

SPORTS

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Seahawks use franchise tag on defensive end Clark

RENTON, Wash. — As Frank Clark continued to impress in the final season of his rookie contract, the Seattle Seahawks kept saying he would be part of their long-term plans.

The Seahawks stayed true to that, but for now it's just for the 2019 season. Seattle used the franchise tag Monday on Clark, keeping the former second-round pick and top pass rusher from hitting the free-agent market.

Clark will be due \$17,128,000 this season if the sides do not come to an agreement on a long-term deal by July 15 and he plays under the franchise tag. Both sides have indicated a desire to keep Clark in Seattle for more than just one more season.

"Frank and I, we have a great relationship. The communication has been great. There's a strong level of trust between the two of us," general manager John Schneider said at the NFL combine last week.

Clark proved his worth as an elite pass rusher with a career-high 13 sacks in 2018, the first season he didn't have veterans Michael Bennett and Cliff Avril helping him get to the quarterback. They were the most sacks by any Seattle player since 2007 and put Clark in line for a massive payday should he hit the open market.

But Seattle decided not to let that happen, using its franchise tag for the first time since 2010, when it was used on kicker Olindo Mare. Seattle used the non-exclusive franchise designation on Clark, meaning he could sign with another team but Seattle would get two first-round picks from his new team.

Oregon women sixth in AP women's basketball poll

NEW YORK — Baylor remained the unanimous No. 1 choice in the Associated Press women's basketball poll.

The Lady Bears, who have been atop the rankings for six weeks, received all 28 first-place votes from a national media panel Monday. The Lady Bears have the longest winning streak in the country, 19 games, and closed out the regular season Monday night at West Virginia.

UConn, Louisville, Notre Dame and Mississippi State follow Baylor. All four teams are done with the regular season and start their conference tournaments later this week. Oregon, Stanford and Maryland remained Nos. 6, 7 and 8 as the first eight teams in the poll are unchanged.

North Carolina State moved up a spot to ninth and Iowa two spots to 10th.

Zags, Cavaliers remain 1-2 in AP Top 25

Gonzaga remained at No. 1 after extending the nation's longest winning streak to 20 games. Virginia stayed at No. 2 after winning both its games last week.

The Bulldogs received 42 of 64 votes in the men's college basketball poll released Monday after finishing an undefeated run through the West Coast Conference. The Cavaliers had 21 first-place votes and No. 4 Duke, which fell a spot, had the remaining one.

North Carolina and Tennessee both moved up two spots, to Nos. 3 and 5.

Every other team switched positions and No. 25 Central Florida moved into the poll for the first time since 2010-11.

Gonzaga (29-2) capped off a 16-0 run through the West Coast Conference by rolling over Pacific and Saint Mary's to earn the No. 1 seed in this week's WCC Tournament.

—Associated Press



LEFT: Lily Schaeelling works on the bars, under the watchful eyes of teammate Karli Gantenbein. RIGHT: Annie Rehnert's routine on the bars, on her way to the best all-around score.

Photos by Nancy Taylor

Infinity gymnasts post season-best scores

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Athletes for Astoria's Infinity Gymnastics Academy were on the road again recently, taking part in the Anne Patterson Classic at Umpqua Valley Gymnastics in Roseburg.

The IGA gymnasts were in competition with each other, in the girls' all-age silver Xcel and bronze Xcel divisions.

For the silver team, Audrey Steele had the top all-around score of 36.675, with the best scores in the vault (9.50) and bars (9.775), and a 9.0 in the floor exercise.

Steele finished just ahead of teammate Annie Rehnert, who scored a 9.0 or above in three out of four events, including the top score in the floor (9.250), with the same score in the vault and bars.

Her 36.6 all-around score was a personal season best.

"Annie's hard work and athleticism has helped her continuously progress," said Kayla Stubbs, one of the IGA coaches.

Infinity's Calista Valdez was third, with a 36.5 all-around, followed by Adelaide Maher (35.975), Jocelyn Steele (35.775), Maeври Bergerson (34.975) and Alexis Valdez (34.775).



With coach Kayla Stubbs looking on, Lily Schaeelling competes on the balance beam.

In the bronze Xcel division, Infinity's Lily Schaeelling won her first all-around title with a 35.70 score.

"She had an awesome 9.4 bar routine and placed first in three out of the four events," Stubbs said. "Lily has continu-



Infinity Gymnastics coach Kayla Stubbs, left, with the medal-winning Annie Rehnert.

ously improved at each competition since the start of the season."

Schaeelling was followed in the scoring by teammates Sofia Shipley (35.3), who took first in the vault (8.75) and second in the balance beam and floor. Karli Gantenbein (33.9) and Kalista Giles (32.750) rounded out the IGA scores.

Pizazz wowz crowd in latest competition

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria dance team Pizazz took second place in a competition Feb. 23 at Sprague High School, and took second in a dance-off Saturday at Liberty High School in Hillsboro, as the group gears up for state competition.

Pizazz compiled 81.18 points Saturday to finish .2 points behind Valley Catholic (81.38), making it the second time in as many dances that the Astoria team topped 80 points.

On Feb. 23, Pizazz finished with 83.45 points, just behind Stayton's 84.03 in the Class 1A-4A division.

In the four divisions that competed (1A-4A, 5A, 6A and Show), Pizazz had the third-highest overall score.

Pizazz is comprised of eight dancers, which is small compared to the two teams that scored higher, who have triple the number of dancers, according to Emily Madsen, who coaches the team along with Caroline Wright.

The competition theme this year is "Welcome to Our Tribe," featuring the song "The Chain" by Fleetwood Mac.

The team will compete in the



Astoria's dance team, Pizazz.

Justin Grafton

OSAA state championship competition March 16 at Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

This year's Pizazz team has just one senior — head captain

Nara Van De Grift, along with junior co-captains Aliyah Grant and Liz Varner, sophomores Makenzie Brady, Isabella Clement and Skylar Sturtz, and fresh-

men Hope Womack and Madison Yeager.

Pizazz has won multiple state championships, the last in 2015 in the 4A small school division.