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SPORTS

HOOPS ROUNDUP



Seaside High School

The Seaside boys basketball team poses with the championship trophy, following a win Saturday over the defending 5A state champion Thurston Colts.

SEASIDE KNOCKS OFF DEFENDING 5A CHAMPS FROM THURSTON

Gulls win a classic

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The matchup that Oregon high school basketball fans have been looking forward to finally took place Saturday afternoon, in a summit meeting of two boys basketball powers.

The defending 5A state champions from Thurston (enrollment 1,143) met the two-time defending 4A champions from Seaside (enrollment 377) in the championship game of the Summit Holiday Tournament in Bend.

And with wins over two ranked 6A teams the previous two days, the Gulls (the real-life “Hickory Huskers”) can now make a strong case to be placed among the “Best in State” at any level, as Seaside topped Thurston 49-45 in the tournament’s title game.

The Gulls should certainly be back atop the 4A coaches poll this week, as they rallied from a 31-22 deficit in the third quarter to defeat Thurston in “a classic game,” said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm.

Needless to say, the Gulls have not had many weeks like that in their history.

“Never like that,” Westerholm said. “It’s rare for a smaller school to even play the big schools. It was a pretty historic week for our program.

“I called the Summit coach last summer and asked if we could get into their tournament,” he said. “I didn’t know how we would do, if we’d go 0-for-3 or what, but I wanted to push the kids, and I knew we’d get three tough games.”

The Gulls opened with a win last Thursday over South Eugene (enrollment 1,371), ranked seventh in the latest 6A poll, followed by a win over 6A Bend (1,558).

“South Eugene took us lightly,” Westerholm said. “They were sitting on their bench watching us before Thursday’s game, and you could tell they had that ‘who do these guys think they are?’ look. But Bend was ready for us, and Thurston knew who they were getting. It was fun visiting with their coach (Blaine Liberatore) before the game, having the 4A champions play the 5A champions.”

In Saturday’s game, the Colts just did not have the horses to stay with the well-conditioned Gulls, who trailed the entire third quarter and half the fourth.

While Thurston went cold from the field, Seaside heated up with back-to-back 3-pointers from Payton Westerholm with just under four minutes left in the third period, cutting the deficit to 33-32.

Chase Januik connected on a trey in the opening minute of the fourth, then hit another at the 3:25 mark to give the Gulls the lead for good, 42-40.

While the 6A and 5A schools had trouble shooting free throws throughout the tournament, the Gulls did not.

SCOREBOARD

BOYS BASKETBALL		GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Ridgefield 46, Astoria 33		Warrenton 51, Cottage Grove 46	
RDG (46): Matt Gama 15, Mansur 12, Vossenkuhl 6, Whitsett 4, Corey 4, Aguirre 3, Rossman 2.		CG (46): Reilly Keltly 15, May 10, Schatz 7, Gardner 7, Cameron 5, Weybright 2.	
AST (33): Isaac Brockman 11, Olson 9, Hunt 7, Stenblom 4, Marincovich 2, Johnston, Matlock, Ploghoft.		WAR (51): Kenzie Ramsey 18, Bussert 13, Dejesus 6, M.Heyen 6, Miethe 5, Marchello 3, Kapua, A.Heyen.	
Ridgefield 14 12 9 11—46		C.Grove 10 19 6 11—46	
Astoria 4 13 10 6—33		Warrenton 17 12 6 16—51	
Astoria 43, Rainier 38		Stayton 42, Warrenton 37	
RNR (38): Joey Tripp 10, Crape 8, Godfrey 8, Rea 8, K.Tripp 4.		WAR (37): Claire Bussert 18, Ramsey 9, Dejesus 3, M.Heyen 2, A.Heyen 2, Marchello 2, Kapua 1, Diego, Miethe.	
AST (43): Ian Hunt 22, Olson 11, Stenblom 6, Marincovich 4, Brockman, Long, Johnston.		STA (42): Marri Martinez 17, A.Nyquist 7, Frith 7, Smart 6, K.Nyquist 5.	
Rainier 11 7 10 10—38		Warrenton 8 9 10 10—37	
Astoria 8 12 15 8—43		Stayton 10 16 8 8—42	
Seaside 49, Thurston 45			
SEA (49): Chase Januik 18, Wester-			

Specifically, Ryan Hague.

The junior wing — who scored 23 the previous night in the win over Bend — scored nine points in the fourth period in Saturday’s win, including 7-for-8 at the free throw line (5-for-6 in the final 36 seconds).

“Ryan had a big week, and with Chase and Payton in there, teams have to defend all three,” coach Westerholm said. “It’s kind of like ‘pick your poison.’ All three can score, and they do a nice job of sharing the ball.”

The Seaside players “wanted to win this tournament,” said the coach. “Our hope was to get through to the championship game and play Thurston. We figured they would be there.”

And once there, “we wanted to hold them under 50 points,” he said of the Colts. “We wanted to score 70, but that didn’t quite work out.”

