

# SPORTS

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## Astoria beats Banks with buzzer beater

Astoria, Banks tied for first in league standings

By **GARY HENLEY**  
*The Daily Astorian*

As far as the Astoria girls basketball team is concerned, the postseason began Tuesday night at the Brick House.

That's where the Lady Fishermen landed their biggest victory in recent memory — at least in the era of Mike Jacobson, Astoria's fifth-year coach.

The Fishermen caught a whopper Tuesday night, but then nearly threw it back, as they gave up a late lead.

Banks rallied to tie the game, but Astoria's Halle Helmersen came to the rescue for the Lady Fish, as the sophomore guard drained a 3-pointer as time expired in regulation for a thrilling 55-52 win over No. 2-ranked Banks, in a showdown for first place in the Cowapa League standings.

It was a 22-point turnaround from the last meeting (Jan. 18), when the Braves dominated Astoria, 51-32.

The two teams are now tied with 5-1 league records, with two games remaining in league play. Astoria climbs to No. 8 in the OSAA rankings, while the Braves drop to No. 3.

"Probably our biggest win," Jacobson said, trying to think of any wins bigger than Tuesday's. "Banks has won league five years in a row. But if we lose one of our last two games



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

**Kelsey Fausett, far left, dribbles down the court for Astoria.**

(at Tillamook, at Valley Catholic), then this one doesn't mean anything. Those will be tough games, because those are tough places to play."

Had Tuesday's contest gone into overtime, "It would have been tough for us," he said. "(The Braves) had the momentum. But shoot, the girls pulled it out. It was a big mental game. They finally got over that hurdle, getting that win."

The victory wasn't too surprising for the Fishermen, who came in to the game with a 7-1 record on their home floor this season.

Still, in the previous meeting at Banks, the

Braves scored the first 21 points of the game.

In Tuesday's rematch, the Fishermen led 16-4 in the opening minutes of the second quarter.

Banks' all-state senior Aspen Slifka had just seven points in the first half, while Helmersen and Hailey O'Brien were the only players to score for Astoria in the first two quarters, before a 3-pointer from Sophie Long in the final seconds of the half.

The Fishermen were scoring from inside and outside throughout the second half, highlighted by 3-pointers from Helmersen, O'Brien

and Julia Norris, and drives to the hoop by O'Brien.

Meanwhile, Slifka and the Braves heated up. Slifka scored 19 of her game-high 26 points in the second half, but Astoria still held a 49-45 lead with 2:04 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Braves cut it to 50-49 on a layup by Katie Grossnickle with one minute left.

Helmersen made two free throws with 30 seconds remaining for a three-point lead, but Banks' senior Gracie Nelson answered with a 3-pointer with just 12 seconds on the clock to tie the game at 52-52.

The Lady Fishermen worked the ball into their half of the court and called a time out with four seconds left.

After the inbounds pass, Helmersen got the ball, hesitated, then shot over a defender from just outside the 3-point line. The ball went in as time expired, setting off a major Brick House celebration.

"We had a play designed, but we didn't get it in to where we needed it," Jacobson said. "But Halle knew how much time was left, and she had an open shot. It worked out really well."

He added, "Halle and Hailey (who combined for 40 points) played really well tonight. Halle's money when she's able to set and shoot like that."

Despite the late-game heroics, the match turned into a free throw shooting contest down the stretch. And not a very good free throw shooting contest.

The Braves were just 11-of-25 from the stripe, and Astoria finished 12-of-25.

### HOOPS ROUNDUP

#### Januik's long bomb highlights Seaside win over Valiants

When you're knocking 'em down from 80 feet, it's your season.

Seaside's Chase Januik was at it again, and the Gulls are already in state championship mode, as they scored another win over Valley Catholic in a rematch of last year's state championship game, 43-29.

Tuesday's win at the Gulls' Nest was highlighted by Januik's shot just before halftime, when the senior turned and tossed a Hail Mary-type throw from almost 80 feet away, with the ball going in as the buzzer sounded.

Other than that, the Gulls tied their lowest point total of the season, while giving up a season-low 29 to the Valiants.

Januik scored 14 and Ryan Hague added 13 for Seaside, which hosts a nonleague game Friday with Knappa.

