

SPORTS

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Young Astoria gymnasts score big in Coos Bay



Infinity Gymnastics
Audrey Steele of Infinity Gymnastics takes her place atop the podium, following her first place all-around score. Teammate Adelaide Maher is in the third-place spot, followed by Jocelyn Steele (fourth) and Alexis Valdez (fifth).

Steele wins all-around

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

Athletes from Astoria's Infinity Gymnastics Academy were back in action over the weekend, competing in the Tumble by the Bay meet Saturday at Gymnastics Plus in Coos Bay.

Eight-year-old Audrey Steele highlighted the meet for the local group of gymnasts, as she took first place for the top all-around score in her age group, the Xcel Silver (younger) division.

Steele had the best scores in the vault (9.40) and the floor exercise (9.30), and placed second in the bars and balance beam on her way to an all-around score of 36.50. It was also the second-best all-around score of the day (all groups) behind the 38.7 posted by Story Ann Rael of Umpqua Valley Gymnastics in the Level 3 junior division.

Also competing in Steele's group, IGA teammate Adelaide Maher was third in the all-around (34.40), followed by Jocelyn Steele (34.075) and Alexis

Valdez (32.45).

All of the IGA gymnasts improved on their best season scores, according to IGA executive director Nancy Taylor.

IGA's Annie Rehnert took first place in the bars with a score of 9.35, and was second in the vault (9.20) and third in the floor (8.90), with an all-around score of 36.1 for third place in her group (Xcel Silver, older division).

Competing in the same group was IGA teammate Calista Valdez, who took second in the bars (9.15) and third in the vault (9.1).

And in the Xcel Bronze division for all ages, IGA gymnast Lily Schaeffling had the top score in the floor exercise (9.10), and was second in the vault and all-around (36.20). Teammate Karli Gantenbein was right behind in third all-around (34.30), highlighted by her first-place finish in the bars (9.30).

The next meet for the athletes from Infinity Gymnastics is the Anne Patterson Riverside Classic, Feb. 23 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Roseburg.

HOOPS ROUNDUP

Lady Fishermen clinch share of league title

Astoria girls are one step closer to their first state tourney appearance since 2002

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria girls basketball team locked up at least a share of the Cowapa League championship Tuesday night, with a 46-45 win at Valley Catholic.

The Lady Fishermen finish league play with a 7-1 record, still a half-game ahead of second-place Banks (6-1), which closes league play Thursday against Seaside.

Tuesday's win did not come easy, as Valley Catholic staged a fourth-quarter rally and nearly pulled off a huge upset.

"We about gave (the Valiants) the game in the fourth quarter," said Astoria coach Mike Jacobson. "But we pulled it out. We were out of position defensively and we lost track of No. 4 (Valley's Callie Kawaguchi, who scored a game-high 21 points).

"Anyway, we pulled out the win for at least a share of the Cowapa League championship. Been a long time coming for the Astoria girls program."

And the Lady Fishermen are one step closer to their first state tournament appearance since 2002.

If Banks should defeat Seaside on Thursday, Astoria would play the Braves (at Tillamook) Saturday for the league's No. 1 seed. And that's just the beginning of a long series of league playoff games.

Valley Catholic will likely host Seaside on Saturday, with the winner of that game to play the loser of Banks vs. Astoria next Monday, at the higher-seeded team. The winner of Valley Catholic vs. Seaside would play the winner of Banks vs. Astoria next Tuesday.

The Lady Fishermen would be outright league champions if Seaside wins Thursday at Banks.

Astoria led 14-3 after one quarter against the Valiants,

who trailed 36-24 after three quarters.

Valley Catholic went on a 21-10 run in the final period, but the Fishermen held on for the victory.

Hailey O'Brien led Astoria with 20 points, followed by Kelsey Fausett with nine and Brooklynn Hankwitz with eight.

Valiants defeat Astoria boys, 45-19

Two teams who may see each other in the league playoffs squared off Tuesday night in Beaverton, where Valley Catholic scored a 45-19 win over Astoria in a Cowapa League boys basketball game.

It was the league finale for the Fishermen, who finish 2-6 in league play, fourth place in the league standings.

Valley Catholic — ranked 10th in the 4A state rankings with a 3-4 league record — will finish the league season Thursday at Tillamook.

