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SPORTS IN BRIEF

VOLLEYBALL

Knappa sweeps City Christian

KNAPPA — Knappa posted its second league win of the season Tuesday night, as the Lady Loggers scored a sweep over visiting City Christian, 25-12, 25-17, 25-14, in Northwest League volleyball action.

Knappa’s Kourtney Tischer set the tone from the service line, where she was 12-for-13.

Teammates Aiko Miller and Vicki Ramvick combined for 13 ace serves, with additional strong play at the net from Sophia Carlson, Hannah Dietrichs and Ramvick. The three combined for 14 kills.

Ramvick was 13-of-16 serving, with seven aces. Miller added nine digs and six ace serves.

Megan Hellberg, Taylin Regier and Raven Corcoran added an additional eight kills.

Knappa hosts Vernonia on Thursday.

Tillamook defeats Astoria

TILLAMOOK — The Astoria volleyball team took a tough loss on the road Tuesday night at Tillamook.

The Cheesemakers scored the four-game, Cowapa League victory, 25-15, 24-26, 25-16, 25-13.

The Lady Fishermen could have pulled into a second-place tie with Tillamook. Instead, Valley Catholic and the Cheesemakers are tied for first at 2-0, followed by Astoria and Banks at 1-2.

Astoria hosts Valley Catholic in another key league match Thursday.

— *The Daily Astorian*

Herrmann homer lifts Mariners over A’s, gives Astros AL West

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Oakland Athletics knew they’d been fortunate to get this deep in the season without seeing their bullpen blow a late lead.

It finally happened on Tuesday night, and in the process wrapped up the AL West title for the Houston Astros and sent the A’s into a wild-card matchup with the New York Yankees.

Pinch-hitter Chris Herrmann’s two-run homer in the 11th inning capped Seattle’s late rally and gave the Mariners a 10-8 win over Oakland. Seattle overcame an 8-5 eighth-inning deficit and dropped the A’s 2½ games behind the Yankees for home-field advantage in the Oct. 3 winner-take-all matchup.

Oakland had been 68-0 when leading after seven innings.

“We have a lot of confidence we’re going to finish games, our bullpen is such a strength for us,” Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. “To go perfect through the course of a season is probably tough to do.”

Seattle’s rally started with Denard Span’s two-run double off Fernando Rodney in the eighth. Blake Treinen was one strike from closing out his 38th save in the ninth, but Nelson Cruz punched a two-out single, Ryon Healy reached when third baseman Matt Chapman bobbled his grounder for an error and Kyle Seager hit an RBI single. Treinen had allowed just one hit in his previous 13 appearances.

SCOREBOARD
PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE
TODAY
Volleyball — Jewell at Livingstone Adventist, 6 p.m.
THURSDAY
Volleyball — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 6:45 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 6:45 p.m.; Taft at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Vernonia at Knappa, 6:30 p.m.
Girls soccer — Tillamook at Astoria, 7:15 p.m.
Boys soccer — Astoria at Tillamook, 7:15 p.m.; Seaside at St. Helens, 4:30 p.m.

SPORTS



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Players get tangled up in front of the Astoria goal during a corner kick.

Astoria blanks Banks, 4-0

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Looking to end a four-game losing streak and turn their season around, the Astoria boys soccer team faced the perfect opponent for doing both Tuesday night at CMH Field.

The Banks Braves had lost five in a row coming into Tuesday’s contest, having been outscored 25-0 in the last four games (now 29-0 in their last five).

And Astoria’s 4-0 win sent the Braves down to their sixth straight defeat, while the Fishermen are back in the win column.

With just eight games on the Cowapa League schedule, every win is crucial.

The Fishermen controlled Tuesday’s game from start to finish.

Astoria scored its first goal just over four minutes into the match, as Aldo Cruz dribbled the ball in from the left side, beat a Banks defender and scored into the lower right of the net for a quick 1-0 lead.

Astoria’s Christian Medina-Perez made it 2-0 in the 10th minute. After the Braves nearly scored off a corner kick, a Fishermen attack that started from their very own baseline resulted in a goal for Medina-Perez, who took a long pass in from the right side from Jonathan Jimenez for a breakaway score.

The Fishermen took target practice at the Banks’ goal for the remainder of the first half.