Thurston’s Isaac Lange — one of the top seniors in the state at any level — led all scorers with 19 points. The 45 points is the fewest the Colts have scored this season.

While Hague, Januik and Westerholm got the points, Duncan Thompson had the tough job of defending the bigger players, which included a 6-foot-8 post from South Eugene, and 6-7 Mason Miller from Thurston.

“Duncan really battled hard inside for us in all three games,” coach Westerholm said, “and coach (Nick) Smith did a nice job of putting together a defensive game plan.”

Gulls 61, Bend 59

The Gulls secured their spot in the championship game with a 61-59 win Friday over the host Bend Lava Bears.

The first half featured four ties and seven lead changes, and ended with Seaside holding a 32-29 lead at halftime. Bend rallied and held a 43-37 lead late in the third quarter.

But the Lava Bears struggled at the free throw line (missing six in a row at one point), and the Gulls didn’t.

Hague and Westerholm made four straight in the fourth quarter, and Hague drained a pair of 3-pointers to give Seaside an eventual 55-48 lead, before Bend rallied with a few late scores.

Hague made 3-of-6 free throws in the final minute and finished with a

game-high 23 points. After scoring 29 the night before in a win over South Eugene, Januik tossed in 14 points, and Thompson added 10.

Seaside girls win one, lose two at Stayton

The Seaside Lady Gulls won one and lost two in the SCTC Holiday Classic, Thursday through Saturday at Stayton High School.

Salem Academy scored a 49-26 win over the Gulls in a consolation final Saturday.

“We actually were very ready and had a great first half,” said Seaside coach Mike Hawes, whose team trailed 24-18 at halftime.

The Gulls, however, did not score in the third period, as Salem Academy opened up the lead.

Annaka Garhofer and Emy Kiser scored eight points apiece to lead Seaside.

After Thursday’s 58-34 loss to Cottage Grove, the Gulls bounced back with a 60-42 come-from-behind win Friday over Woodburn.

“Again, we came out slow but eventually wore them down,” Hawes said. “Morgan Blodgett had 18 (points) and made shots all over.”

Lilli Taylor added 14 points and Kiser scored 13 for the Gulls, who host Estacada Friday.

Ridgefield Spudders top Astoria boys in Dulcich tourney

Ridgefield defeated Astoria 46-33 in the final boys game of the 50th annual Vince Dulcich Memorial tournament Saturday night at the Brick House.

The Fishermen managed to keep it close with the big school from Washington state, even coming within four points late in the second half before the Spudders were able to pull away.

Ridgefield led 14-4 after one quarter, but Astoria outscored the visitors in each of the next two quarters.

Isaac Brockman led the Fishermen with 11 points, while Matt Gama

scored 15 and Josh Mansur added 12 for Ridgefield.

The night before, the Fishermen topped Rainier 43-38, as Astoria senior Ian Hunt poured in 22 points and teammate Josh Olson chipped in 11.

Astoria had to rally from a small halftime deficit, doing so with a 15-10 run in the third quarter.

Centennial tops Astoria girls in Dulcich finale

Astoria won its first two games of the annual Dulcich tournament, but lost the third, as Class 6A Centennial scored a 43-28 nonleague girls basketball win Saturday at the Brick House.

Less than 24 hours before, the Lady Fishermen defeated Rainier 43-29.

“We did a good job of battling a well-coached Rainier team,” said Astoria coach Mike Jacobson. “Doug (Knox) always prepares his teams well and it was a tough win for us.”

In Saturday’s loss, “the girls didn’t play well in the first half,” he said. “We knew Centennial likes to play a slow-paced game, and we just couldn’t create very many fast break opportunities out of our press.

“We need to learn from that, because we’ll be playing a couple teams that will try and do the same thing,” he said, as the Fishermen have upcoming nonleague games with Corbett, Estacada and Gladstone. “So we need to be prepared and the girls need to be engaged from the opening tip.”

Warrenton makes strides in Stayton tournament

Warrenton capped three games in three days with their 10th win of the season Saturday, a 51-46 victory over Cottage Grove to finish the SCTC Stayton Holiday Classic.

Kenzie Ramsey knocked down six 3-pointers and scored 18 points on her 17th birthday, while teammate Claire Bussert finished her week with 13 points and two big free throws to seal the win over the Lions.

The Warriors (10-3 overall) will head back into league play Wednesday at Clatskanie (6-3), and even though Warrenton is still without senior post Fernanda Alvarez (ankle sprain), the Warriors are ranked sixth and climbing.

“We wanted to schedule the toughest teams we could in the preseason, and we played three tough teams in three days,” said Warrenton coach Robert Hoepfl, “and I’m pleased with where we’re at.”

The Warriors defeated Salem Academy in Friday’s tournament opener, followed by a loss, 42-37, to 4A Stayton.

With the absence of Alvarez, Adriana Dejesus contributed six points in Saturday’s win, while Maria Heyen and Sydney Marchello played big minutes in the post, with help from Annie Heyen. Sagi Diego sparked the defense and rebounding in all three games.