

SPORTS

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Seaside's Nelson takes fifth at state

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Impressive first-day results for Clatsop County wrestlers led to some big points for the locals at the state meet Friday and Saturday at Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

Combined, wrestlers from Astoria, Seaside, Warrenton and Knappa had six wins (including one bye) and two losses in first-round matches Friday.

In Class 4A action, Astoria's lone wrestler was junior Skylar Smith at 285 pounds.

Smith won his first match, 5-2, over freshman Chris Woods of Hidden Valley, then was pinned by Gabe Shuckie of La Grande in 2:27.

Smith bounced back in consolation with a 5-1 decision over La Grande's Joel Rogers, before losing to Sweet Home's David McMullen 9-2.

Seaside was 2-0 in the first round, with wins by Andre Gastelum (3:04 pin against Mazama's Brycen Johnson) and Luke Nelson (8-2 win vs. Lincoln Clark of La Grande).

The two victories were the first wins for the Gulls in state tournament competition since 2006.

Gastelum was pinned in the quarterfinals and won his first match in consolation (12-9 decision over Mazama freshman Savien Burk), before being pinned by Woodburn's Marcos Hernandez.

Nelson also lost by fall in the quarterfinals, but then won three in consolation, with a 2-1 win over Matthew Horrillo of Siuslaw and a major decision (11-3) against Kody Zemke of Madras.

Nelson dropped a 4-2 decision to Tyler Morris of Junction City, but again came back strong, winning the fifth-place match with a 9-1 decision over Tillamook's

Dawson McKibbin.

Tough going for Warrenton

At the Class 3A level, Warrenton's Armin Rodriguez was pinned by No. 2 seed Raul Ruiz of Nyssa in his first match, but followed with a 21-11 major decision over Willamina's Elias Scholten in consolation.

Rodriguez's tournament came to an end when he lost by fall to Kevin Peasley of Burns.

Warrenton sophomore Triston Scott wrestled three times Friday.

He scored a first-round pin (1:19) against Josiah Rodriguez of Yamhill-Carlton.

From there, No. 2 seed Kaleb Kendrick of Irrigon scored an 8-1 decision over Scott in a quarterfinal match, and Scott was pinned by Marlin Miles of Nyssa in consolation.

Sophomore Nic Pior was the No. 4-seeded wrestler at 132, but after a

first-round bye, Pior lost a 5-0 decision to Pleasant Hill's Jacob Pray, then lost 4-0 to Riverside's Ethan Snyder in consolation.

Isaac Goozee reaches semis

In Class 2A action, Knappa senior Luke Goozee was the No. 2 seed at 138 pounds, but he went 0-2 in Friday's action, dropping a 9-8 decision to Trace Evans of Enterprise, followed by a consolation loss by pin (2:10) to Landen Timeus of Gold Beach.

Meanwhile, Isaac Goozee scored a little redemption for his brother, as he pinned the No. 2-seeded wrestler at 220, a fall in 3:56 over Jimmy North of Central Linn.

From there, senior Cole Kennedy-Gooch of Adrian posted a 9-7 decision over Goozee in the semifinals. The loss sent Goozee to consolation, where he lost a 5-3 decision to Zach Vigil of Glide.



Seaside wrestling
Seaside wrestler Luke Nelson scores another win in the state meet.

Naselle earns all-league honors

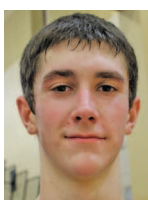
The Daily Astorian

The Naselle boys basketball team heads to the WIAA state basketball tournament in Spokane, Washington this week with six players on their squad who have earned Columbia Valley all-league recognition.

Leading the Comets will be league Coach of the Year Brian Macy, and senior captain Jacob Eaton, the league's Player of the Year.

Naselle senior Antonio Nolan and junior Ethan Lindstrom were named first-team selections, along with Eaton. Senior Cole Dorman and junior Corey Gregory were selected to

the second team, and sophomore Kolby Glenn earned honorable mention.



Jacob Eaton



Brian Macy

COLUMBIA VALLEY LEAGUE

Player of the Year: Jacob Eaton, Naselle

Coach of the Year: Brian Macy, Naselle

First team

Jacob Eaton, Sr., Naselle

Daniel Kogler, Sr., Firm Foundation

Ethan Lindstrom, Jr., Naselle

Antonio Nolan, Sr., Naselle

Ryan Ransom, Jr., Three Rivers

Wyatt Richards, Jr., Three Rivers

Second team

Evan Baker, Sr., Firm Foundation

Cole Dorman, Sr., Naselle

Corey Gregory, Jr., Naselle

Jaden Moore, Sr., Three Rivers

Juan Ramirez, Jr., Washington School/Deaf

Honorable mention

Kolby Glenn, So., Naselle

Nick Heinrich, Sr., Concordia

August Helmes, Sr., Firm Foundation

Jose Ramirez, Jr., Washington School/Deaf

Simon Rommel, Fr., Firm Foundation

Casey Shearer, Sr., Concordia



Yusei Kikuchi throws against the Cincinnati Reds.

AP Photo/Darron Cummings

All eyes on Kikuchi during his spring debut for the Mariners

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Yusei Kikuchi felt the nerves Monday that would normally accompany taking the mound in front of tens of thousands of fans in a major ballpark, not the few thousand who showed up for a spring training game in the desert.

