

SPORTS

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Semiahmoo holds off Astoria, 63-54

It was "International Night" at the Brick House, where the Astoria boys basketball team hosted the Semiahmoo Totems, a touring high school team from Surrey, British Columbia.

And the Canadians built an early lead and managed to hold off the Fishermen, 63-54, in the non-league contest.

Semiahmoo "was very tough, long and athletic," said Astoria coach Kevin Goin. "But I was still pleased with how we did. We handled their press well — we just didn't finish enough on the back end."

"We came back in the second half and cut it to three a couple times in the third and fourth quarters, but they seemed to have an answer every time."

Astoria had three players combine for 45 points, as Isaac Brockman poured in a team-high 17 points, with scoring help from Ian Hunt (16 points) and Josh Olson (12).

Ryan Stenblom was still inactive for the Fishermen, but Michael Moore was back in the lineup for Astoria. Thirteen players saw action for the Fishermen, who defeated Semiahmoo two years ago, 50-42.

Semiahmoo had four players in double figures, led by Dennis Alizadeh with 17 points. Brothers Damian and Dominic Calderon scored 10 points apiece.

The Fishermen return to action tonight, with a nonleague game at Scappoose.

Warriors top Seaside JV, 54-30

WARRENTON — Warrenton took a break from varsity competition, and hosted the Seaside junior varsity team Wednesday night in a nonleague boys basketball game at Warrenton.

Dalton Knight scored 20 points, and the Warriors led 25-12 at halftime on their way to a 54-30 win over the JV Gulls.

"We did some real good things in the first quarter and played very solid defense," said Warrenton coach Nate McBride. "Kale'o Kapua got us started with six points in the first quarter. The Seaside kids played real hard and battled, keeping it close at half. Our kids came out in the third quarter and executed real well to put a little distance on the scoreboard."

Perrydale sweeps Jewell in Casco twinbill

PERRYDALE — Perrydale swept Jewell in a Casco League basketball doubleheader Thursday night at Perrydale.

Perrydale scored a 60-26 win over the Lady Jays in the girls' game, and the Pirates completed the sweep as Perrydale defeated Jewell in the boys' game, 62-25.

— *The Daily Astorian*

Lillard and Layman lead Blazers to 108-86 win over the Suns

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Jake Layman hadn't played in Portland's last five games, so he wanted to make the best of it when he did get his chance.

Layman came off the bench to score a career-high 24 points and the Trail Blazers snapped a three-game losing streak with a 108-86 rout of the Phoenix Suns on Thursday night.

Layman, who scored 15 points in just under six minutes in the first quarter, started earlier this season but had not played since Maurice Harkless returned from a knee injury to the starting lineup.



Astoria's Austin Varner, following his junior drag racing championship.

Astoria's Varner completes Junior drag racing series

The Daily Astorian

WOODBURN — Astoria's Austin Varner recently completed his ninth and final season of racing Junior Dragsters at Woodburn Dragstrip, and the senior took his second Junior Lightning track championship with 140 points and 11 rounds of racing between himself and his closest competition.

Varner also finished second in the high school series, racing his father's 1954 Ford.

In September, Varner secured a spot on Team Woodburn, in Junior Dragsters and high school, to race in the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Summit Racing equipment division 6 E.T. finals at Firebird Raceway in Boise, Idaho.

Competing against the best of the best drag racers in the Northwest in the Junior Dragster, Varner came in second in the Race of Champions.

Returning back to Woodburn for the Fall Classic race, Varner earned his second "Wally," winning the NHRA all-Access Challenge Junior Lightning Championship.



The drag racing car driven by Astoria's Austin Varner.

The Wally is the most sought-after trophy and is named after NHRA's founder, Wally Parks.

In 2019, Varner will continue to race his dad's Ford in the high school series at Woodburn. He is sponsored by Action Sign Works, Jeremy Linder and Ag-Bag, Clatsop Power Equipment, and Jim Varner's Automotive.

Austin Varner, racing his dad's 1954 Ford.