#### Valiants top Seaside girls in OT

Seaside rallied from a 17-6 deficit after one quarter and was seconds away from a win in regulation, but a pair of 3-pointers by Valley Catholic's Katelyn Shook helped the Valiants score an eventual 43-40 overtime win Tuesday night at the Gulls' Nest.

Shook drained a 3-pointer in the final seconds of regulation to send the game to an extra period, then banked in a trey in overtime for the final margin of victory.

Seaside coach Mike Hawes called it, "an overtime agonizer."

He added, "Valley jumped out early, and then something clicked (for the Gulls) in the second quarter. And from there it was tight the whole game."

Emy Kiser and Lilli Taylor both scored nine points to lead Seaside, which went on a 15-6 run in the second quarter and trailed by just 23-21 at halftime.

#### Banks defeats Astoria, 67-38

Astoria was within three points after one quarter, and even looked good through the first four minutes of the third period, trailing No. 2-ranked Banks by just 13 points, 37-24.

But the Braves are ranked No. 2 for a reason, as they showed following a timeout in the third period.

Banks took the floor and went on a 16-2 run, on its way to a 67-38 win over the Fishermen in Cowapa League boys basketball action Tues-

day at the Brick House.

On Senior Night in front of the home fans, Astoria senior Ian Hunt scored a team-high 17 points to keep the Fishermen competitive.

But Banks countered with 24 points from Jacob Slifka, followed by Blake Gobel with 12. In all, 10 players scored for the Braves, who remain one game behind Seaside in the league standings.

For the Fishermen, Hunt was followed by Marcus Soderstrom with five points, while eight other players finished with two points each.

#### Willamina defeats Warrenton, Warriors clinch playoff spot

It was a bittersweet night for the Warrenton boys basketball team Tuesday at Warrenton.

The Warriors lost their fourth straight, a 48-37 decision to Willamina. But on the bright side, Clatskanie defeated Taft, clinching a spot for Warrenton in the Coastal Range League playoffs, which begin next Wednesday.

Willamina's win gave the Bulldogs a little revenge, following a pair of one-point losses to the Warriors earlier in the season.

Warrenton was playing without Ayden Stephens, who suffered an ankle sprain and is expected to miss a week, said Warrior coach Nate McBride.

Dalton Knight had a team-high 14 points for the Warriors, while sophomore Kaleb Floyd led Willamina with 14 points, followed by Chance Kalawa with 12.

Warrenton hosts Rainier Friday.

#### Warrenton girls run past Willamina in 'complete game'

Warrenton girls basketball coach Robert Hoepfl described it as "probably our most complete game of the season." A good sign, as the Warriors close in on the post-season.

With one league game remaining, Warrenton tuned up with a 72-37 win over Willamina, in a Coastal Range League game Tuesday at Warrenton.

"For the first time, Claire (Bussert), Kenzie (Ramsey) and Fernanda (Alvarez) all had big nights offensively," Hoepfl said. Bussert scored 24 points with six assists, followed by Ramsey with 17 and Alvarez with 16 and 11 rebounds.

Avyree Miethel tossed in 11, as Warrenton's top four scorers combined for 68 of the 72 points.

Bussert is Warrenton's version of Oregon

superstar Sabrina Ionescu, doing a little bit of everything for the Warriors.

Bussert had 15 points and Ramsey had 14 in the first half, which ended with a long 3-pointer from Ramsey.

Melia Kapua and Adriana Dejesus combined for nine assists.

#### Nestucca knocks off Knappa

Nestucca had three players in double fig-

ures in a 56-39 win over Knappa in a Northwest League girls basketball game Tuesday in Cloverdale.

Jocelyn Moreno led the Bobcats with 17 points, with support from Olivia Leslie (14) and Shamilee Chatelain (11).

Sophia Carlson scored a team-high 13 points for the Loggers, who closed out the league season with a 4-12 mark in league play. Knappa finishes the season with a nonleague contest Friday at Seaside.

