

# SPORTS

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## PREP HOOPS

### Astoria scores road win at Tillamook

*The Daily Astorian*

In the battle to stay out of the Cowapa League cellar, the Astoria boys basketball team snapped a three-game losing skid with a 42-38 win Thursday night at Tillamook.

The Fishermen improve to 2-5 in league play, with an outside chance of moving into third place in the league standings with a win next week at Valley Catholic. The Valiants (2-3) host Banks tonight.

Astoria held a slim 23-22 lead at halftime, before outscoring the Cheesemakers 12-8 in the third quarter.

"We did some good things tonight," said Astoria coach Kevin Goin. "We had a good lead in the second quarter, then they went triangle-and-two (defense) on us, and cut it to one at halftime.

"But we had a good second half," he said. "We ran the clock and did some good things, and made enough free throws down the stretch."

Ian Hunt scored 15 points and Isaac Brockman added 10 for Astoria.

The Cheesemakers drop to 0-6, last place in the league standings. Tillamook will likely play a league playoff game at Banks, while the Fishermen will likely play (or host) Valley Catholic.

### Astoria tops Tillamook, takes first place

*The Daily Astorian*

The Astoria Lady Fishermen have taken over first place in the Cowapa League girls basketball standings, at least for the time being.

With the No. 2-ranked Banks Braves (5-1 in league) not playing until Friday at Valley Catholic, Astoria's 68-35 win Thursday night at Tillamook puts the Lady Fish (6-1) into first place by a half-game.

Astoria led 15-4 after one quarter, and had the game locked up by halftime, leading 29-11 against the winless (0-6) Cheesemakers, who have now lost 20 straight league games.

For the Lady Fishermen, Thursday's win was their 14th straight over Tillamook going back to 2012-13.

Halle Helmersen led Astoria in scoring for the second time in three nights, scoring 13 points to top three players in double figures. Brooklynn Hankwitz added 11 and Elle Espelien scored 10, all in the fourth quarter.

Only three players scored for the Lady Mooks, who were led by Laci Lourenzo's 13 points.

Banks closes out the league season next Thursday against Seaside, while Astoria plays its league finale Tuesday at Valley Catholic, a team the Fishermen defeated 60-31 last month.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

**Girls basketball** — Knappa at Seaside, 6 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton, 7:30 p.m.; Jewell at C.S. Lewis, 5:30 p.m.

**Boys basketball** — Knappa at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Jewell at C.S. Lewis, 7 p.m.

**Swimming** — District 1 meet, at Newport, TBA

**Wrestling** — District 1/4A Regionals, at Tillamook, TBA

#### SATURDAY

**Swimming** — District 1 meet, at Newport, TBA

**Wrestling** — District 1/4A Regionals, at Tillamook, TBA

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Astoria 68, Tillamook 35

AST (68): Halle Helmersen 13, Hankwitz 11, Espelien 10, Fausett 7, Jackson 7, Long 5, Lyngstad 4, Cole 4, Norris 3, Matthews 2, O'Brien 2.

TIL (35): Laci Lourenzo 13, Reeves 12, Crabtree 10.

Astoria 15 14 16 23—68

Tillamook 4 7 7 17—35

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Astoria 42, Tillamook 38

AST (42): Ian Hunt 15, Brockman 10, Olson 6, Stenblom 4, Marincovich 4, Long 3, Ploghoft, Johnson.

TIL (38): Kellen Shelley 12, Jenck 11, Werner 7, Miller 4, Wilkes 2, Kunert 2, Boomer, Weber.

Astoria 8 15 12 7—42

Tillamook 7 15 8 8—38



Portland Trail Blazers

They were the first — the 1970-71 Portland Trail Blazers. Front row, left to right: Leo Marty, Geoff Petrie, Walt Gilmore, Ed Manning, Dale Schlueter, LeRoy Ellis, Ron Knight, Gary Gregor, Shaler Halimon, Rolland Todd. Second row: Dr. Frank Smith, Dr. Larry Mudrick, Stu Inman, Rick Adelman, Stan McKenzie, Jim Barnett, Claude English, Dan Trutanich, Bill Schonely, Harry Glickman.

# BLAZERS READY FOR 50TH BIRTHDAY BASH

## Team will turn 50 on Feb. 6, 2020

By DAVE NELSON  
 For The Daily Astorian

**I**t was on Feb. 6, 1970, when one of Oregon's most loved — if not the most loved — sports franchises came into existence. The Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City.

It all started with Harry Glickman, an entrepreneur of professional sports, having a dream of top-level sports for his hometown of Portland.

A group of local investors and the NBA expansion committee met in Philadelphia, and the expansion committee raised the franchise price tag to \$3.7 million, causing the group of investors — who were prepared to give \$2 million — to back out, leaving no financial support to make it happen.

