

SPORTS

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Seaside pounds North Marion, 75-50

Gulls look unbeatable in quarterfinal game

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The countdown to a championship is on for the Seaside boys basketball team.

The Gulls are two games — 64 minutes of basketball — away from a three-peat, following an easy 75-50 win over North Marion in a quarterfinal game of the Class 4A boys basketball state tournament.

Thursday's game at Pacific University brought an end to Day 1 of the boys' state tournament, which now moves to Forest Grove High School for the next two rounds.

Seaside will play Stayton in a Friday semifinal. A win would clinch a fourth straight trip to the state championship game for the Gulls, which would play either Banks or Woodburn in the final (Saturday, 3:15 p.m.).

The Gulls' victory was their second of the season (and fifth in five years) over the Huskies, a common non-league opponent. The Gulls won at North Marion in January, 58-57.

Not surprisingly, Thursday's game was also the only non-competitive contest of the day in Forest Grove, as Seaside set the tone early in the rematch.

The Gulls trailed 8-6, but then scored nine straight



Seaside's Payton Westerholm, left, chases down a loose ball.

points, which included three scores from Ryan Hague, who capped the run with a three-point play. Duncan Thompson closed the first quarter with a 3-pointer as time ran out, and Seaside's lead was soon 29-17.

Hague had 19 of his 29 points in the first half, as the junior finished the second quarter with a tip-in at the buzzer to give the Gulls a 35-24 halftime advantage.

The Huskies tried to keep it close — a 3-pointer from

Brady Hansen had North Marion within 41-33 early in the third quarter — but Seaside answered with a 9-0 run to put the game on ice.

Brayden Johnson and Beau Johnson had back-to-back scores, followed by bas-



Seaside junior Ryan Hague scored from all angles, erupting for 29 points.



Seaside coach Bill Westerholm, kneeling, and his team are playing for a three-peat.

kets from Hague and Chase Januik for a 50-33 lead.

And the Gulls didn't let up in the fourth quarter. Seaside poured it on and scored at will midway through the period, with buckets from Hague, Payton Westerholm,

Beau Johnson and Januik. Seaside was a sizzling 32-for-56 from the field. Hague was 14-of-18 and also had 10 rebounds for a double-double. Januik added 16 points for the Gulls, whose lead reached 73-46.

Santana 'really excited' to step into Mariners lineup

By RYAN DIVISH
The Seattle Times

PEORIA, Ariz. — Eleven months after losing his starting outfielder job with the Milwaukee Brewers, Domingo Santana's baseball life changed for what he hopes is the better as the Mariners acquired him in exchange for outfielder Ben Gamel.

"For me, in my career, I was really excited about the trade," he said.

Santana was a fan of Alex Rodriguez growing up and remembers watching A-Rod with the Mariners. He wanted to be shortstop just like A-Rod.

"I met him and it was a great feeling meeting him," he said. "I was so fortunate we played against each other as well. It was awesome."

For Santana, the trade to Seattle represented a new opportunity and a chance to be more than a fourth outfielder. The Mariners acquired Santana to be their everyday left fielder in hopes he could revisit his 2017 production numbers when

he posted a .278/.371/.505 slash line with 29 doubles, 30 homers and 73 RBIs.

"Santana was one of the most productive outfielders in baseball in 2017," Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto said after the trade. "He did not have the same opportunities last year, but his age and power bat from the right side make him a very good fit for our club moving forward."

He won't be platooned with Jay Bruce. Santana will see the bulk of the time in left field.

"Jay Bruce will play some first base, Jay Bruce will DH," manager Scott Servais said.

Admittedly, Santana struggled with the reduction in playing time last season. While the Brewers were winning, he never really adjusted to coming off the bench and playing sparingly.

"Your whole career you've been playing every day and you prepare yourself to have a good season," he said. "And then you have a good season so you think you have a job and then that happens. It was really



AP Photo/Darron Cummings

Domingo Santana celebrates after hitting a two-run home run against the Cincinnati Reds in spring training.

tough mentally, but at the same time you have to work through it and get better at it."

His early numbers last season reflected his struggles

in adjusting and understanding his new role. He posted a .249/.313/.354 slash line with 11 doubles, three homers, 17 RBIs, 18 walks and 69 strikeouts in

67 games to start the season. Because his playing time was limited, he overthought each at-bat and overanalyzed each performance.

The Brewers eventually optioned him to Class AAA Nashville, where he posted a .283/.401/.487 slash line with 10 doubles, two triples, eight home runs and 35 RBIs in 55 games. He returned as a September call up, appearing in 23 games and posting a .403/.458/.909 slash line in 24 plate appearances with three doubles, a triple, two homers and three RBIs.

"I just wanted everybody to know it wasn't going to be like that," he said. "I wanted to show them that I could be down and get back up and still compete at a high level."

With the Mariners, Santana has shown signs of that 2017 production. Through Wednesday, he was hitting .467 (7 for 15) with a .529 on-base percentage, a double, three homers and seven RBIs. And later that night, he hit his fourth homer of the spring. All four of his homers have all been impressive towering moonshots that

seem fitting for his 6-foot-5, 230-pound frame.