Astoria will open the league playoffs Saturday.

Januik scores 34 in Seaside boys' win over Tillamook

The result was predictable Tuesday night at Seaside, where the No. 1-ranked Gulls hosted Tillamook, ranked 34th out of 34 teams in the Class 4A boys basketball rankings.

The Gulls had the game locked up just a few minutes into the contest, as they scored the first nine points of the game and led 32-6 after one quarter, on their way to an 89-45 victory.

Seaside faced very little defense from the Cheesemakers, and put on a shooting clinic for an eventual 77-28 lead in the third quarter.

The Gulls led 56-24 at halftime, thanks in large part to 24 points in the first half by Chase Januik, who finished with 34.

Beau Johnson scored 12 and Duncan Thompson added 10 for Seaside, which had 11 players in the scor-

ing column. The Gulls finish league play Thursday at Banks.

Seaside girls hold off Tillamook, 48-41

Looking to end a 20-game losing streak in league play, an inspired Tillamook team gave Seaside all it could handle Tuesday night in a Cowapa League girls basketball game at the Gulls' Nest.

The Lady Gulls held a slim lead for the final three quarters and finally managed to hold off the Cheesemakers, 48-41.

With a 2-5 league record, Seaside can still catch Valley Catholic (3-4) in the league standings, if the Gulls can win Thursday at Banks.

Meanwhile, Emy Kiser scored 15 points to lead Seaside in Tuesday's win, in which the Gulls led by just three points early in the fourth quarter against the winless Cheesemakers.

An 11-0 run by the Gulls in the first quarter had Seaside on the verge of putting the game away early, leading 17-9 after one quarter.

But behind 17 points from Maddie Reeves and Laci Lourenzo's 14 points, Tillamook outscored Seaside 12-8 in the second quarter, and was within 34-32 late in the first half following a 3-pointer by Lourenzo.

Kiser had the hot hand for the Gulls, knocking down four 3-pointers. She scored nine of her 15 points in the second half, while Morgan Blodgett scored six of her 11 in the fourth quarter to help Seaside pull away. Trinity Turner celebrated senior night with eight points.

"A good solid win for Senior Night," said Seaside coach Mike Hawes. "We had a number of seniors that played really well, including Emy Kiser, who played a calm, awesome game and seemed to make every play when we needed it."

"Morgan Blodgett's scoring in the fourth kept us up with some breathing space, and Trinity Turner played her best varsity game ever, just in the right spots and hustling all over."

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE
TODAY
Girls basketball — Toledo vs. Ilwaco, at Mark Morris, 6 p.m.
Boys basketball — Kalama vs. Ilwaco, at Mark Morris, 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY
Girls basketball — Seaside at Banks, 6 p.m.
Boys basketball — Seaside at Banks, 7:30 p.m.; CRL playoff: Willamina at Warrenton, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Seaside 48, Tillamook 41

TIL (41): Maddie Reeves 17, Lourenzo 14, Stevens 7, Crabtree 3.
 SEA (48): Emy Kiser 15, Blodgett 11, Turner 8, Taylor 7, Douglas 4, Garhofer 3, Goin, Zagata, Angulo-Joli, Van Dusen.
 Tillamook 9 12 11 9—41
 Seaside 17 8 13 10—48
Astoria 46, Valley Catholic 45
 AST (46): Hailey O'Brien 20, Fausett 9, Hankwitz 8, Jackson 4, Norris 3, Helmersen 2, Lyngstad, Cole, Long, Matthews.
 VC (45): Callie Kawaguchi 21, Jones 7, K.Snook 6, C.Wilder 5, Gunther 4, Goodno 2.

Astoria 14 6 16 10—46
 Valley 3 11 10 21—45
BOYS BASKETBALL
Seaside 89, Tillamook 45
 TIL (45): Shelley 10, Boomer 8, Jenck 8, Miller 6, Kunert 5, Werner 4, Autexier 2, Weber 2.
 SEA (89): Chase Januik 34, Beau Johnson 12, Thompson 10, Westerholm 9, Hague 9, Acree 4, Br.Johnson 3, Rich 3, Snyder 2, Meyer 2, Bennett 1, Pugh, Higdon, Sibony.
 Tillamook 6 18 8 13—45
 Seaside 32 24 23 10—89

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