

CONTACT US
 Gary Henley | Sports Reporter
 ghenley@dailyastorian.com

SPORTS

FOLLOW US
 facebook.com/
 DailyAstorianSports

Athletes of the Week



CLAIRE BUSSERT
 Warrenton

AVYREE MIETHE
 Warrenton

RYAN STUTZNEGGER
 Astoria

NIKO CARUANA
 Astoria

Warrenton volleyball

Brett Perez/For The Daily Astorian

The league MVP, Bussert sparked the Warriors to their three league play-off victories last week. She had four blocks and a block kill in the win Saturday at Rainier, and was the defensive star in a Thursday victory at Willamina. For the season, Bussert had 97 digs, 66 saves, 60 kills and 34 ace serves. Miethe, a freshman, hit at a 92 percent clip against the Columbians, with a team-high 19 kills to go with 21 digs and six saves.

Astoria's "Niko and Ryno" show, senior Niko Caruana and junior Ryan Stutznegger, were on the loose in last Friday's win over Valley Catholic that clinched third place in the Cowapa League standings. The Fishermen running back tandem combined for 277 yards rushing and three touchdowns on 45 attempts. Both scored touchdowns in the second quarter, and Caruana put the game away with a 6-yard TD run in the fourth.



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Gonzaga forward Rui Hachimura moves the ball against UNC-Greensboro during a first-round game in this year's NCAA tournament in Boise, Idaho.

No. 3 Gonzaga has deep and big team that's among its best

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Gonzaga this season marks the 20th anniversary of the run to the Elite Eight that first brought the Bulldogs to national prominence and it comes with coach Mark Few fielding what may be his best team ever.

Better even than the team that lost to North Carolina in the national title game two seasons ago.

With a bounty of new and returning stars, including Rui Hachimura and Killian Tillie, who spurned the pros last spring to return to college, the third-ranked Zags seem poised to make a run again at their first national title.

"I think we always have high expectations at our place," said Few, an assistant on that 1999 Elite Eight team who became head coach a few months later. "It's a good thing. We welcome that."

The Zags "have the opportunity not only to be good but hopefully be one of the real special teams," said Few, whose teams have never failed to qualify for the NCAA Tournament.

This is the highest preseason poll ranking in Gonzaga

history, trailing just No. 1 Kansas and No. 2 Kentucky.

The Zags did lose Johnathan Williams and Silas Melson to graduation from a team that finished 32-5 and made its fourth consecutive trip to the Sweet 16 last season.

But they return starting guards Josh Perkins (12.3 points per game) and late-season hero Zach Norvell Jr. (12.7 points) and 4.7 rebounds last year. Veterans Jeremy Jones and Corey Kispert also return.

There are seven newcomers, but two draw most of the buzz. Brandon Clarke becomes eligible to play after transferring from San Jose State, where he averaged 17.3 points, 8.7 rebounds and 2.6 blocks per game as a sophomore.

"He's easily the most athletic guy I have ever played with," Perkins said. "Your jaw just drops."

Graduate transfer Geno Crandall is coming from North Dakota, where he averaged 16.6 points, 4.3 rebounds and 3.6 assists per game.

"We have the pieces to the puzzle," said Perkins, who is recovered from a shoulder injury that slowed him last season. "Our job is to make that puzzle come together."

The Zags as usual play a brutal nonconference schedule to make up for the fact that their West Coast Conference opponents are lightly regarded.

The nonconference schedule includes home games against No. 25 Washington and Texas A&M, a trip to a stacked Maui Invitational and road games at No. 8 North Carolina, Creighton and No. 6 Tennessee. Saint Mary's and Brigham Young are likely their best conference foes.

"This team needs to play a schedule like that," Few said. "To be honest, at this point I need to play a schedule like that."

Last season ended with a loss to Florida State in the Sweet 16, a game in which Tillie could not play because of a hip injury.

"That loss, I think about it every day," Perkins said. Other things to watch this season:

TALL ZAGS: The Zags have plenty of skilled bigs, including the 6-foot-10 Tillie; the 6-foot-8 Hachimura; and the 6-foot-8 Clarke. The team may also use 6-foot-11 fresh-

man Filip Petrusev, a prized recruit, off the bench.

FEW LOSSES: Few has the highest winning percentage of any Division I coach at 535-118 (.819). He's won .897 of his conference games.

Price pitches Red Sox past the Dodgers 4-2 for 2-0 Series lead

Associated Press

BOSTON — From play-off flop to October ace in two legacy-shifting starts, David Price earned his second postseason victory in a row and moved the Boston Red Sox halfway to yet another World Series title.

The Red Sox left-hander pitched six innings of three-hit ball, and major league RBI leader J.D. Martinez broke a fifth-inning tie during another two-out rally to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 on Wednesday night.

Game 3 is Friday in Los Angeles. The Dodgers need a win to avoid an 0-3 defi-

GAME 3

• Boston Red Sox (2-0) at Los Angeles Dodgers (0-2)
 • Friday, 5:09 p.m. TV: FOX

cit that no World Series team has ever recovered from.

"This is the biggest stage in baseball," Price said after his longest postseason outing since signing a seven-year, \$217 million contract to come to Boston in 2016. "To be able to do that, it feels good, for sure. I'm pumped for myself, pumped for all my teammates and coaches for us to be two wins away."

Golfers needed for tournament

The Daily Astorian

Space is still available in the McMenamin's Tournament of the Year, a golfing event at Gearhart Golf Links.

Teams of four take part in the scramble format tournament, which begins Friday at 1 p.m. Golfers can sign up at Gearhart Golf Links.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY
Cross-country — Cowapa League championships, Rood Bridge Park, Hillsboro, 2 p.m.
Girls soccer — 4A regional play-in: Astoria at Woodburn, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
Football — 4A regional play-in: Baker at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Knappa at Portland Christian, 7 p.m.; Warrenton at Nestucca, 7 p.m.; Ilwaco at Willapa Valley, 7 p.m.; Naselle at Neah Bay, 6 p.m.
SATURDAY
Volleyball — Warrenton at Santiam Christian, 4 p.m.

THE HAUNTED COVE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

OCTOBER

12TH - 13TH

19TH - 20TH

26TH - 27TH

6PM - 9PM

ENTRANCE FEE:

\$3

PER PERSON OR

3

NON-PERISHABLE

FOOD ITEMS

1100 NW Ridge Rd.
Hammond, OR
503-861-2606
AstoriaKOA.com

All proceeds go to CCA Regional Food Bank & KOA Care Camps