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A weekend sweep for Warrenton

Warrior boys defeat Taft, Willamina

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — With two victories in 24 hours, the Warrenton boys are right back in the Coastal Range League title hunt.

Following a pair of league wins over Willamina (46-45) and Taft (43-41), the Warriors improve to 9-5 overall, 2-2 in league play. Rainier and Clatskanie are both 3-0, but both have key games at Warrenton over the next two weeks. And with their huge home-court advantage, the Warriors (7-1 at home) still have a good shot at catching one or both teams.

The league newcomers from Taft and Willamina certainly found out how strong the Warriors are at home.

In Saturday's win over Taft, Warrenton was only 8-for-33 on two-point field goals, but they were 7-of-21 from the 3-point line.

As he was all week, Warrenton senior Dalton Knight was the player of the day, scoring 33 of Warrenton's 43 points. He made 5-of-5 free throws (the rest of the team was 1-for-10), and had five steals defensively.

The night before against Willamina, the Warriors had several Willamina starters in foul trouble before halftime. Namely, Chance Kalawa.

Willamina's senior post was the best athlete on the floor — but Chance didn't have much of a chance. He had three fouls by halftime, and picked up his fourth early in the third quarter.

Warrenton still trailed 42-36 in the opening minute of the fourth, but a 3-pointer by Knight and key



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Dalton Knight, left, drives to the basket for Warrenton.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton players battle for a defensive rebound.

baskets by Devin Jackson gave the Warriors a 45-42 lead. A free throw by Jalen Maddox with 2.5 seconds left provided the winning point, breaking a 45-45 tie.

"We played good defense both nights and really worked hard on the glass," said Warrenton coach Nate McBride. "We struggled at

times against Taft's front line at 6-9 and 6-6, but were able to pressure the ball and force 22 turnovers (including 13 steals) that helped curb some of the match-up issues.

"Dalton Knight had a couple of huge games for us," he added. "He knocked down seven threes on Wednesday, five Friday and six Saturday. But it was his defense and all-around play Saturday that really helped get us there."

Against Taft, Knight had five steals, two leading to easy baskets, and he was 4-for-4 from the free throw line late in the game to seal the win.

The Warriors won the battle of fouls in both games, committing just seven fouls to Willamina's 18, and the Warriors shot 15 free throws to six for Taft.

In addition, "Devin Jackson and Ayden Stephens both rebounded extremely well both nights," McBride said, "and both of them took charges vs. Taft's big man, which were huge momentum changers."

Warrenton girls play 'Bussert Ball' in two wins

By **GARY HENLEY**
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WARRENTON — Warrenton's Claire Bussert owned Friday's game and was just as unstoppable in a Saturday afternoon contest, helping the Lady Warriors to two Coastal Range League victories at home over the weekend.

The Lady Warriors had a brief struggle in a 44-38 win Friday over Willamina, but just a few hours later dominated Taft in Saturday afternoon's 63-25 victory.

While Clatskanie (3-0 in league) was idle over the weekend, Warrenton's two wins helped the Warriors improve to 3-1, 12-4 overall. Warrenton — nearly unbeatable at home — hosts Clatskanie Jan. 15 with first place potentially on the line.

Bussert scored a game-high 19 points in the win over Taft, with

an additional 14 points from Kenzie Ramsey, as the two scored all the points the Warriors would need.

In Friday's win over Willamina, the Bulldogs had visions of a big upset in the third quarter.

After trailing by as much as 19-8 in the second quarter, Willamina rallied and took a 29-28 lead with 3:35 left in the third.

But the Bulldogs fell apart from there. They finished the second half with 20 turnovers (36 for the game). And Willamina could not keep pace with Bussert, who finished with a game-high 22 points, which included four 3-pointers and a reverse layup for the highlight reel.

After the Bulldogs had taken a one-point lead, Ramsey hit Melia Kapua with a long pass disguised as a 3-point shot, and Kapua's score put Warrenton back in front to stay.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Maria Heyen, right, tries to block a shot for the Warriors.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY
Girls basketball — Estacada at Astoria, 4 p.m.; Seaside at Gladstone, 7 p.m.; City Christian at Knappa, 6:30 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 7 p.m.; Ilwaco at Life Christian, 5:45 p.m.
Boys basketball — Estacada at Astoria, 5:45 p.m.; Gladstone at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.; Southridge, BC at Warrenton, 6:30 p.m.; City Christian at Knappa, 7:30 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.; Ilwaco at Life Christian, 7 p.m.
Swimming — Tillamook at Astoria, 4 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 4 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Astoria 63, Corbett 35
 COR (35): Isabelle VanHee 15, Smith 7, Schimmel 6, Johnsen 3, Merrill 2, Horvath 2.

AST (63): Julia Norris 13, Brooklynn Hankwitz 13, Fauseit 10, Jackson 6, O'Brien 6, Long 6, Helmersen 6, Lyngstad 3, Cole, Rasmussen.