— *The Daily Astorian*

2018-19 | 29TH SEASON

## COLUMBIAFORUM

February 12, 2019 • 6 pm

### The natural evolution of the electric grid

#### Community Choice Aggregation

Technology and community needs have evolved and it is time for the next stage in the electric grid. Enter Community Choice Aggregation, CCA for short. Under the CCA model, these public entities allow communities to take control of their energy decisions and implement locally driven energy projects — everything from community solar, to EV adoption to disaster resilient micro-grids. CCA members are seeing lower power bills and more rapid adoption of carbon-free energy sources along with innovative locally driven projects.

#### Alan Hickenbottom

Alan Hickenbottom is the Oregon Project Manager for LEAN Energy US, the national education and advocacy organization for Community Choice Aggregation. A native Oregonian, Alan has been an Oregon renewable energy and clean tech entrepreneur for more than 15 years. He is a current or former board member of Clean Energy Works Oregon, NW Environmental Business Council, Oregon Business Association, Build Local Alliance and the Oregon Natural Desert Association.

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## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### THURSDAY

**Girls basketball** — Astoria at Tillamook, 6 p.m.; Open Door at Knappa, 6:30 p.m.; Livingstone Adventist at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.

**Boys basketball** — Astoria at Tillamook, 7:30 p.m.; Livingstone Adventist at Jewell, 7 p.m.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

##### Astoria 55, Banks 52

BAN (52): Aspen Slifka 26, Nelson 12, Grossnickle 5, Kind 4, Hernandez 2, Buliga 2, Streblov 1.

AST (55): Halle Helmersen 22, O'Brien 18, Norris 8, Long 3, Fausett 2, Hankwitz 2, Jackson, Lyngstad.

Banks 4 11 15 21 — 52  
 Astoria 15 6 17 17 — 55

#### Valley Catholic 43, Seaside 40

SEA (40): Emy Kiser 9, Lilli Taylor 9, Douglas 7, Blodgett 6, VanDusen 4, Garhofer 3, Turner 2, Goin, Zagata, Angulo.

Valley 17 6 6 7 7 — 43

Seaside 6 15 9 6 4 — 40

#### Warrenton 72, Willamina 37

WIL (37): Kaya McLean 16, France 8, Hughes 6, KiRankin 3, Scranton 3, E.Shrabel 1.

WAR (72): Claire Bussert 24, Ramsey 17, Alvarez 16, Miethel 11, A.Heyen 2, Diego 2, Mossman 2, Bennett, Fritz, Kelly, Kapua, Dejesus, Schiewe, M.Heyen, Marchello.

Willamina 3 12 9 13 — 37  
 Warrenton 16 21 16 19 — 72

#### Nestucca 56, Knappa 39

KNA (39): Sophia Carlson 13, Dietrichs 8, Weaver 7, Tischer 5, Nicholson 4, Corcoran 2, McCall, Rilatos.

NES (56): Jocelyn Moreno 17, Leslie 14, Chatelain 11, Webber 8, Ozuna 3, Johnson 2, Houck 1.

Knappa 11 11 10 7 — 39  
 Nestucca 14 17 10 15 — 56

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

##### Banks 67, Astoria 38

BAN (67): Jacob Slifka 24, Gobel 12, Bunn 8, Exline 5, Evans 4, Vandehey 4, Hiestand 4,

Buliga 3, Cameron 2, Klein 1.

AST (38): Ian Hunt 17, Soderstrom 5, Olson 2, Stenblom 2, Ploghoft 2, Marinovich 2, Brockman 2, Johnson 2, Palmberg 2, Jones 2.

Banks 13 18 22 14 — 67  
 Astoria 10 8 9 11 — 38

#### Seaside 43, Valley Catholic 29

VC (29): Peter Boileau 8, Jack Tetzloff 8, Johnson 5, Flemmer 5, Miller 3.

SEA (43): Chase Januik 14, Hague 13, Br. Johnson 8, Westerholm 4, Thompson 4, Be. Johnson, Meyer.

Valley 6 5 11 7 — 29  
 Seaside 13 12 11 7 — 43

#### Willamina 48, Warrenton 37

WIL (48): Kaleb Floyd 14, Kalawa 12, Briant 7, Colton 6, Watkins 4, Schoenbacher 3, Doane 2.

WAR (37): Dalton Knight 14, Morrow 7, Jackson 6, Little 4, Green 4, Schenbeck 2, Kapua.

Willamina 13 13 8 14 — 48  
 Warrenton 6 8 14 9 — 37