

SPORTS

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HOOPS ROUNDUP

Astoria girls roll over Tillamook

A four-game home stand is off to a good start for the Astoria girls basketball team.

In front of their home fans at the Brick House, the Lady Fishermen led 22-5 after just one quarter, on their way to a 55-25 victory Tuesday night over Tillamook.

As the eight-game Cowapa League schedule reaches the halfway point later this week, Astoria will be looking to make a move in the league standings with three more home games over the next two weeks.

Following Tuesday's win, the No. 9-ranked Fishermen are 2-1 in league, a half-game ahead of second place Valley Catholic, which visits Astoria Friday. Banks (3-0) remains in first place.

Astoria's Julia Norris scored 14 points and teammate Brooklynn Hankwitz finished with 11 in Tuesday's win, equaling Tillamook's team total. Kajsja Jackson added eight points for the Fishermen, who held an eventual 42-15 lead through three quarters.

Astoria boys top Tillamook, end league losing streak

Having lost six of their previous seven games, the Astoria boys basketball team was in search of a much-needed win Tuesday night at the Brick House.

And a win is just what they got, as the Fishermen found their scoring touch in the second half and held off Tillamook for a 44-35 win.

Most importantly, Astoria's victory snapped a 17-game losing streak in Cowapa League play, "which was big," said Fishermen coach Kevin Goin. "It's been a while, so it feels good to win."

Astoria's last league win was Jan. 31, 2017 (over Scappoose, 52-46).

"We played a lot better than we did last week," Goin said, following lopsided losses at Seaside and Banks. "Tillamook's a good matchup for us. We could have done a better job at the free throw line — we were only 3-for-12 — and a lot of those were the front end of one-and-one's. So we could have put the game away a little earlier than we did."

The Fishermen also had to rally from a 20-17 halftime deficit, and did so by outscoring the Cheesemakers 13-6 in the third quarter.

Ian Hunt led Astoria's offensive effort with a game-high 21 points, which included a pair of 3-pointers.

Astoria (1-2 in league) hosts a team Friday which is still looking for its first league win of the year, 10th-ranked Valley Catholic (0-2 in league, 12-6 overall).

Warrenton girls cruise past Rainier in 41-24 win

After a one-game break from league play, the Warrenton Lady Warriors are ready to get back to work. And back to winning.

Coming off a 34-point loss Monday morning at Blanchet Catholic, the Warrenton girls basketball team wasted no time in erasing that memory by topping Rainier, 41-24, in a Coastal Range League game Tuesday night at Rainier.

The Warriors shut down the Columbians' offense, allowing just seven points or less in every quarter.

Meanwhile, a quickly-recovering Fernanda Alvarez led Warrenton with 14 points (all through three quarters), to go with 15 rebounds. Claire Bussert had four assists to break Warrenton's all-time school record for assists (breaking the mark held by Jordane Marxer), and also scored 12 points, highlighted by three 3-pointers in the second half.

Kenzie Ramsey added seven points for the Warriors, who have a week off before playing at Taft.

Rainier defeats Warrenton boys in league battle, 51-44

Rainier won a crucial Coastal League Range boys basketball game Tuesday night, slipping past visiting Warrenton, 51-44.

The Columbians remain atop the league standings at 6-1, a half-game ahead of Clatskanie (5-1), while the Warriors drop to 4-4.

The game was even closer than the score indicated, as Warrenton trailed just 45-44 with 1:20 remaining, when the Columbians were able to make free throws to secure the win.

A "great game tonight," said Warrenton coach Nate McBride. "We led early. (The Columbians) had a good run in the second quarter. Conner Rea hit back-to-back 3's and a tough pull-up jumper to take a lead 24-19 at half."

Rainier pushed the lead to seven in the third quarter, "and then we clawed our way back in," he said.

Warrenton's Dalton Knight hit a half-court shot to end the third quarter, pulling the Warriors to within 37-34.