Corbett 12 8 2 13—35
Astoria 25 19 9 10—63

Seaside 64, Estacada 25
 SEA (64): Lilli Taylor 16, Kiser 15, Douglas 9, Garhofer 8, Blodgett 7, Doney 3, McFadden 2, Zagata 2, Van Dusen 2, Goin, Turner.

Estacada 8 8 3 6—25
Seaside 23 13 16 12—64

Warrenton 44, Willamina 38
 WIL (38): Hannah Hughes 14, PShrabel 8, Ki.Rankin 6, McLean 5, France 4, Schoenbacher 1.

WAR (44): Claire Bussert 22, M.Heyen 6, Ramsey 5, Miethe 4, Kapua 4, Dejesus 3, Diego.

Willamina 8 10 11 9—38
Warrenton 14 11 8 11—44

Stanfield 50, Knappa 48
 STA (50): Kendra Hart 26, Sharp 7, Griffin 6, Tejada 6, Shelby 2, Flores 2, Gregerson 1.

Knappa 14 14 10 10—48
 KNA (48): Sophia Carlson 14, Weaver 10, Miller 7, Dietrichs 7, Walter 2, Rilatos 2, Corcoran 2, Tischer 2, Nicholson.

Stanfield 14 11 11 14—50
Knappa 14 14 10 10—48

Ilwaco 65, Chief Leschi 29
 ILW (65): Erika Glenn 15, McMullen 14, Kemmer 10, Bell 8, Gray 8, Sheldon 5, Ramsey 2, Whelden, Bittner, Long, Jacobson.

Chief Leschi 4 11 9 5—29
 CL (29): Alicia Pluff 12, Laplante 6, M.Pluff 5, Najera 2, Delegos 2, Gallegos 2.

WAR (43): Dalton Knight 33, Stephens 4, Little 3, Jackson 2, Maddox 1, Morrow, Kapua.

Taft 7 8 10 16—41
Warrenton 8 7 14 14—43

Warrenton 46, Willamina 45
 WIL (45): Kaleb Floyd 19, Kalawa 8, Briant 7, Schoenbacher 5, Colton 3, Doane 2, Lopez 1.

WAR (46): Dalton Knight 19, Jackson 10, Little 5, Stephens 5, Maddox 4, Morrow 3.

Willamina 12 15 12 6—45
Warrenton 10 16 10 10—46

Chief Leschi 62, Ilwaco 55
 ILW (62): Darnell Lewis Jr. 25, Ke.Baker 10, Durr-Schaffer Jr. 9, Horton 7, Lee 6, Fossella 3, Ka.Baker 2.

EST (32): Nick Keller 7, Calvin Dryen 7, Cody Spring 7, Telles 6, McDonald 3, Hagel 2.

SEA (65): Chase Januik 18, Hogue 15, Westerholm 9, Br.Johnson 9, Thompson 7, Sibony 3, Acree 2, Meyer 2, Pugh, Higdon, Snyder, Be. Johnson, Rich.

Estacada 5 11 4 12—32
Seaside 12 16 15 22—65

Warrenton 43, Taft 41
 WAR (43): Dalton Knight 33, Stephens 4, Little 3, Jackson 2, Maddox 1, Morrow, Kapua.

Taft 7 8 10 16—41
Warrenton 8 7 14 14—43

Warrenton 46, Willamina 45
 WIL (45): Kaleb Floyd 19, Kalawa 8, Briant 7, Schoenbacher 5, Colton 3, Doane 2, Lopez 1.

WAR (46): Dalton Knight 19, Jackson 10, Little 5, Stephens 5, Maddox 4, Morrow 3.

Willamina 12 15 12 6—45
Warrenton 10 16 10 10—46

Chief Leschi 62, Ilwaco 55
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HOOPS ROUNDUP

Januik scores 18 in Seaside win

The Daily Astorian

After a week of playing ranked 6A and 5A teams, Seaside took a step down in competition Friday against Estacada, a 4A team with a 2-8 record.

And the result was a predictable 65-32 win for the Gulls over the visiting Rangers.

Chase Januik scored 18 points and Ryan Hague added 15 for Seaside, with Payton Westerholm and Brayden Johnson chipping in nine apiece.

Seaside held a slim 28-16 lead at halftime, before going on a 15-4 run in the third period.

Seaside girls top Estacada, 64-25

Seaside's Lilli Taylor and Emy Kiser combined for 31 points Friday night — more than enough to beat Estacada, as the Gulls powered their way to a 64-25 win over the visiting Rangers in a nonleague girls basketball game.

Taylor scored 16 points (8-for-11 from the field), and also had seven assists and six steals.

The Gulls (8-5 overall) took the ball away with ease against the Rangers (1-9), finishing with 18 steals.

