

SPORTS

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Warrenton lands five on all-league squad

The Daily Astorian

The season is set to continue Saturday for the Warrenton girls basketball team, when the No. 7-ranked Warrenton Warriors host the No. 10-ranked Amity Warriors in a first-round game of the 3A state playoffs. The winner advances to the state tournament next week in Coos Bay/North Bend.

Saturday's winner will play the winner of Sutherlin and Salem Academy in a state quarterfinal contest Feb. 28, with an 8:15 p.m. tipoff at Marshfield High School.

Ironically, Warrenton played all three teams in nonleague regular season games this year.

Amity defeated Warrenton 55-44 Dec. 21. Warrenton opened the season in the Bill Spelgatti Invitational at Sutherlin, where Warrenton defeated Sutherlin in a



Warrenton Warrior athletics

Warrenton's five all-league players, left to right: **Fernanda Alvarez, Kenzie Ramsey, Maria Heyen, Adriana Dejesus and Claire Bussert.**

second-round game, 59-37.

The Warriors have faced Salem Academy twice — the first meeting was a 46-17 win Dec. 13 for Salem Academy, before Warren-

ton bounced back with a 38-37 win over the Crusaders in a first-round game of the SCTC Holiday Classic, Dec. 27 at Stayton.

Warrenton will take the floor for

COASTAL RANGE ALL-LEAGUE TEAM

Player of the Year: Shelby Blodgett, Clatskanie
 Coach of the Year: John Blodgett, Clatskanie

FIRST TEAM

Shelby Blodgett, So., Clatskanie
Claire Bussert, Sr., Warrenton
 Kaya McLean, So., Willamina
Kenzie Ramsey, Jr., Warrenton
 Olivia Sprague, So., Clatskanie

SECOND TEAM

Fernanda Alvarez, Sr., Warrenton
 Hannah Hughes, Sr., Willamina

Cloee McLeod, Fr., Clatskanie
 Reese Schimmel, So., Rainier
 Piper Shrabel, Fr., Willamina

HONORABLE MENTION

Hannah Biddix, Sr., Rainier
Adriana Dejesus, Sr., Warrenton
 Autumn Ellis, Jr., Taft
 Hannah Farrell, Jr., Rainier
Maria Heyen, Sr., Warrenton
 Savannah Russo, Sr., Taft
 Kaity Sizemore, So., Clatskanie

Saturday's state playoff game with five players who were selected to the Coastal Range all-league squad, announced last weekend.

Shelby Blodgett of league champion Clatskanie was named the league's Player of the Year, while Clatskanie's John Blodgett was Coach of the Year.

As voted on by the league's coaches, the first team included

Blodgett, along with Clatskanie teammate Olivia Sprague, Willamina's Kaya McLean, and Warrenton's Claire Bussert and Kenzie Ramsey.

Also earning all-league recognition was Warrenton senior Fernanda Alvarez (second team), along with seniors Adriana Dejesus and Maria Heyen, both honorable mention.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Merchants tryouts March 9

The Daily Astorian

The North Coast Merchants, a fastpitch club for local softball players age 8-16, will hold tryouts Saturday, March 9 at Warrenton High School.

Tryouts will be held rain or shine, with a tryout fee of \$10 per player if registered before March 4, or \$20 day of the tryouts.

Scheduled times are 9 a.m. to noon for 8-12 year olds, and 1-4 p.m. for ages 12-plus.

Players should bring gloves, helmet, bat and shoes for both indoor and outdoor practice.

For more information, contact coach Ian O'Brien at 253-720-7970 or obrieni@warrentonk12.org. Players can also message the North Coast Merchant Facebook page or contact coach Morgan Streeter at 541-226-6535 or morgan.streeter22@gmail.com.

Tournaments for the Merchants are two-day events, usually out of town. Player fees begin at \$250 for the season. The Merchants are a competition team, and playing time is not guaranteed.

The goal of the North Coast Merchants is to develop players interested in pursuing softball at the highest levels. Teams are 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U and 16U.

Anglers win Clatskanie tournament

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Anglers, a traveling seventh-grade boys basketball team coached by James Olson, took first place at a tournament in Clatskanie last weekend.

The Anglers played three games Saturday and two more Sunday.

Astoria won all five games to bring home the first-place trophy for the bracket.

Astoria's fifth- and eighth-grade traveling teams also took first place in the same tournament.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE TODAY

Girls basketball — 4A Play-in: Seaside at Molalla, 6 p.m.; 1B regional: Clallam Bay vs. Naselle, 6 p.m., at Mark Morris HS
Boys basketball — 2A state playoff: Coquille at Knappa, 6 p.m.
Wrestling — State meet, Memorial Coliseum, Portland

SATURDAY

Girls basketball — 3A state playoff: Amity at Warrenton, 6:30 p.m.; 2B regional: Davenport vs. Ilwaco, 4 p.m., at Mark Morris HS
Boys basketball — 1B regional: Naselle vs. Sunnyside Christian, 2 p.m., at Ellensburg HS
Wrestling — State meet, Memorial Coliseum, Portland

CENTER DUO OF NURKIC, KANTER LEADS BLAZERS



AP Photo/Kathy Willens

Trail Blazers center Enes Kanter works against Brooklyn Nets forward Ed Davis.