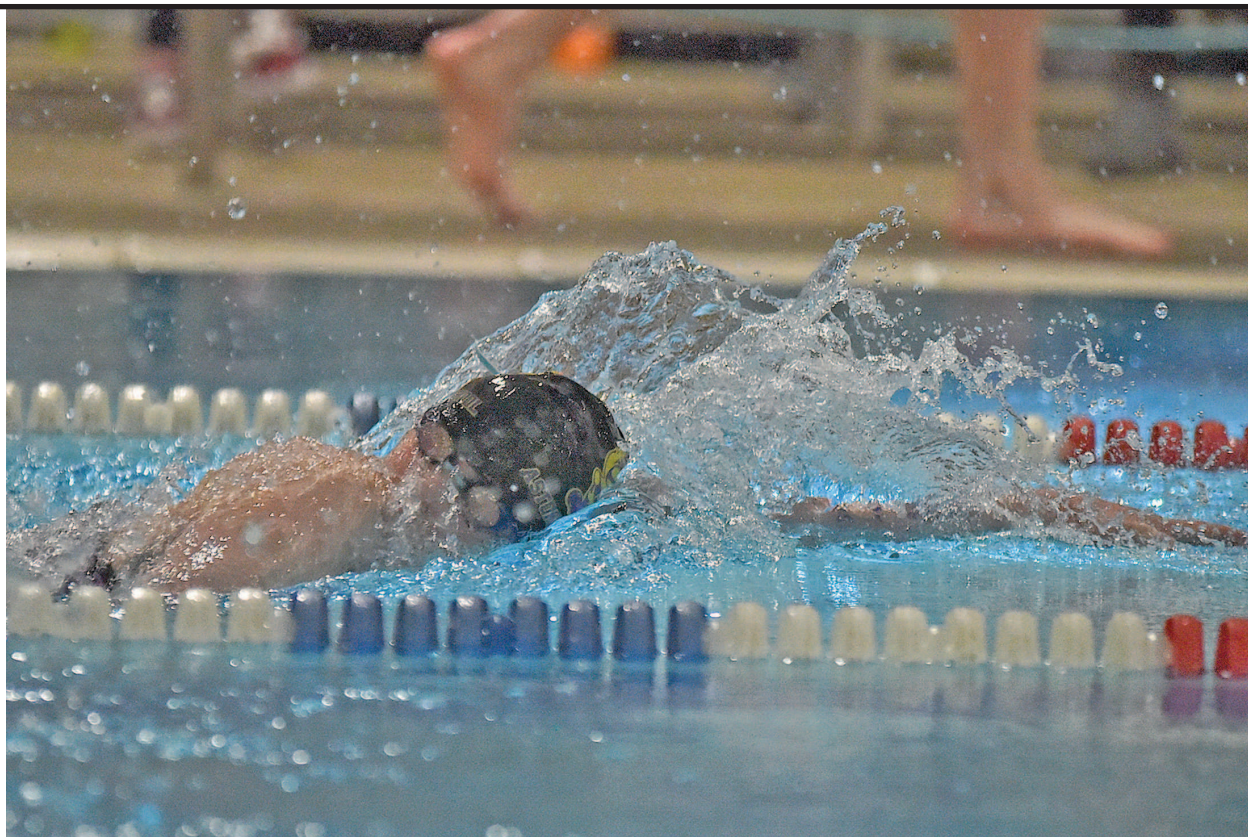
Austin Little added a 3-pointer to actually put Warrenton in front, 42-39, midway through the fourth quarter. The Warriors held the lead for several minutes before the Columbians grabbed the lead for good at 45-44.

Devin Jackson scored 14 points for the Warriors, and shut down Rainier's Easton Crape, who finished with just six points.

Warrenton could be the favorite when the two teams meet for the third time Feb. 8, for Senior Night at Warrenton.

"It could be a big game standings-wise for both of us," McBride said. "We're working hard to finish third, and Clatskanie and them will battle it out for first."

— The Daily Astorian



Tori Smith swims the 200 yard freestyle for the Fishermen.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Astoria tunes up for postseason with 'low energy' home meet

Fishermen sweep Valiants

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

It was a "calm before the storm" meet Tuesday afternoon at the Astoria Aquatic Center.

With the postseason meets rapidly approaching, the Fishermen swim teams hosted Valley Catholic in the last Cowapa League dual meet of the regular season.

And the meet took on a low-key approach, on Senior Night for the Fishermen. In addition, the Valiants showed up with just a partial team, and Astoria was swimming with an altered lineup, in preparation for the upcoming league championship meet.

The Cowapa League meet takes place Feb. 1 in Astoria's pool, while Newport will host the District 1 meet, Feb. 8 and Feb. 9.

In the meantime, Tuesday's meet was more of a relaxed affair to honor the Astoria seniors.

"I moved a lot of kids around to some other events that they haven't done all season, just to give them an opportunity to try something different," said Astoria coach Kathryn Zacher, "and because I knew Valley Catholic didn't have a full roster."

"We actually swam a little slower than usual," she said. "It was more of a low-energy meet. We have some kids sick, it's finals week ... I felt like we did a really great job at the relay meet Saturday (at Tillamook). Our emphasis right now is just on racing. We've done all the technique and foundational work, so we're at a point



Noah Kastengren competes for Astoria during a meet versus Valley Catholic.

where we're just getting them up and racing, getting them prepared for the league meet and districts."

The Fishermen won the team scoring on both sides of Tuesday's meet, with the Astoria girls defeating Valley Catholic 106-40, and the Fishermen boys posting a 99-43 win over the Valiants.

One highlight included senior Samantha Hemsley winning the 50-yard freestyle in 33.50 seconds and taking third in the 100-yard freestyle.

"For being a first-year swimmer, that shows a lot of improvement, and shows her athleticism," Zacher said of Hemsley.

"I know she was a starter in basketball, and I kind of took some heat for her switching sports. I didn't recruit her. I literally didn't know who she was at the first practice."