"He's swinging the bat really well," Servais said. "He has all spring. He's been on top of it. He's got a lot of power. When he hits the ball in the air, it just keeps going. He's off to good start. He really hasn't too many rough at-bats at all. He's in control up there, which is great to see."

The biggest issue for Santana this spring is the conversion to left field — a position he'd never really played before. He'd been a primarily a right fielder and center fielder in his time with the Astros and Brewers.

"He's not played much left field at all in his big-league or minor-league career, so that'll be a little bit of an adjustment for him," Servais said. "But he's moving well enough, you could stick him in center field if you had to, as big as he is."

Santana has looked more than capable in left field thus far into spring.

"I just have to get my reps in out there," he said. "You have to adjust to the different angle."

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

4A boys state tournament

Today's schedule

at Forest Grove HS

9 a.m.: Marist vs. Marshfield

10:45: Henley vs. North Marion

Semifinals

1:30: Woodburn vs. Banks

3:15: Stayton vs. Seaside

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaside 75, North Marion 50

NM (50): Sergio Jimenez 14, Jared

Hauser 11, Grant Henry 9, Brady Han-

sen 9, Griffin Henry 3, Tanner Saucedo

2, Sam Garcia 2, Nic Ilyin, Hunter Wier-

stra, Noah Wierstra, Johnny Page,

Beau Wilson.

SEA (75): Ryan Hague 29, Chase Januik

16, Beau Johnson 9, Payton Wester-

holm 7, Duncan Thompson 7, Ledger

Pugh 1, Derrick Bennett 1, Stephen

Snyder, Samson Sibony, Gavin Rich,

Dylan Meyer.

N.Marion 14 10 14 12—50

Seaside 20 15 21 19—75

Field goals: N.Marion 16-49, Seaside

32-56. 3-point FG: N.Marion 6-19 (Gra-

Henry 3, Hansen 2, Hauser), Seaside

3-10 (Be.Johnson, Thompson, Br.John-

son). Free throws: N.Marion 12-18, Sea-

side 8-15. Fouls: N.Marion 16, Seaside

13. Assists: N.Marion 5 (Gra.Henry 3),

Seaside 7 (Januik 2, Westerholm 2).

Rebounds: N.Marion 30 (Hauser 9),

Seaside 33 (Hague 10). Steals: N.Mar-

ion 7 (Gri.Henry 3), Seaside 6 (Januik 2,

Br.Johnson 2). Turnovers: N.Marion 16,

Seaside 9. Players of the Game: Sergio

Jimenez (North Marion), Ryan Hague

(Seaside).

4A state tournament

Thursday's finals

Boys

Banks 51, Marist 38

Woodburn 55, Marshfield 30

Stayton 57, Henley 53

Seaside 75, North Marion 50

Girls

Marist 45, Marshfield 40

Newport 50, North Marion 33

Philomath 45, Banks 43

Baker 42, Stayton 36

Clatsop County boys basketball state champions

1930: Astoria

1932: Astoria

1934: Astoria

1935: Astoria

1941: Astoria (A)

1942: Astoria (A)

1943: Warrenton (B)

1955: Knappa (B)

1958: Star of the Sea (B)

1966: Knappa (B)

1971: Knappa (A)

1988: Knappa (A)

1998: Astoria (3A)

1998: Knappa (2A)

1999: Knappa (2A)

2009: Knappa (2A)

2017: Knappa (4A)

2018: Seaside (4A)

Thunder get wild 129-121 OT victory over Trail Blazers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Russell Westbrook had 37 points and Paul George added 32 points and 14 rebounds for the Oklahoma City Thunder in a chippy 129-121 overtime win over the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday night.

The victory gave the Thunder a four-game series sweep of the Blazers this season.

Damian Lillard had 51 points for the Blazers, while Jusuf Nurkic added 13 points and 17 rebounds before he was sent off with his second technical with under a minute to go in regulation.

The teams had gone into the game knotted for third in the Western Conference — along with the Houston Rockets — with identical



AP Photo/Craig Mitchelldyer

Thunder guard Russell Westbrook drives against Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard.

39-25 records.

Westbrook's 3-pointer in overtime put the Thunder up 118-117 and he made a pair of free throws to extend the lead. After George made the second of a pair of free throws, Westbrook's layup gave Oklahoma City a 123-117 lead.

The Thunder led by a slim 85-83 margin going into the fourth quarter in a game where neither side stretched the advantage to double digits.

Regulation ended with a wild final minute.

George appeared to elbow Nurkic, who was knocked to

the floor as Terrance Ferguson made a layup that put the Thunder up 113-111. Portland players protested, but no call was made.

Words were then exchanged between Nurkic and George under Portland's basket. After a review both received offsetting technicals, and a foul was called on the Thunder. Because Nurkic already had a technical, he was ejected and the Thunder chose Blazers reserve Skal Labissiere to make the free throws. He missed both, but a loose-ball foul was called on the Thunder and Al-Farouq Aminu made both shots to tie it at 113 with 2.9 seconds left.

After a turnover by the Thunder, the game went to overtime. But Portland was without Nurkic for the rest of the way.