victory Wednesday night.

"During the game I was thinking, she probably thinks this is a really good game to come to," he said, laughing.

McCullum's 28 points in the opening quarter were the most by an NBA player this season. His final tally was nine points shy of the team record set by Damian Lillard last season.

"I'm not into chasing records, man. I just want to win," McCollum said. "Even throughout the game, I looked up and I was like, I can get 40. And then Ed (Davis) was like, 'No, you need 50.' And Dame was like, 'Get 50.' So I was like, 'OK, I'll get 50 if you guys want me to.'"

Lillard also sat out the final period after adding 13 points and seven assists for the Blazers, who led by as many as 29. It was Portland's fourth straight win overall, a season high, and the club's eighth in a row at home.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

**Girls basketball** — Knappa at Faith Bible, 6 p.m.; Livingstone Adventist at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.

**Boys basketball** — Knappa at Faith Bible, 7:45 p.m.; Livingstone Adventist at Jewell, 7 p.m.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

**Scappoose 55, Astoria 47**  
 Astoria 14 9 11 11—47  
 Scappoose 6 19 10 20—55  
**AST (47):** Karsten Johnson 18, Brockman 10, Hunt 9, Olson 8, Tice 2, Long, Stenblom.  
**SCP (55):** Chris Bendle 21, Toman 11, Wagenknecht 8, McNabb 6, Verbut 5, Logan 2, McKedy 2, Maller.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

**Astoria 38, Scappoose 25**  
 Astoria 9 9 12 8—38  
 Scappoose 7 4 6 8—25  
**AST (38):** Sam Hemsley 7, Brooklynn Hankwitz 7, Rogers 5, Norris 5, Jackson 4, Cummings 3, Fausett 3, Helmersen 2, O'Brien 2, Long.  
**SCP (25):** Kaylee Wegner 10, Kopra 4, Wills 4, Brodala 3, Fisher 2, Stafford 2.