"Actually, I think a good shout-out goes to all of our first-year kids," Zacher said. "They have steadily increased over the season, and including today, they continue to drop times. It shows how hard they've been work-

ing, and Sam is a good example of that."

Astoria won most of the events, with a large part of the Valley Catholic team remaining at home. The Valiants will still be tough at districts, Zacher said.

The favorites in the district meet? "Tillamook girls and Newport boys," said Zacher, who's a pretty good judge of talent. "Maybe Taft in second for both girls and boys, and when Valley Catholic has their whole team, they've been outscoring others."

Meanwhile, with her own team, "We've got a small percentage of swimmers at the top, a large percentage of beginners, and we're lacking a big corps middle group," she said. "And I'm finding that to be really challenging. We're trying our best to work our way around it, and the second half of the season I feel like we've done better than the first half."

"Right now, I'm trying to get the kids prepared to travel and race on the same day (as they will for districts)."

In last Saturday's Cheese Relays meet at Tillamook, the Seaside girls finished second behind Tillamook, while the Lady Fishermen placed fourth out of six teams.

On the boys' side, Taft won the team title ahead of second-place Astoria, with Seaside fifth.

The Astoria seniors honored in Tuesday's meet included Madi Burchfield, Camille Cottrell, Hemsley, Cody Meigh Lachica, Mazie Moyer, Taylor Palmrose and Jenna Travers off the girls' team, and boys' swimmers Ryder Dopp, Elias Simmons and Ethan Sparks.

In his final year, Martinez gets call from Cooperstown

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

When Edgar Martinez had the most famous swing of his career — "The Double" as it's known by in the Pacific Northwest — he was already 32 years old.

His career had a late start. So waiting all 10 years on baseball's Hall of Fame ballot before his election to Cooperstown was just another chapter in the arc of his life.

"I think the wait, I think I'm more mature right now. I think I've enjoyed it more at this point with my family, the way my kids are older now and it just has a lot of meaning, even more meaning now," Martinez said. "The wait, actually it worked out well for me."

In his final year on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot, Martinez was elected on Tuesday with 85.4 percent of the vote. His election marked a remarkable turnaround, climbing in his final five years of eligibility from an afterthought to on the ballot to and inductee.



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mariners' Ken Griffey Jr., rear, and Jay Buhner, right, take a tickling Edgar Martinez following a team batting practice at spring training in Peoria, Ariz., in 1997.

It was a collective effort, from the Mariners organization constantly publicizing his worthiness, to die-hard fans who believed in the beloved Martinez, to voters taking a new look at the importance of a player who was primarily a designated hitter.

"I think it was really big

part of why I've been elected," Martinez said of the Mariners' efforts. "They have done an amazing job sharing information about my career for the last seven years or so. and the effort and the work they have done definitely is one of the big reasons why I am talking to you today."

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE TODAY

Girls basketball — Portland Christian at Knappa, 6 p.m.
Boys basketball — Portland Christian at Knappa, 7:30 p.m.
Wrestling — Astoria/Seaside at Estacada, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Boys basketball — Ilwaco at North Beach, 7 p.m.
Swimming — Tillamook at Seaside, 4 p.m.
Wrestling — Warrenton at Dayton, 5 p.m.; Knappa at pre-district meet, at Sheridan, 4 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Astoria 55, Tillamook 25

TIL (25): Maddie Reeves 11, Lourenzo 6, Bodie 4, Crabtree 2, Jenck 2.
AST (55): Julia Norris 14, Hankwitz 11, Jackson 8, Fausett 7, Lyngstad 4, Helmersen 4, Mathews 3, Cole 2, O'Brien 2, Long.

Tillamook	5	4	6	10—25
Astoria	22	9	11	13—55

Warrenton 41, Rainier 24

WAR (41): Fernanda Alvarez 14, Bussert 12, Ramsey 7, M.Heyen 4, Miethe 2, Diego 2, Kapua, Dejesus.
RAI (24): Hannah Farrell 8, Schimmel 5, Biddix 4, Guisinger 4, Gartman 2, Garoutte-Larsen 1.
Warrenton 12 10 11 8—41
Rainier 7 6 6 5—24

BOYS BASKETBALL

Astoria 44, Tillamook 35

TIL (35): Carter Kunert 9, Jenck 8, Shelley 8, Miller 8, Werner 2.
AST (44): Ian Hunt 21, Brockman 7, Olson 6, Soderstrom 4, Johnson 2, Stenblom 2, Marincovich 1, Long 1, Ploghoff, Samuelson, Matlock, Palmberg.

Tillamook	7	13	6	9—35
Astoria	11	6	13	14—44

Rainier 51, Warrenton 44

WAR (44): Devin Jackson 14, Dalton Knight 14, Stephens 8, Little 3, Morrow 2, Maddox 2, Kapua.
RAI (51): Conner Rea 20, J.Tripp 10, K.Tripp 8, Crape 6, Cantrell 4, Godfrey 2.
Warrenton 10 9 14 10—44
Rainier 10 14 12 14—51