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BOUNCING BACK

A return to competitive gymnastics for local gymnasts

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County is back in the gymnastics game.

Infinity Gymnastics Academy (IGA) of Astoria sent its competition team to its first-ever meet, last Saturday and Sunday in Eugene.

The team took part in the United States Gymnastics Academy's Arctic Rush, where IGA received a first-place team award.

Coached by program director Douglas Oldham and Kayla Stubbs, the IGA has 11 girls on its competition team — four from Seaside, two from Knappa and the rest from Astoria and Warrenton.

Each athlete competed on bars, vault, beam and the floor exercise, and all received medals for these events and an All-Around medal as well, according to IGA executive director Nancy Taylor.

It has been more than 20 years since the North Coast has had recreational and competitive gymnastics, Taylor said.

Oldham and Stubbs "have created a great team program," she said.

The IGA's competition team consists of a Bronze Xcel team, which includes Karli Gantenbein (7), Kalista Giles (7), Lily Schaeffling (9)



The IGA's competition team. Front row, left to right: Karli Gantenbein, Kalista Giles. Second row: Jocie Steele, Adelaide Maher, Alex Valdez, Lily Schaeffling, Audrey Steele. Third row: coach Doug Oldham, Sofia Shipley, Calista Valdez, Maevri Bergerson, Annie Rehnert, coach Kayla Stubbs.

and Sofia Shipley (12), and a Silver Xcel team: Maevri Bergerson (12), Adelaide Maher (8), Annie Rehnert (12), Audrey Steele (8), Jocie Steele (6), Alex Valdez (10) and Calista Valdez (11).

At the Arctic Rush meet in Eugene, Schaeffling had first-place marks in the vault (8.90) and beam (8.775), on her way to second in the all-around (34.075) in the age 7-10 division, behind the USGA's Charlee Bozeman (34.700).

Competing in the same division, Giles was fourth

(32.325) and Gantenbein fifth (31.950).

Shipley was fourth in the all-around in the junior age 11-plus division, with a second-place showing in the bars (9.050).

Maher and the Steeles competed against each other in the same division (age 6-8), with Audrey Steele taking first in the vault (9.20), the bars (9.550) and the floor (8.70), on her way to first in the all-around (36.40), ahead of Maher and Jocelyn Steele.

In the senior (age 10-plus) Xcel Silver division, Reh-

nerth had the second-place all-around score (34.175) behind Kylee Stinger of the USGA (35.300).

Rehnert was second in the floor, while Bergerson was second in the vault and the beam (and third all-around), Calista Valdez had the top score in the bars (9.575) and was fourth overall, and Alexis Valdez was second in the bars and fifth all-around.

Future meets for the IGA team include the "Tumble By the Bay" at Gymnastics Plus in Coos Bay



Coach Doug Oldham talks to gymnasts.



Maevri Bergerson displays her medals won in Eugene.



The gymnasts at a recent meet.

(Feb. 9-10), the Anne Patterson Riverside Classic at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Roseburg (Feb.

23), and the Oregon Xcel State Championships, March 22-24 at the Beaverton Hoops YMCA.

Seaside grapples in double dual at Estacada

The Daily Astorian

The Seaside wrestling team took part in a three-way dual meet Wednesday at Estacada, facing the Rangers and Woodburn in head-to-head matches.

Estacada defeated the Gulls 64-9, with Seaside's two victories coming from Gio Ramirez (pin over Damon Pine) at 170 pounds, and Andrew Gastelum (7-3 decision over Landin Vittetoe) at 120 pounds.

The Gulls were more competitive with Woodburn, which defeated the Gulls in the team scoring, 46-34.

In addition to scoring two wins by forfeit, Seaside picked up victories at 106 pounds, where Johnathon Kenenounis scored a technical fall (17-0) over Yajaira Reyes. At 152, Everett Rollins pinned Jose Sanchez in 4:34. Ramirez won by fall (1:12) over Keven Mendoza at 170. And Lawson Talamantez had a technical fall (18-3) over Axel Avendano at 182.

Lillard leads Trail Blazers win over Suns

By **BOB BAUM**
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Damian Lillard scored 24 points, CJ McCollum and Jake Layman added 20 apiece and the Portland Trail Blazers pulled away in the second half to hand the short-handed Phoenix Suns their sixth straight loss, 120-106 on Thursday night.

The Trail Blazers beat Phoenix for the ninth straight time. Portland has won four of five and eight of 11 overall.

Devin Booker scored 27 points for the Suns but only nine after the first quarter. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 18 on 6-of-18 shooting. Dragan Bender, forced into the starting center role due to injuries, had 17.