It "felt good to get back on the court," said Seaside coach Mike Hawes, whose team led 23-8 after one quarter. "Obviously Estacada is young and susceptible to pressure, so we were able to extend our defense full court, and got some easy points."

Morgan Blodgett "got us off to a good start, then Emy Kiser and Lilli Taylor scored well for us," he said. "Rudy Douglas continues to play well. It's nice when you nippick about small things after a game, and not major items, like 'we didn't score.'"

Estacada returns to Clatsop County for a Tuesday game at Astoria.

Corbett scores win over Astoria boys

Corbett jumped out to an eight-point lead after one quarter, then held off Astoria from there for a 56-31 win over the Fishermen in a nonleague boys basketball game Saturday at Corbett.

Ian Hunt scored 10 points and Josh Olson added nine for Astoria, which returns home to face Estacada at the Brick House, tipoff Tuesday at 5:45 p.m. The doubleheader with the Rangers (girls game at 4 p.m.) will be an Endowment game.

Astoria girls dominate Corbett, again, 63-35

Astoria had three players in double figures and dominated Corbett from start to finish for the second time this year, in a 63-35 win Saturday afternoon over the Cardinals at Corbett.

It was the second meeting of the season between No. 10-ranked Astoria and Corbett, ranked 33rd out of 34 teams.

Earlier, the Fishermen defeated the Cardinals 66-23 in the Seaside tournament.

In Saturday's rematch, Astoria built a 44-20 lead at halftime, then went on a 9-2 run in the third quarter.

Astoria's Julia Norris made three 3-pointers on her way to 13 points, Brooklynn Hankwitz added 13 and Kelsey Fauseit tossed in 10 for the Fishermen, who host Estacada Tuesday.

Knappa boys cruise past Stanfield, 76-34

Knappa held Stanfield to just 10 total points in the second half, leading to another easy win for the Loggers in a nonleague boys basketball game Saturday, 76-34 over the visiting Tigers.

Knappa's Eli Takalo scored 25

and teammate Timber Engblom added 17, more than enough to topple the Tigers.

"We came out a little slow, but played really well in the second half, especially on the defensive end," said Knappa coach Paul Isom.

The Loggers had "really good energy off the bench," Isom said. "Devin (Hoover), Tristin (Wallace) and Mason (Westerholm) all played well and really brought some intensity to the floor, which was nice to see."

With wins at home this week over City Christian and Columbia Christian, the Loggers can pull into a first-place tie with Columbia Christian.

Stanfield edges Knappa girls, 50-48

Knappa held leads at halftime and after the third quarter, but Stanfield rallied in the final period to win a close game with the Loggers, 50-48, in a nonleague girls basketball game Saturday afternoon at Knappa.

Kendra Hart scored 26 points for the Tigers, whose biggest lead was just six points, midway through the fourth quarter. Stanfield made 1-of-2 free throws with 10 seconds left to seal the win.

Sophia Carlson led Knappa with 14 points, eight rebounds (seven offensive) and four assists, with Madelynn Weaver adding 10 points and seven steals. Aiko Miller and Hannah Dietrichs scored seven points apiece.

"It was such a fantastic game," said Knappa coach Marie Green. "They would score and we would score. It was like that, back and forth the entire game between two teams that were real evenly matched."

Hart "is a very good player for them," Green said. "She's a left-hander who drives very well, and can score from inside or outside."

Knappa has home games this week vs. City Christian, Columbia

Christian and Nestucca.

Crosshill Christian sweeps Jewell

The Jewell basketball teams played a Casco League double-header Friday night at Crosshill Christian, where the Eagles scored a sweep over the Blue Jays.

Crosshill defeated Jewell 19-12 in the girls' game. The Lady Jays were led by Haley Norman (four points, eight rebounds, two steals and two assists).

Jewell's Nedi Morales added seven rebounds and five steals, and Ally Phillips had seven boards.

Crosshill completed the sweep with a 92-20 win over the Jewell boys.

Chief Leschi upsets Ilwaco boys, 62-55

Ilwaco's Reese Tynkila led all scorers with 29 points, but Chief Leschi outscored the visiting Fishermen in the second, third and fourth quarters to post a 62-55 upset over Ilwaco, in a Pacific 2B League boys basketball game Friday in Puyallup, Washington.

Darnell Lewis Jr. scored 25 points for Chief Leschi (3-6 in league), which held a 27-23 lead at halftime, and 39-34 heading into the final quarter.

John Glenn added 11 points for Ilwaco (7-3).

Ilwaco girls defeat Chief Leschi

Ilwaco had all the points it would need by halftime, in a 65-29 win at Chief Leschi in a Pacific 2B League girls basketball game.

The Lady Fishermen built a 33-15 lead through two quarters.

Ilwaco had three players in double figures, led by Erika Glenn's 15 points. Ebby McMullen had 14 and Sunny Kemmer added 10.