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Gulls reach top spot in poll

The Daily Astorian

It's official — football coaches at the Class 4A level agree that the state title — for now — goes through Seaside.

The Gulls were voted as the No. 1 team in the state, with the majority of the first-place votes (seven).

Seaside is ranked ahead of Marshfield, Banks and Mazama. The Gulls host Astoria this week (Friday, 7 p.m.) at Broadway Field. Seaside is ranked second behind Estacada in the latest OSAA RPI rankings.

The coaches poll is voted on by participating coaches at the 4A level, and presented by OSAA today, at osaa.org.

The 4A coaches poll, with first-place votes in parentheses:

1. Seaside (7)	115
2. Marshfield (4)	109
3. Banks	84
4. Mazama (1)	75
5. Gladstone	55
6. Cottage Grove	47
7. Estacada	45
8. Marist	27
9. Newport	19
10. North Marion	17

Others receiving votes: Woodburn 14.

Willamina scores upset over Warrenton

The Daily Astorian

WILLAMINA — The first-ever league meeting between the Warrenton and Willamina volleyball teams went to the Bulldogs.

Willamina scored the surprise three-game victory (25-18, 25-23, 25-19) over the No. 14-ranked Warriors Tuesday night, in Willamina's first official match as a member of the new Coastal Range League.

Willamina improves to 3-7 overall, while the Warriors drop to 1-1 in league, 5-2 overall.

The Warriors have a quick turnaround, as Warrenton travels to Rainier for a league match Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD
PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE
TODAY
Volleyball — Warrenton at Rainier, 6 p.m.
THURSDAY
Volleyball — Banks at Astoria, 6:30 p.m.; Valley Catholic at Seaside, 6:30 p.m.; Knappa at Portland Christian, 6:30 p.m.; Jewell at Perrydale, 6 p.m.
Girls soccer — Astoria at Seaside, 5:45 p.m.
Boys soccer — Astoria at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.



Ellisa Blodgett, right, spikes the ball on the Astoria defense for the Seagulls. Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Astoria volleyball team outlasts Seaside

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Astoria and Seaside kicked off “Clatsop Clash Week” with volleyball action Tuesday night, as the Gulls hosted the Fishermen in a key Cowapa League opener at the Gulls’ Nest.

And Astoria posted the first win of rivalry week, with a thrilling, five-game marathon victory over Seaside, 21-25, 25-17, 23-25, 25-21, 15-6.

The two teams will meet again Oct. 4 in Astoria.

Meanwhile, Tuesday’s match was destined to go five games.

Two teams that pride themselves on conditioning, endurance and “going the distance,” indeed went the distance.

For what it’s worth, the Lady Fishermen had a little extra at the end of this one.

“I knew there was a possibility of this going five games,” said Astoria coach Jessie Todd. “It’s a rivalry match, emotions are high, and you know everybody is going to be playing out of their mind.”

But, “just like the North Marion match (Sept. 13, a five-game Astoria win), we pride ourselves on conditioning and being able to last that long.”

Game 1 featured nine ties, before Seaside snapped a 20-20 deadlock by going on a 5-1 run to close out the set.

For the final three points, Gulls’ senior Tori Tomlin had a monster kill down the right line, another down the center of the court, then an off-speed kill from teammate

Ellisa Blodgett gave Seaside the one-game lead.

The Gulls took their momentum and built an early 5-2 lead in Game 2, before Astoria stormed back and tied it at 5-5, then took the lead on an ace serve from Hailey O’Brien and never looked back.

Astoria’s lead reached 19-11, before O’Brien and Halle Helmersen served up aces down the stretch to even the match at one game apiece.

Seaside had six missed serves over the first two games, while the Fishermen were perfect from the service line ... until Game 3.

The Gulls were running away with the third game, building a 12-3 lead.

But Astoria went on two big rallies sparked by the serving of O’Brien and Julia Norris.

With the Fishermen trailing 24-18, Norris stepped to the line and served up five straight points to bring Astoria to within 24-23.

But her sixth serve was off the mark, and only the second missed serve of the night for the Fishermen gave Seaside the final point for a two games-to-one lead.

Norris made up for it in Game 4, however.

With Seaside leading 19-16 and ready to close out the match, Norris went on a jump-serving tear, serving Astoria into a 21-19 lead. Kes Sandstrom highlighted the rally with a power kill at the net.

An ace serve from Sandstrom helped close out the game for Astoria, and the two rivals went to a fifth game.

And in a game that featured just

two ties (1-1 and 3-3), the Fishermen caught fire and went on a decisive 8-2 run, sparked by the serving of Emilli DeLong.

O’Brien added a kill from the back row, helping Astoria to an 11-4 lead.

Seaside added two more points, but two attack errors late in the game gave the Fishermen their final two points to close out the match.

“It was exciting,” Todd said, adding that serves helped save the day. Astoria had 17 ace serves on the night, led by O’Brien and Sandstrom with four apiece.

“Julia, Hailey, and even Kes and Emilli all did a great job,” she said. “They’ve really worked well on picking their spots and determining where to put the ball. Julia puts a nice, aggressive top spin on her serves.”

Sandstrom also had 10 kills for “a nice hitting night,” Todd said, which wasn’t easy against the Seaside block.

“They’re tall, they jump well and they really read hitters well,” she said of the Gulls.

Kajsa Jackson had six blocks for Astoria, while “Hailey played some great defense,” Todd said. “She’s really settling into her libero role, and picking up balls that no one expects her too. Seaside was celebrating a few times, then Hailey came up with some great digs (34 for the match).”

Astoria returns to the Brick House for a match with Banks on Thursday, while the Gulls host Valley Catholic, also Thursday.

Junior varsity: Astoria def. Seaside, 25-23, 27-25, 23-25, 15-8.

Knappa volleyball scores first league win

The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — Knappa snapped a three-match losing streak with a four-game victory Tuesday night at home, 25-21, 17-25, 25-17, 25-22, over Faith Bible.

The Loggers (1-3 in league) picked up their first Northwest League win of the season, improving to 4-7 overall while Faith Bible drops to 0-5 in league, 1-8 overall.

All four games were tight, said Knappa coach Jeff Kaul, with multiple lead changes in the first two games.

The Loggers led Game 3 19–11, then eventually picked up the win, despite a late rally by the Falcons.

The fourth game was tied at 17-17, when Knappa’s Aiko Miller reeled off four straight service points for a 21-17 advantage.

Faith Bible made one last rally, tying the game at 22-22, before the Loggers went on a 3-0 to finish the game and the match.

Miller was 16-for-17 serving, and also had 25 digs.

Sophia Carlson led the Logger offense with 11 kills to go with 16 digs, while Kourtney Tischer had 15 assists. Hannah Dietrichs added five kills and Vicki Ramvick was 19-for-20 serving, with three aces and six blocks.

“Overall a solid effort tonight by the Lady Loggers,” Kaul said. “We will need to come up with a good plan for Thursday’s game against Portland Christian,” winners of seven straight matches and ranked fourth in the state.

Gonzalez’s homer helps the Astros down Mariners

Associated Press

HOUSTON — If rookie Josh James keeps throwing this way, he might just pitch himself onto Houston’s postseason roster.

James struck out seven and scattered four hits over 5 1/3 innings to help the Astros to a 7-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night for his first major league win.

Houston eliminated the Mariners from AL West contention and moved five games in front of second-place Oakland, which lost 9-7 at home to the Angels.

It was just the second start and fourth career appearance for the 25-year-old James (1-0), who made his debut on Sept. 1. He has a 2.81 ERA with 24 strikeouts.

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