

Athletes of the Week



SHADIA SOMOZA
Knappa

Somoza family

The sophomore wrestler helped Knappa finish sixth in the Clatskanie Winter Classic Dec. 29. Somoza was the lone individual champion for the Loggers, taking first in the girls' 120-pound bracket. She pinned all five of her opponents, while her twin sister Jade went 4-1 at 115 pounds. The Loggers compete Jan. 11-12 in Seaside's Pac Rim Invitational.



RYAN HAGUE
Seaside

Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

The junior was "Mr. Clutch" in last week's Summit Holiday Classic, won by the Gulls. In a semifinal win over Bend, Hague made 3-of-6 free throws in the final minute and scored a game-high 23 points. In the championship victory over Thurston, he scored nine points in the fourth period, including 7-for-8 at the free throw line, 5-for-6 in the final 36 seconds.

Seaside boys team takes over No. 1 spot

The Daily Astorian

Following their big win over defending 5A state champion Thurston, the Seaside boys basketball team is back on top of the 4A coaches poll, with seven first-place votes.

The Gulls also defeated a pair of 6A teams, South Eugene and Bend.

Knappa is ranked eighth in the 2A boys' coaches poll, and the Warrenton Lady Warriors are ranked fifth in the 3A girls' poll.

Warrenton defeated fourth-ranked Salem Academy in the Stayton tournament last weekend, but lost to second-ranked Clatskanie Wednesday night.

COACHES POLLS

4A Boys
(first place votes in parentheses)

1. Seaside (7) 131

2. Banks (6) 113

2. Marshfield 113

4. Woodburn (1) 91

5. Philomath 74

6. Stayton 58

7. North Marion 54

8. Valley Catholic 32

9. Sweet Home 21

10. Gladstone 20

Others receiving votes: Marist Catholic (19), Henley (10).

2A Boys

1. Columbia Christian (10) 109

2. Toledo 90

3. Western Christian (1) 89

4. Kennedy 67

5. Oakland 62

6. Santiam 47

7. Sheridan 42

8. Knappa 37

9. Coquille 18

10. Butte Falls/Crat. Lake Acad. 15

3A Girls

1. Blanchet Catholic (11) 118

2. Clatskanie 94

3. Burns (1) 91

4. Salem Academy 90

5. Warrenton 75

6. Yamhill-Carlton 54

7. Amity 53

8. Pleasant Hill 47

9. Willamina 17

10. Irrigon 11

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE
TODAY
Girls Basketball — Ocosta at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.
Swimming — Seaside at Taft, 4 p.m.
FRIDAY
Girls basketball — Seaside at Estacada, 6 p.m.; Willamina at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Jewell at Cross-hill Christian, 5:30 p.m.; Ilwaco at Chief Leschi, 5:45 p.m.
Boys basketball — Seaside at Estacada, 7:45 p.m.; Willamina at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.; Jewell at Cross-hill Christian, 7 p.m.; Ilwaco at Chief Leschi, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY
Girls basketball — Astoria at Corbett, 2 p.m.; Stanfield at Knappa, 2 p.m.
Boys basketball — Astoria at Corbett, 3:30 p.m.; Stanfield at Knappa, 5 p.m.

The Daily Astorian

Tigers top rival Warrenton girls, 67-31

In the first of three (and possibly four, and maybe even five) meetings, the Clatskanie Tigers scored a big win over Warrenton, 67-31, in a Coastal Range League girls basketball game Wednesday night in Clatskanie.

Too many turnovers for the Warriors, coupled with no Fernanda Alvarez and a cold night from the field for Warrenton, spelled a long night for the War-

riors, who trailed 19-7 after one quarter.

It only got worse from there.

A breakaway basket for Clatskanie's Shelby Blodgett in the opening minute of the third period made it 34-15, and a three-point play by Olivia Sprague gave the Tigers an eventual 44-16 lead.

Blodgett's jump shot midway through the fourth led to Clatskanie's largest lead at 64-22.

The two teams will play two more times in the regular season, and will likely meet again in the Coastal Range League playoffs to decide the league's No. 1 seed.

HOOPS ROUNDUP

Currently, Clatskanie is ranked No. 2 in the 3A coaches poll, while the Warriors are ranked fifth.

Knight has big night, but Clatskanie wins

Warrenton's Dalton Knight had the hot hand, but Clatskanie managed to overcome the Warriors' shooting machine to score a 65-51 win over visiting Warrenton, in a Coastal Range League boys basketball game Wednesday.

Knight hit five 3-pointers in the first half, then connected on two

more in the second on his way to a team-high 23 points.

But Clatskanie countered with solid inside play and a tough defense.

Knight's fourth trey of the night, in the opening seconds of the second period, tied the game at 18-18.

The Tigers answered with an 11-4 run, and did not trail again.

Clatskanie's Dawson Evenson hit short back-to-back jumpers for a 40-29 lead midway through the third quarter, then highlighted the period with a nearly 35-foot shot at the buzzer for a 51-36 advantage.

Kikuchi finalizes \$56 million, 4-year contract with Mariners

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Japanese left-hander Yusei Kikuchi has finalized a four-year contract with the Seattle Mariners that guarantees \$56 million and includes club options that could make it worth \$109 million over seven seasons.

Seattle announced the agreement Wednesday, just ahead of the deadline for the 27-year-old to sign with a major league club.

He receives a \$6 million signing bonus and salaries of \$8 million this year, \$14 million in 2020 and \$15 million in 2021. The agreement includes a \$13 million player option for 2022, and Seattle has options worth \$16.5 million annually for 2022-25.

Seattle has until the third day after the 2021 World Series to exercise all four team options. If the Mariners decline, Kikuchi has until the fifth day after the 2021 World Series to exercise his player option.

"Yusei's combination of character, talent, experience and relative age made him a primary target in our roster building plans," Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto said. "He is an exciting young pitcher with the ability to impact the Mariners, both in the present and future."

Kikuchi was posted by the Pacific League's Seibu Lions on Dec. 4. Under the rules in the November 2017 posting agreement, he had until Wednesday afternoon Seattle time to sign with a major league team.

Seattle owes Seibu \$10,275,000 as a posting fee: 20 percent of the first \$25 million in guaranteed money, 17.5 percent of the next \$25 million and 15 percent above that. The Mariners would owe Seibu a supplemental fee of \$7.95 million if the club options are exercised — 15 percent of the additional guaranteed money.

Kikuchi was 14-4 with a 3.08



Takahiko Kanbara/Kyodo News

Yusei Kikuchi pitches for Japan's Seibu Lions.

ERA for Seibu last season. He was 16-6 with a 1.97 ERA a year earlier. His fastball sits in the low-to-mid 90s and he has an array of off-speed pitches.

Dipoto was open at the winter meetings in Las Vegas about his interest in Kikuchi and about

how a deal structured in the right way could still fit in the Mariners' rebuilding plans. Seattle is undergoing an extensive makeover this offseason in the hopes of acquiring prospects now with an ultimate goal of being able to contend in a couple of years.

Kikuchi will turn 28 during the 2019 season. With the trade of James Paxton this offseason, Kikuchi will slot high in Seattle's rotation alongside Marco Gonzales, Mike Leake, Wade LeBlanc, Felix Hernandez and likely a couple of young prospects.