The Suns were without rookie center Deandre Ayton (sprained left ankle) and backup Richaun Holmes (right foot sprain) for the third straight game. T.J. Warren also sat out with a sore right ankle, and Suns starting point guard De'Anthony Melton left in the third quarter with a sprained right ankle.

Seth Curry scored 17 and Jusuf Nurkic 16 for Portland.



Blazers guard Damian Lillard drives past Suns forward Mikal Bridges.

AP Photo/Matt York

What was left of the Suns stayed with the Blazers through the first half and much of the second.

Booker shot 6 of 9, including 2 of 4 on 3-pointers, in his 18-point first quarter and the Suns led 31-30 after one. With McCollum on the bench with three fouls, Phoenix stretched the lead to 47-41 on Josh Jackson's coast-to-coast drive with 5:52 left in the half.

Portland, though, responded with a 12-1 run to go up 54-48 on Lillard's two free throws with 1:17 remaining. Booker sank four free throws, his only points of the second quarter, and the Trail Blazers led 56-52 at the break.

Elie Okobo made a pair of 3s in a 14-1 spurt that cut the Blazers' lead to 73-72 with 4:21 left in the third quarter, but Port-

land finished the period on a 15-4 run.

Layman scored twice and Lillard sank three free throws — one on a technical against Jackson — as the Blazers scored the last seven points of the quarter to take an 88-76 lead entering the fourth.

The Blazers opened the final quarter with a 12-4 surge and Phoenix never challenged again.

Washington holds off Oregon's late rally

Associated Press

EUGENE — Jaylen Nowell scored 20 points, capped by three free throws with 1.6 seconds left, and Washington weathered a furious Oregon rally to escape 61-56 on Thursday night.

Nowell was fouled on a desperation 3-point try after Payton Pritchard lost the ball as the Ducks were trying to set up for a final shot with the score at 56-56. Pritchard then hit Nowell on the arm as he rose to shoot from about 30 feet.

Oregon's last possession ended with Paul White throwing the length of the court out of bounds, and Matisse Thybulle added two more free throws for the final points.

David Crisp added 18 points and Noah Dickerson 11 for the Huskies (15-4, 6-0 Pac-12), who won their eighth consecutive game. It's also Washington's best start in conference play in 35 years.

Louis King had 19 points to lead the Ducks (11-8, 2-4), and Miles Norris added 10 off the bench. Oregon lost a fourth home game in Matthew Knight Arena for the first time since it opened in 2011.

The Huskies led 51-42 before Pritchard led the Ducks on a 14-0 run over 6 minutes to go up 56-51, but Oregon never scored again. Washington answered with five straight points by Nowell to tie.

Washington led by as many as 12 in the first half and was up 27-19 at the break largely because of Sam Timmins' seven consecutive points off the bench. King had nine for the Ducks, who committed 10 turnovers and had three starters go scoreless in the first half.

OSU eases past Washington State

Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Stephen Thompson Jr. had 22 points, with four 3-pointers, six rebounds and seven assists as Oregon State defeated Washington State 90-77 on Thursday night.

Tres Tinkle had 21 points and four steals and Ethan Thompson added 20 points and six assists for the Beavers (12-6, 4-2 Pac-12).

C.J. Elleby scored 21 points, all in the second half, and Robert Franks Jr. had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Cougars (8-11, 1-5).



Oregon State's Ethan Thompson slides around Washington State's Ahmed Ali.

AP Photo/Amanda Loman

Oregon State shot 52 percent and 10 for 27 on 3-pointers, while Washing-

ton State shot 50 percent and 12 for 28 from long range. But the Beavers out-

rebounded the Cougars 39-24 and grabbed 15 offensive boards.

The Beavers took a 49-33 lead after a 9-0 run, capped by a Stephen Thompson Jr. Euro step and lay-in with 1:32 left in the first half.

Oregon State led 52-36 at the break. Elleby got hot and helped whittle the deficit early in the second half. A 7-0 Cougars surge, with Jervae Robinson scoring five points, trimmed the margin to 67-58 with 12:35 remaining. But that was as close as Washington State would get.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE TODAY

Boys basketball — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 6 p.m.; Knappa at Neah-Kah-Nie, 7:30 p.m.; St. Paul at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.

Girls basketball — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 7:30 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 7:30 p.m.; Knappa at Neah-Kah-Nie, 6 p.m.; St. Paul at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.; Ilwaco at Raymond, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Boys basketball — Ilwaco at Raymond, 7 p.m.
Wrestling — Ilwaco Beach Brawl, 10 a.m.