

# SPORTS

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## Athletes of the Week



**CHLOEE HUNT**  
 Evergreen College

Evergreen State College

The graduate of Astoria High School is in her junior year at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. A middle blocker with the Geoducks, Hunt earned both offensive and defensive Player of the Week honors for the Cascade Conference following two wins last week. She set an Evergreen school record with 12 total blocks in a four-game upset Sept. 8 over Corban. She also had 13 kills and four blocks in a three-game sweep Sept. 7 over Northwest Christian, and followed with 12 kills in the win over Corban.



**ELI TAKALO**  
 Knappa

Krissy Barendse-Goodman/For The Daily Astorian

The junior quarterback has led the Loggers to a No. 4 ranking through two games. In his first varsity start Aug. 31 vs. Grant Union, Takalo threw three touchdown passes and ran for another. At Toledo in week 2 (Sept. 7), he accounted for eight touchdowns, as he ran for six and threw for two more. He finished with 184 yards rushing on just 18 carries. The leading early candidate for the Northwest League Player of the Year had a 40-yard TD run vs. Grant Union, and scoring runs of 31 and 30 yards against Toledo.

## Coaches give Knappa two votes for first place

The Daily Astorian

One day after the Seaside football team picked up two first-place votes in the 4A coaches poll, the Knappa Loggers earned two first-place votes in the 2A coaches poll, released Wednesday.

The Loggers are ranked fourth overall, behind Kennedy, Santiam and Monroe.

The class 2A coaches poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, followed by overall points:

1. Kennedy (7)	162
2. Santiam (6)	149
3. Monroe (1)	133
4. Knappa (2)	127
5. Coquille	76
6. Lost River (1)	57
7. Neah-Kah-Nie	52
8. Central Linn	49
9. Portland Christian	45
10. Illinois Valley	33

**Others receiving votes:** Heppner 28, Colton 18, Sheridan 16, Glide 12, Grant Union 12, Jefferson 12.

## Padres top free-falling Mariners

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Padres opened their bullpen gate and slammed the door on the Mariners' chances of a comeback.

Four San Diego relievers set a franchise record by striking out nine consecutive batters, preserving a two-run lead in the Padres' 5-4 victory over Seattle on Wednesday.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

**Volleyball** — North Marion at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Corbett at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Portland Christian at Knappa, 6:30 p.m.; C.S. Lewis at Jewell, 6 p.m.

**Girls soccer** — Seaside at St. Helens, 4:30 p.m.

**Boys soccer** — Oregon Episcopal at Seaside, 7:15 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

**Football** — Estacada at Astoria, 7 p.m.; Gladstone at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Taft at Knappa, 7 p.m.; Portland Christian at Warrenton, 7 p.m.; McKenzie at Jewell, 5 p.m.; Chief Leschi at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

**Volleyball** — Astoria at Dallas tournament, TBA; Warrenton, Knappa at Vernonia tournament, TBA

**Girls soccer** — Astoria at Cottage Grove, 1:30 p.m.

**Boys soccer** — Cottage Grove at Astoria, 2 p.m.



AP Photos/Nick Wass

Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart holds the trophy with her teammates after the clinching win Wednesday.

## Stewart, Storm surge past the Mystics 98-82 for WNBA title

By BENJAMIN STANDIG

Associated Press

**E**AIRFAX, Va. — Sue Bird and Breanna Stewart fretted following the regular-season opener after the Seattle Storm lost at home to the Phoenix Mercury.

"We thought, 'Oh, crap, what kind of year is this going to be?'" Bird reminisced.

The answer came nearly four months later with a championship.

Stewart led the Storm to their third WNBA title Wednesday night, scoring 30 points in a 98-82 victory over the Washington Mystics in Game 3 of the best-of-five series.

Natasha Howard added career-high 29 points and 14 rebounds for the Storm. Seattle won 26 games during the regular season — 11 more than the 2017 campaign — entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed, and swept the finals.

Stewart was the league MVP and was selected the Finals MVP after averaging 25.6 points in the three games. She scored 17 points in the first half as the Storm raced to a 47-30 lead.

"Stewart was just amazing," Storm coach Dan Hughes said. "She truly was the MVP of this league. She truly was the MVP of these Finals. God blessed me with an opportunity to coach her and I will be forever grateful."



Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart, back, celebrates and hugs guard Sue Bird.

Bird, also a member of a Seattle's championship teams in 2004 and 2010, was certainly appreciative of the title — and the growth of the Storm's younger players. Seattle landed Jewell Loyd and Stewart, both All-Stars in 2018 with Bird, with the No. 1 overall picks in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

"Each (championship) is special in its own way, but this one is probably going to have a different meaning for me," said the 37-year-old point guard who had 10 points and 10 assists. "There is probably no com-

parison to be honest. I didn't know if I'd be playing at this point. Our team went through a rebuild and yes, I decided to stay. Once we got Stewart and Jewell, we knew we'd get to the other side, but how do you know you're going to get to the other side this fast?"

The coach sensed something brewing early in his first year with the franchise. Following the Phoenix loss, Seattle won five in a row.

"I think this was our year," Hughes said. "All year you could just see the escalation."

## Oregon State's Jefferson makes a splash among Pac-12 RBs

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
 Associated Press

There's already a somewhat surprising development early in the Pac-12 season. The top two backs aren't named Love and Gaskin, but instead Jefferson and Pierce. And they're from Oregon State.

Yes, they're Beavers.

The Pac-12's 2018 class of running backs is unquestionably led by Stanford's Bryce Love, a Heisman finalist last year who returned for his senior year. Washington's Myles Gaskin came back for another season, too. Utah's Zack Moss is also considered a rusher to watch this fall.

But a pair of Beavers — Jermar Jefferson and Artavis Pierce — lead the Pac-12 in average yards in the early going. That's notable considering Oregon State's opening opponent was Ohio State.

Pierce, who ran for 168 yards and two touchdowns in the loss to the Buckeyes, injured his elbow in the Beavers' 48-25 victory over Southern Utah last Saturday. A junior, Pierce was widely considered the heir apparent to Ryan Nall, who decided to skip his final season at Oregon State and go pro.

Pierce is out for some four weeks, a blow to a team that won just one game last season.

But the Beavers may be OK without him for the time being, thanks to Jefferson.

The freshman from Harbor City, California, near Los Angeles, took the game over after Pierce went down and ran for 238 yards and four touchdowns. The only two Beavers in school history with more yards in a game were Bill Enyart, who holds the record with 299 in a game in 1968, and Steven Jackson, with 239 in a game in 2002.

"It's crazy. It's crazy," Jefferson told reporters afterward. "It's a big experience."



Andy Cripe/Corvallis Gazette-Times

Oregon State's Jermar Jefferson carries the ball against Southern Utah during Saturday's game in Corvallis.