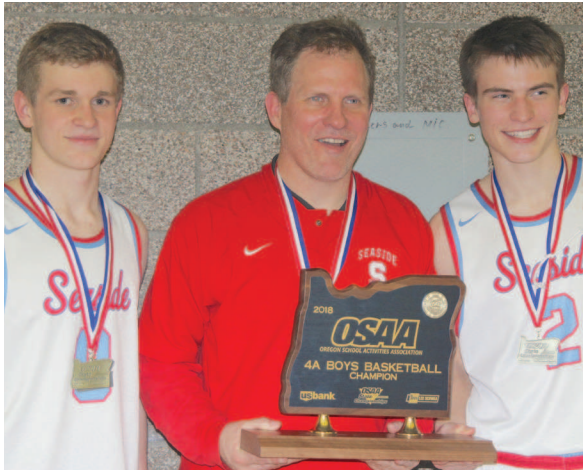


SPORTS

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Co-champs Banks, Seaside share top awards



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Seaside coach Bill Westerholm, center, with two of his all-league seniors — Chase Januik and Payton Westerholm.

The Daily Astorian

In a season with co-league champions, the Banks and Seaside boys basketball teams shared awards for the league's players of the year, defensive players of the year and coaches of the year.

Not surprisingly, all five starters for both the Braves and Gulls were selected to the Cowapa boys all-league team, as voted on by the league's coaches and released last week.

Seaside senior Chase Januik and Banks senior Blake Gobel were named as the players of the year, while

seniors Duncan Thompson of Seaside and Dakota Bunn of Banks were selected as the defensive players of the year.

Bill Westerholm of Seaside and Marcus Roche of Banks were the coaches of the year.

Joining Januik on the first team were senior teammate Payton Westerholm and juniors Ryan Hague and Beau Johnson. Thompson was named honorable mention.

Senior Ian Hunt was Astoria's lone selection to the first team, while Astoria junior Isaac Brockman was named honorable mention.

COWAPA ALL-LEAGUE

League champions: Banks, Seaside

Players of the year: Blake Gobel, Banks; Chase Januik, Seaside

Defensive players of the year: Dakota Bunn, Banks; Duncan Thompson, Seaside

Coaches of the year: Marcus Roche, Banks; Bill Westerholm, Seaside

FIRST TEAM

Blake Gobel, Sr., Banks

Chase Januik, Sr., Seaside

Dakota Bunn, Sr., Banks

Ryan Hague, Jr., Seaside

Ian Hunt, Sr., Astoria

Charlie Jenck, Sr., Tillamook

Beau Johnson, Jr., Seaside

Davis Johnson, Sr., Valley Catholic

Daniel Pruitt, Jr., Valley Catholic

Jacob Slifka, Jr., Banks

Jack Tetzloff, Sr., Valley Catholic

Hayden Vandehey, Sr., Banks

Payton Westerholm, Sr., Seaside

HONORABLE MENTION

Peter Boileau, Sr., Valley Catholic

Isaac Brockman, Jr., Astoria

Bret Cameron, Sr., Banks

Carter Kunert, Sr., Tillamook

Duncan Thompson, Sr., Seaside

Landon Werner, Sr., Tillamook

Canes storm past Comets

By PATRICK WEBB
The Daily Astorian

SPOKANE, Wash. — It was snowing outside the stadium and there was a minor hurricane inside.

The Naselle girls basketball team hit rough weather Wednesday against a strong, defensively minded Mount Vernon Christian. The Hurricanes won 29-19 to advance and play third-ranked Almira-Coulee-Hartline Thursday, taking their season record to 22-3 and sending Naselle home.

The game began in promising fashion as all-league player of the year Lilli Zimmerman opened the scoring and led the Comets to a 9-8 lead after eight minutes. The second quarter, however, saw a lengthy period when the Hurricane defense kept NHS at bay, then transitioned to some occasionally pretty passing to lead 20-12 at the half.

Play in the third quarter went back and forth, with the teams only able to score six points between them. A brief Comet rally brought the score to 22-19, but a Hurricane basket and then a three-pointer in quick succession moved the scoreboard beyond reach as time ebbed away.

Coach Rose Nisbet's team ended with a 15-9 season record.

"We just couldn't get in the groove," the coach said, after consoling her players, who included five seniors. "They did a good job with the press and that's what we couldn't do. Normally we can break a press, but we couldn't get a connection."

She commended the team for coping with the pressure of appearing at the finals.

"It's a big stage to be on. We were more relaxed in the second half," she said. "I'm proud of our girls. But not everyone can have a happy ending."

LAST-GASP WIN



Patrick Webb/For The Daily Astorian

Junior Ethan Lindstrom (4) drives to the basket as teammate Cole Dorman watches.

Next is the team that beat NHS in football playoffs

By PATRICK WEBB
For The Daily Astorian

SPOKANE, Wash. — Naselle boys lived to play another day. But, it sure was a close one.

As west-side teams tumbled out of the 1B state championship first round, the Comets encountered a formidable obstacle in Garfield-Palouse.

The Vikings threatened to pillage Naselle's state hopes, but were foiled by a halftime pep talk from Coach Brian Macy that was simplicity itself.

The Comets won 54-51 and advanced to the second round, where they will face Almira-Coulee-Hartline 9 p.m. Thursday

"It was a pretty hard-fought game," said Macy, a master of understatement. He acknowledged the first quarter was somewhat shaky. "We settled down in the second quarter and then at halftime I told them to get some offense going. Jimmy (Strange) and Ethan (Lindstrom) did well to spark the momentum."