Back in Portland, Glickman got a call from then-Seattle Sonics general manager Dick Vertlieb, who, according to the team, said he "knew a guy" who might be interested in staking an NBA franchise, but made it clear he was not interested in being part of the ownership.

That guy was Herman Sarkowsky, a home builder in Seattle, and the possible interest of two developer friends, Larry Weinberg (who would become owner of the team) and Robert Schmertz.

The league had set a deadline to select its new teams, and when the deadline rolled around, Glickman still hadn't heard from Sarkowsky.

Glickman went to Los Angeles with only a scheme to try and persuade the NBA's Board of Governors to accept Portland. He had hoped a good faith offer would work.

Once inside the hotel room of the chairman of the expansion committee and Baltimore Bullets owner Abe Pollin, the mood changed. A few members of the committee, led by the owner of the New York Knicks,



Blazers.com

**Former Portland Trail Blazers radio/television announcer Bill Schonely, who coined the term 'Rip City.'**

did not want Portland in the league.

So Glickman left the room dejected.

When he reached the lobby of the hotel, with the feeling that his dream had failed, he remembered he had left his raincoat back in the room.

"When I got there," Glickman said, "Pollin was on the phone: 'Harry it's for you ... some guy named Sarkowsky is on the phone.' He had reached Weinberg, who was eager to buy into an NBA franchise and finally got in touch with Schmertz, who was in. And Portland was granted an NBA franchise.

"When we got this franchise, we didn't have any support, any political groups ... we had very little from the media," Glickman said Wednesday at a press conference. "I hope that changes now, because of the very day we got this franchise, we held a press conference the very next day saying, 'we hope we (as in Oregon) have another major league team.' And my biggest disappointment is, we haven't had another one to join us. I hope we don't have to wait another 48 years to get one."

Now 50 years later, it's time to celebrate 50 years and the 50th anniversary of the beloved franchise. And plans are underway to do so.

The Blazers announced Wednesday that a preseason game will be played Oct. 7 against the Denver Nuggets inside their

original home, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, next door to their current home, the Moda Center, to honor the historic venue that served as the home of the Trail Blazers the first 25 years.

Other events include specially-designed "Decades Nights" that will celebrate the players, coaches, uniforms, branding, music and other Trail Blazer memories from the 1970s, '80s, '90s, 2000s and 2010s.

A special 50-year logo has been designed for next year, with plans of playing on a special commemorative court, and wearing very special uniforms.

"We are committed to honor this anniversary, and we are working very hard to put together an anniversary celebration we know our fans are going to be excited about," said Trail Blazers President and CEO Chris McGowan.

Happy anniversary to a team that brought its fans a championship, three trips to the NBA Finals, a streak of 21 straight playoff appearances, and six Hall of Famers.

### How 'Rip City' was born

In case you were wondering, legendary Blazer announcer Bill Schonely said that "Rip City" itself came about by Schonely trying to come up with a phrase that would "help my broadcast, as well as be synonymous with the team. I couldn't figure it out.

"Later on in 1970, the Lakers came to town, Wilt Chamberlin, Jerry West ... the place (Memorial Coliseum) was packed. The Blazers were down by 25-26 points. All of a sudden as the game went on, the scene changed and the next basket by Portland would tie the mighty Lakers.

"Jim Barnett stopped in front of me, turned and gave me a wink, spun around and took a shot for no reason, and the crowd went wild. He took the ball as it went through the hoop, and for whatever reason, I said 'Rip City, all right!'"

"The Lakers immediately called timeout. I gave my commercial cue, I sat back in my chair and the guys on the side of me said, 'Rip City?' I said 'yeah!' They said, 'leave that in!' That was the birth of Rip City!"

## Blazers likely to be sold, creating angst at City Hall

By JOHN CANZANO  
 The Oregonian

The NBA's trade deadline ticked down as Thursday.

But the hand-wringing is just beginning at City Hall.

Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish said on Thursday that he expects the city's NBA team to be sold in the wake of owner Paul Allen's death last year.

Fish is concerned that new Trail Blazers ownership might seek to relocate the team.

"The clear sense I've received from Blazers management is that this team will be put on the block at some point," Fish said. "I've been told the estate will take about five to six years to be settled.

"We expect the team will be put on the market."

The Trail Blazers' lease with the city of Portland runs through 2025. It includes ironclad language that would ensure the team stays through end of 2023. But it's the uncertainty that Fish and some others would like to put to rest in front of a potential sale. And I don't blame him.

Be clear, the NBA is working in Portland.

The Blazers will likely make

the playoffs and have a functional home arena. Through 30 home dates, they've drawn more than 582,000 fans. The franchise is eighth in the league in home attendance (19,400). Also, Forbes released its valuations of the league's franchises this week, putting the Blazers and their home arena at \$1.6 billion.

Allen bought the team in 1988 for \$70 million.