Playoff stakes high as Vikings travel to Seahawks

By **TIM BOOTH**
Associated Press

SEATTLE — With where both the Minnesota Vikings and Seattle Seahawks sit in the NFC standings, Monday night's matchup might as well carry a playoff title.

NFC play-in game? NFC elimination game?

"I think going on the road with that crowd and the type of football team that they are, I think yeah, a little bit. These next four games will determine what we do and where we go and how we perform in the clutch. Yeah, I guess you could say that," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said.

The Seahawks (7-5) filled the Vikings (6-5-1) in a meeting filled with playoff implications. The Seahawks won't be able to catch the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC West, but their three-game win streak has them sitting in the No. 5 spot in the NFC playoff picture going into the final quarter of the season, with three of their final four games at home.

It's far from a foregone conclusion Seattle is headed to the postseason after missing the playoffs last year. But a win over the Vikings would be a huge step in locking up a postseason berth.

"Keeping your head down and grinding is really what it's all about at this point," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "We're upbeat and we're positive. We know that we can win every game and we're going out to



AP Photo/Mike McCam

Seattle Seahawks' Russell Wilson looks to pass against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C., earlier this season.

UP NEXT: SEAHAWKS

- Minnesota Vikings (6-5-1) at Seattle Seahawks (7-5)
- Monday, 5:15 p.m. TV: ESPN

get that done."

If the Vikings want a chance at catching Chicago in the NFC North race, a win in Seattle is almost a must. Far easier said than done, especially when it comes to night games. Seattle is 15-2 at home in Thursday, Sunday or Monday night games dating to Carroll's arrival in 2010.

Minnesota is currently in the No. 6 spot in the NFC and its tie earlier this season against Green Bay could end up being a hindrance — or a benefit. The Vikings are a half-game ahead of Philadelphia, Washington and Carolina entering the week.

"It's big. It's very big. It's a road game. We want to go out there and put a full game together as a whole team on the road," Vikings RB Dalvin Cook said. "This is another game to go out there and do that to show that we're still in this thing. We're still fighting. We've got to just put it together."

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Girls basketball — Astoria at Scappoose, 7 p.m.; Seaside at Philomath Tournament, TBA; Warrenton at Neah-Kah-Nie, 6 p.m.; Jewell at SW Christian Challenge, TBA

Boys basketball — Astoria at Scappoose, 5:30 p.m.; Seaside at Marshfield, 7 p.m.; Warrenton at Neah-Kah-Nie, 7:30 p.m.; Jewell at SW Christian Challenge, TBA; Ilwaco at SW Christian, 5:45 p.m.

SATURDAY

Girls basketball — Seaside at Philomath Tournament, TBA; Santiam Christian vs. Warrenton (at Clatsop CC), 6 p.m.; Knappa at Portland Adventist, 7:30 p.m.; Jewell at SW Christian Challenge, TBA

Boys basketball — Seaside at Marist Catholic, 5 p.m.; Warrenton at Vernonia, 6 p.m.; Jewell at SW Christian Challenge, TBA

Swimming — Astoria Andrew Nygaard Invite, Noon

Wrestling — Warrenton Invitational, 10 a.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Semiahmoo 63, Astoria 54
Semiahmoo 15 12 21 15-63
Astoria 7 13 18 16-54
SEM (63): Dennis Alizadeh 17, Janzen 14, Dam.Calderon 10, Dom.Calderon 10, Bhullar 4, Saqib 4, Baker 3, Clarke, Dhillon, Cao.
AST (54): Isaac Brockman 17, Hunt 16, Olson 12, Long 5, Marincovich 2, Soderstrom 2, Samuelson, Moore, Ploghoff, Matlock, Junes, Johnson, Altheide-Nielson.

Warrenton 54, Seaside 30

Seaside 4 8 2 16-30
Warrenton 15 10 20 9-54
WAR (54): Dalton Knight 20, Stephens 10, Little 7, Kapua 6, Maddox 4, Green 3, Jackson 2, Schenbeck 2, Morrow, Breitmeyer, Falls, Bodden.
SEA (30): Stephen Snyder 11, Rich 7, Sibony 5, Carson 3, Turner 2, Bennett 2.