Naselle had opened the scoring then had some jitters, allowing Garfield to drive to the basket multiple times to lead 18-12.

Corey Gregory helped peg back the deficit by stealing the ball and taking it all the way down the court for an easy score. Jacob Eaton got into gear with some solid work in the middle and Antonio Nolan, who left the regional playoff Saturday with an early ankle injury, came off the bench and injected some additional enthusiasm into the Naselle offense.

Halftime saw the Comets trailing 23-20, but readjustments by Macy paid off. Juniors Lindstrom and Gregory kicked up their intensity, with Lindstrom driving to the basket, scoring despite being fouled, and sinking the free throw to tie the score.

Gregory added a sweet 3-pointer and so did sophomore Strange to tie the score again after the lead shifted toward the Vikings. Eaton put the Comets ahead and quick-acting Cole Dorman grabbed a rebound and tossed it in.

Gregory's next 3-pointer gave Naselle its biggest lead at 39-29, but the game was far from safe. Garfield fought back with its beefy-but-quick players, causing issues for Comet defenders, on one play snagging rebounds three times from the hands of Naselle play-

ers and eventually scoring. Sophomore Colby Glenn scored as the third quarter ended to put Naselle ahead 41-35.

The next eight minutes could properly be called intense. Garfield scored, Naselle missed on the next attack, although Lindstrom later scored twice, combining nicely with Eaton on the second play. Fouls and free throws played the next big part in the unscripted drama as Garfield went to the line and missed, then returned to sink two to lead 51-50 with 1:04 remaining.

The clock appeared to be Naselle's enemy, but with 53 seconds remaining, Glenn nailed a 3-pointer and Lindstrom was fouled going for the basket and sank a free throw as the Comets hung on to win.

Lindstrom ended the night with 16 points, Gregory with 18. Macy also commended Gregory for his defensive work trying to shut down Garfield's 6-2 junior talent Blake Jones.

The coach knows his team will have a similar challenge against Almira-Coulee-Hartline. The Warriors are 19-4 and their 6-1 star senior is none other than Maguire Isaak, whose stellar quarterbacking talents ended Naselle's football season in the playoffs last fall.

"We will have to find a way to cope with him," Macy smiled.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE TODAY

Boys basketball — 2A state tournament (Pendleton): Knappa vs. Oakland, 3:15 p.m.
Girls basketball — 3A state tournament (Marshfield HS): Warrenton vs. Salem Academy, 8:15 p.m.

FRIDAY

Boys basketball — 4A state playoff: Sisters at Seaside, 7 p.m.; 2A state tournament: TBA vs Knappa

Girls basketball — 3A state tournament: TBA vs. Warrenton

SATURDAY

Girls basketball — 4A state playoffs: Seaside at Baker, 4 p.m.; Marist at Astoria, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mount Vernon Christian 29, Naselle 19
 NAS (19): Kenzie Glenn 8, Lilli Zimmerman 4, Jackie Steenerson 3, Lauren Katryniuk 2, Bella Colombo 2, Peyton Dalton, Taylor Gudmundsen, Darian Jacot, Grace Hunt.
 MVC (29): Kailley Faber 7, Josie Droog 7, Emma Droog 7, Kylee Russell 5, Becca Pedrosa 3, Sophia Wood, Hannah Van Hofwegen, Caitlen Vander Kooy, Mali Stogner, Rayahna Oostera, Abigail Russell, Abby De Vlieger.
 Naselle 9 3 4 3—19
 M.Vernon 8 12 2 7—29

Fishermen cannot slay the beast

By PATRICK WEBB
For The Daily Astorian

SPOKANE, Wash. — There was no fairy tale ending for the Ilwaco Fishermen at the WIAA state championships Wednesday. The St. George's Dragons advanced to the next round with a 59-41 win.

The loss came despite a promising first quarter in which the Fishermen came out fighting for every rebound and demonstrating some nice passing skills.

"Four of those first quarters is what we needed," said Ilwaco coach Ned Bittner after commiserating with his team. "We were playing with confidence at the start, but



Patrick Webb/For The Daily Astorian
 Ilwaco's Erika Glenn drives past St. George's defender Grace Harril.

for the second and third quarter we just struggled. We got a little stagnant, we allowed them to get the lead and hang on to it."

St. George's scored first, then

Ilwaco replied with points from hardworking junior Estella Sheldon, who was aggressively rebounding at both end of the court, and a three-pointer from Arianna Bell.

Solid sophomore Kylie Gray came off the bench, grabbed a rebound and tossed it in, then took a pass and scored again. Stalwart Ericka Glenn scored after three attempts with the ball, and the quarter ended with the Fish ahead 15-10.

The Spokane-area team moved ahead in the second to lead 26-16 at halftime and never looked back.

When Gray fouled out in the third quarter, she left the court in tears but to huge applause from the Ilwaco fans. She had scored nine points, second only to sophomore Glenn's 18.

There were some bright

moments late in the game as other athletes got playing time. Sophomore Tiana Ramsey cheekily dispossessed an opponent, but missed a shot; lone freshman Olivia Long scored late to make the score appear more respectable. And Bell, one of two seniors on the squad, went home with the sportsmanship medal.

The coach praised the work of his squad throughout the season. "Never once did we say that it was good enough 'just to get here,'" he said. "This group just worked their tails off, won league, then district finals to get to the Spokane Arena."

He is excited about the future of Ilwaco girls basketball, losing just Bell and Ebby McMullen to graduation in June. "We have 10 coming back, our JV team was undefeated and we have some strong eighth graders."