"I've been pitching in Japan for the last nine years and I wanted to test what I was doing in Japan against major league hitters and I wanted to see how they reacted," Kikuchi said through an interpreter. "So I was really kind of excited and also nervous about that."

Kikuchi made his debut for the Seattle Mariners throwing two innings against the Cincinnati Reds in a start that featured a little bit of everything, from moments of dominance, to his defense letting him down, to Kikuchi working out of a jam.

It was a lot for a two-inning debut,

but the Mariners were pleased with what they saw.

Kikuchi's most notable at-bat was his lone strikeout, when he tied up Joey Votto on a deceptive 2-2 curveball that left the veteran slugger waving unsuccessfully. While Kikuchi has a fastball in the mid-90s, his breaking pitches and the ability to hide the ball in his windup add to the challenges of facing the lefty.

"It's spring training and I'm sure he's tuning up his swing as well but to strike out someone the caliber of Joey Votto, a hitter of that caliber, I'm really happy about the result of today," Kikuchi said.

The rest of the outing forced Kikuchi to do a little bit of everything. He had to scamper off the mound to cover first base on a groundout by Yasiel Puig. And he faced the challenge of traffic on the bases after a rough second inning that featured a leadoff walk, two errors and giving up two runs —

although both were unearned.

Kikuchi threw 29 pitches with 19 strikes, the first step in a transitional season.

"Obviously, when you're up on the mound you want to shut them down one, two, three when you're up there but after I let some guys on today I think I was able to keep my pitch count low and get some double play balls so I'm happy with what I did," Kikuchi said.

The first outing for Kikuchi was documented from every angle by Asian photographers following his every move, from his warmup in the bullpen to the scrum after his outing with dozens of reporters.

Seattle wants to limit Kikuchi's innings during the regular season and make the first-year transition from pitching in Japan less arduous. But the Mariners also need to build up Kikuchi so he is ready to take on a starter's load when his innings won't be limited.



Patrick Webb

Naselle sophomore Jimmy Strange drives to the basket for the Comets.

Naselle falls to No. 1 Sunnyside

The Daily Astorian

ELLENSBURG, Wash. — The Naselle boys basketball team hit a temporary roadblock Saturday on the road to the WIAA state championships.

The Comets lost a 1B regional playoff against Sunnyside Christian 57-39. The No. 1-ranked Knights (22-1) earned a first-round bye at state, which starts Wednesday in Spokane.

Naselle, fresh from an 82-49 playoff win over Taholah and an 80-40 win over Mary M. Knight, already had earned its place at state. Coach Brian Macy's team travels to the

Hardwood Classic with a 17-6 record and will play Garfield-Palouse 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Naselle senior Antonio Nolan went down with a leg injury in the second minute and took no further part in the game. His replacement, junior Corey Gregory, came onto the court and immediately opened the scoring with a three-pointer, but it was the only time Naselle was ahead.

Senior Jacob Eaton scored nine points and sophomore Jimmy Strange had eight. The Knights had four players score in double figures.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Blazers hold off Cavaliers' rally for 123-110 win

CLEVELAND — CJ McCollum scored 35 points and the Portland Trail Blazers hung on after nearly squandering a 23-point halftime lead to defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers 123-110 on Monday night.

The Blazers needed a 14-0 run late in the fourth quarter to finally put away a game that looked like a rout in the first half.

Cleveland cut the lead to 88-84 going into the fourth and was behind 105-102 with 4:42 left, but Portland's backcourt duo of McCollum and Damian Lillard took over from there.

McCollum scored 11 points in the fourth quarter and finished the night hitting 12 of 18 shots, including 7 of 8 3-pointers. Lillard scored eight of his 21 points in the final period.

Cedi Osman scored 27 points for

the Cavaliers, who were attempting to win three straight for the first time this season. Kevin Love, playing his fifth game since returning from foot surgery, had 18 points and 12 rebounds in 28 minutes.

The Blazers, coming off road wins over playoff contenders Brooklyn and Philadelphia, seemed to be on their way to a comfortable win against the Cavaliers, who have the league's third-worst record.

Portland scored the game's first 14 points and continued to pour it on in the second quarter, taking a 71-48 lead into halftime.

Cleveland rallied in the third quarter, and Matthew Dellavedova's 3-pointer with a second left cut the lead to 88-84.

Cleveland appeared to tie the game early in the fourth, but Larry Nance Jr.'s 3-pointer was waved off after the Blazers were charged with a common foul on a screen set by Dellavedova.

Zorn named head coach, GM of Seattle XFL franchise

SEATTLE — Former NFL head coach Jim Zorn will be the coach and general manager of Seattle's franchise in the new XFL.

XFL Commissioner Oliver Luck made the announcement Monday. Zorn was head coach of the Washington Redskins for two seasons, but has been out of coaching since 2012.

He has strong Seattle ties as the quarterback for the Seahawks from 1976 to 1984. He also served as an assistant coach for the Seahawks during two stints, including quarterbacks coach from 2001-07.

The current edition of the XFL plans to begin play in 2020 with teams in eight cities. The football league's original version folded after just one season in 2001.

— Associated Press