

SPORTS

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VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

No. 1 Valiants top Astoria

The Daily Astorian

BEAVERTON — Astoria faced No. 1-ranked Valley Catholic on the Valiants' home floor Tuesday night, in a Cowapa League volleyball match.

And while the Lady Fishermen finished strong, the state's No. 1-ranked team scored the victory, 25-16, 25-15, 27-25.

Coming off losses to Jesuit and West Linn in a tournament over the weekend, the Valiants returned to league play and won their seventh straight match, including their third in a row by a three-game sweep.

Astoria — rated 17th in the latest OSAA rankings — will finish in fourth place in the league standings at 2-6, and will now prepare for the regional play-in round, where the Lady Fishermen are hoping to host a match.

"It all depends on the rankings," said Astoria coach Jessie Todd. "Just playing Valley Catholic will help our RPI, so we're hoping to sneak in there and get a home match."

Meanwhile, "I thought our team really played well in the third game," she said. "We were jiving on all levels, making smart passes and good decisions."

Kes Sandstrom led Astoria with eight kills, followed by Kajsa Jackson with six. Hailey O'Brien had 36 digs and Halle Helmersen added 19. Taja-Rae Tuimato had a team-high nine assists.

Warrenton tops Taft, shares league title

TAFT — Everything came up Warrenton on the final night of league play in the Coastal Range League.

With the Warriors needing a win over Taft and a Rainier victory over Willamina to pull into a three-way tie for first, Warrenton got its wish with a sweep over Taft (25-18, 25-14, 25-18), while the Columbians defeated Willamina in five sets.

Rainier, Warrenton and Willamina all finish 6-2 in league play, for a share of the league championship.

There will be a tie-breaker playoff between the three teams, place and time to be announced.

Tillamook defeats Seaside on Gulls' Senior Night

SEASIDE — Tillamook scored a win on Senior Night at Astoria last week, and managed to repeat the feat Tuesday at Seaside.

While the Gulls honored their four seniors (Morgan Blodgett, Anna Huddleston, Madison Jensen and Tori Tom-



Astoria's Kajsa Jackson (No. 13), competing in a home match earlier this season against Seaside, had six kills in Tuesday's loss at Valley Catholic.

Jeff Ter Har/For The Daily Astorian

lin), the Cheesemakers left the Gulls' Nest with a three-game sweep, 25-7, 25-12, 25-8.

Seaside drops to 1-6 in league play with one match remaining (Thursday at Banks). The Gulls will still likely take part in the 4A regional play-in round.

"If we stay in the top 20, I like our chances," said Seaside coach Demi Lund, whose team was ranked 19th im-

mediately following Tuesday's match, with all five Cowapa League teams ranked in the top 20.

On the court, the Gulls were missing Huddleston, who rolled an ankle in last Saturday's tournament at Seaside.

"She's an all-around player who does a little bit of everything for us," Lund said. "She's our senior setter, and so we had players playing

out of position tonight, and I think there were some jitters out there, just not having our leader on the floor."

Knappa season ends at Nestucca

CLOVERDALE — The Knappa volleyball team held a

two-games-to-one edge at one point, but Nestucca rallied for a five-set win Tuesday night, 25-17, 20-25, 23-25, 25-18, 15-5, in a loser-out Northwest League playoff at Cloverdale.

Knappa finishes 9-11 overall.

In other NWL playoff action Tuesday, Portland Christian swept Neah-Kah-Nie, and Vernonia defeated Faith Bible.

SOCCER ROUNDUP

Astoria girls hold off short-handed Tillamook

The Daily Astorian

TILLAMOOK — The Astoria girls soccer team locked up third place in the Cowapa League standings with a 2-0 win at Tillamook late Monday night.

With one game remaining, the Lady Fishermen improve to 3-3-1 in league play.

Valley Catholic (6-0) and Banks (4-2-1) hold down the top two spots in the standings. The Braves host Seaside Oct. 23. Tillamook and Seaside are tied at 1-5 in league.

In the third minute of Monday's game, a Tillamook player was flagged with a red card and ejected from the game, leaving the Cheesemakers with just 10 players for the remainder of the contest.

Meghan O'Meara shot the

free kick, which bounced off the defensive wall of three Tillamook players right back to O'Meara, who placed the next kick into the upper corner of the goal for a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, Astoria had shots on goal from Libby Whitsett, Gracie Cummings, Hayley Kelley and Elle Espelien. Tillamook had just as many attacks, but solid defense by Andrea Harris, Brooklyn Zerangue, Espelien, Maddie Sisley and goalie Baylee McSwain kept the Cheesemakers scoreless.

Astoria's final goal came in the 88th minute, when Nara Van De Grift broke free and her shot on goal rebounded off the keeper right back to Taileigh Cole, who drove it in for the second goal.

Tillamook received one red card and three yellow, and

Astoria had one yellow card.

Astoria finishes the regular season tonight at Valley Catholic, before playoffs begin.

Astoria boys, Tillamook finish in 0-0 tie

The Tillamook and Astoria boys soccer teams battled to a 0-0 tie Tuesday night at CMH Field.

"It was a battle of defenses, and I think my guys really frustrated the Tillamook attack," said Astoria coach Lee Cain.

The Fishermen are 2-4-1 in league play, with one game remaining, Thursday at home vs. Valley Catholic. The Cheesemakers are 3-2-1, and host Seaside Thursday.

Power in North, chaos in South as Pac-12 reaches midseason



AP Photo/Thomas Boyd

Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert sets up for a touchback pass in Saturday's game against Washington in Eugene.

Associated Press

At the midway point of the college football season, the Pac-12 has already been eliminated from the College Football Playoff debate.

Washington has two losses. So does Stanford. Oregon is the highest-ranked team at No. 12 in the AP Top 25, but has a terrible resume for playoff consideration. And the South is absent from the rankings.

The North is where the power lies, with four teams — Oregon, Stanford, Washington State, Washington — all having a manageable path to winning the division title and a spot in the conference championship game.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE
TODAY
Girls soccer: Astoria at Valley Catholic, 7:15 p.m.
Cross-country: Seaside vs. Astoria, Cullaby Lake, TBA
THURSDAY

Volleyball — Seaside at Banks, 7 p.m.
Girls soccer — Tillamook at Seaside, 7:15 p.m.
Boys soccer — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 7:15 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY
Football — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 7 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 7 p.m.; Nestucca at Knappa, 7 p.m.; Gaston at Warrenton, 7 p.m.; Jewell at Triangle Lake, 6 p.m.; Raymond at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

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