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
 Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jusuf Nurkic had 27 points and 12 rebounds, new backup Enes Kanter added 18 points and nine boards in his Portland debut, and the Trail Blazers beat the Brooklyn Nets 113-99 on Thursday night.

The center tandem was so good that the Trail Blazers didn't even need a big night from All-Star guard Damian Lillard, who was just 5 for 21 from the field. He finished with 13 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Kanter, who signed last week with the Blazers after losing his job with the Knicks, made his first seven shots and finished 8 for 9, missing only a 3-pointer.

CJ McCollum added 21 points in a

good return from the break for the Blazers after going into it with a 129-107 victory over Golden State. They opened a seven-game road trip and don't play their first home game after the All-Star break until March 7 against Oklahoma City.

Allen Crabbe had 17 points for the Nets, who came out of the All-Star break above .500 for the first time since 2013. All-Star guard D'Angelo Russell shot only 4 for 16, finishing with 14 points and eight assists.

Lillard's 3-pointer midway through the third — his only one through three quarters — gave Portland a 69-63 lead that the Blazers would extend largely through Kanter's work inside. He followed with four baskets in the period, including one that gave Portland its largest lead at 82-67.

The lead was 14 after his free throws

with 10:40 to play before Ed Davis, Shabazz Napier and Crabbe — all former Blazers — fueled a 15-2 surge that trimmed it to 90-89. But Portland pushed the lead back into double digits, with Lillard contributing a 3-pointer with a little over 3 minutes to go and Nurkic getting a three-point play when he was fouled on a powerful dunk.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Portland has won four straight in Brooklyn. ... Al-Farouq Aminu had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Nets: F Jared Dudley returned after missing 16 games with a strained left hamstring. That leaves just sixth man Spencer Dinwiddie on the Nets' injured list, and coach Kenny Atkinson said he is doing plenty of things on the court as he recovers from surgery to repair torn ligaments in his right thumb.

Boatwright, Rakocevic lead USC past Oregon, 66-49

By **STEVE DILBECK**
 Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Bennie Boatwright scored 20 points and Nick Rakocevic had 17, both adding six rebounds, to lead USC to a 66-49 victory over Oregon on Thursday night.

The Trojans (15-12, 8-6 Pac-12) held the Ducks (15-11, 6-7) to 33.3 percent shooting from the floor.

The victory reversed an 81-60 USC loss at Oregon last month.

Freshman Louis King led Oregon with 16 points and Victor Bailey Jr. had 10 points off the bench.

The Ducks never could track USC's zone defense, going long stretches where they strug-

gled to find the basket. Oregon went 1 for 12 in one stretch in the second half when the Trojans pushed their lead to 16 points (60-44).

Oregon went without a point during a 5:08 stretch to end the first half and start the second.

USC shot 62.5 from the field in the second half and outrebounded the Ducks 15-8.

Boatwright, who hit 10 3-pointers in USC's last game, went 6 of 9 from the 3-point line against Oregon.

USC outscored Oregon 9-2 to close the first half and take a 30-25 at the break, holding the Ducks to 31.3 percent shooting. Boatwright already had 11 points for the Trojans.

UCLA hangs on after blowing lead to beat Oregon State 68-67

By **BETH HARRIS**
 Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Chris Smith scored the go-ahead basket with 21 seconds left on a desperate bank shot after UCLA blew a 12-point second-half lead, and the Bruins hung on for a 68-67 victory over Oregon State on Thursday night.

Tres Tinkle airballed a potential game-winning 3-pointer with 1.8 seconds to go for the Beavers, who didn't take their first lead until 1:26 remaining in the game.

Moses Brown had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Bruins (14-13, 7-7 Pac-12), who got back to .500 in league play with a handful of regular-season games remaining.

Jaylen Hands added 12 points,

but missed a pair of free throws in the final second with UCLA clinging to a one-point lead.

Stephen Thompson Jr. scored 21 points and Tinkle added 19 for Oregon State (16-9, 8-5), which fell into a second-place tie with idle Arizona State and Utah in the league standings. The Beavers' two-game winning streak ended.

After UCLA led by 12 early in the second half it became a back-and-forth game over the final 4:19.

The Beavers twice got within one point before they tied it 65-all on a 3-pointer by Antoine Vernon, his first basket of the game.

Thompson's layup gave Oregon State its first lead of the game, 67-65.

Hands made 1 of 2 free throws to get UCLA to 67-66.