A point-blank chance from Jimenez went over the crossbar, but Jimenez said to his teammates after the miss, “I’ll make up for it later guys.”

Which he did, scoring with 1:52 left in the first half, seconds after a free kick by Medina-Perez near midfield.

Banks goalkeeper Ryan Hiestand spent the night making big saves on other Astoria attempts, including second-half shots on goal from Dalton Byrd, Brooks Fromwiller, David Bermudez and Cruz.

Leo Matthews had additional close-range attempts that were knocked down by Hiestand.

Jimenez tacked on the fourth goal off a pass from Shrey Sharma with just 19 seconds remaining in the game to cap the night.

Astoria keeper Tony Tumbarello recorded the shutout in goal.

“That is very significant,” said Astoria coach Lee Cain. “Banks has a young, but hardworking team. I have to give them credit for that.

“We will not have this much time on the ball when we play Tillamook (Thursday), he said. “But tonight was a good night to sort out a lot of intra-squad relationships, and I think we will be ready.”

Seaside boys top the Valiants, 2-1

SEASIDE — Slowly getting back to full strength, the Seaside Gulls are rapidly climbing the 4A boys soccer state rankings.

And Seaside will undoubtedly climb a few more spots following a



David Bermudez, center, controls the ball for the Fishermen.

2-1 win over ninth-ranked Valley Catholic, in a Cowapa League showdown late Tuesday night at Broadway Field.

Senior Irving Contreras and sophomore Stephen Snyder scored goals for the defending league champion Gulls, who improve to 2-0 in league, 5-3 overall.

Seaside has a home contest next Tuesday vs. Tillamook, followed by four straight road games.

Valley Catholic Valiants on target in 9-0 win over Seaside girls

BEAVERTON — Defending state champion Valley Catholic played its first Cowapa League girls soccer match of the season Tuesday night at home vs. Seaside.

And the Valiants made a strong statement with a 9-0 win over the Gulls.

Valley Catholic was coming off a 2-1 nonleague loss to Scappoose last week, while Seaside dropped its third game in a row, following a pair of 2-1 losses to St. Helens and Astoria.

Up next, the Gulls (2-4-1 overall) play a nonleague game with North Bend. The contest is scheduled for Saturday (2 p.m.) at Newport High School.

In other Cowapa League action Tuesday, Banks defeated Astoria, 2-0.

Blazers look to shake off last season’s disappointing end

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Trail Blazers head into fall camp still stinging from last season’s first-round playoff sweep by New Orleans.

The trick now is not to overcorrect.

“You run the risk of overreacting to defeats, and maybe being blinded by victories,” coach Terry Stotts said. “I think it’s important that we learn from it, I don’t want our team to forget about it. I don’t want our team to forget about the feeling we had, not just after the series was over, but what we had to live through over the summer, and keep that edge. Hopefully, we use it as a learning experience.”

Portland returns the nucleus — Damian Lillard, CJ McCollum and



AP Photo/Steve Dykes
Portland Trail Blazers’ Damian Lillard poses during media day.

Jusuf Nurkic — of a team that went 49-33 last season. Apart from the early postseason exit, it was mostly considered a success.

Boosted by a 13-game winning

streak that started with a victory over the Golden State Warriors just before the All-Star break, the Blazers secured the third seed in the Western Conference. They clinched the Northwest Division title for the seventh time in franchise history and went to the playoffs for the fifth straight year.

Lillard again drove the team’s success. In March he averaged 27.9 points, 4.6 rebounds and 6.5 assists. He also set a franchise record by making 64 straight free throws. But New Orleans contained him in the playoffs. He averaged 18.5 points during the series, after scoring 26.9 per game during the regular season.

Lillard tried in the offseason to balance the positives and the negatives.

“I think I do a good job of plac-

ing my energy in the right place,” Lillard said. “I always look back and say, ‘I made another All-Star game, I was first-team All-NBA,’ that means I was one of the five best players last season. A lot went into that. ... It didn’t make up for it (the sweep) but it’s important that you acknowledge those other things.”

No sixth seed had ever swept a No. 3 in a best-of-seven series.

McCollum is focused on the future.

“You have to move on from it but it sticks in the back of your mind. It’s healthy to be upset. It’s healthy to go through that process of figuring out what you could have done better and watching film,” McCollum said. “And then you have to remove yourself from it because it’s the past.”