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SPORTS

Warrenton girls win district meet

The Daily Astorian

The Warrenton girls racked up 162 points to win a four-team district meet, held Wednesday at Oregon Episcopal.

The Lady Warriors won five events and placed highly in several others, enough to win the team title over second-place Clatskanie (157.5 points).

Host Oregon Episcopal (174 points) won the boys’ title, ahead of Clatskanie (167), Riverdale (124) and Warrenton (110).

Fernanda Alvarez and Kaisa Liljenwall highlighted the win for the Warrenton girls, as Alvarez won the shot put with a toss of 34 feet, 4½ inches, and the discus with a throw of 93-7. She was third in the javelin.

Liljenwall ran a season-best 1 minute, 8.86 seconds to win the 400 meters, and later added a victory in the 300-meter hurdles (51.89).

Junior Serena Moha won the 3,000 meters in a personal best 13:05.45.

On the boys’ side, Warrenton thrower Mark Warren took the day off, but sophomore Tris-

ton Scott had his best throw ever (139-4) to win the javelin, and he added a second-place showing in the shot put (37-3).

Warrenton’s Forrest Bigelow leaped 33-1 to win the triple jump, and the Warriors’ foursome of Erik Cooley, Forrest Cooley, Noah Miller and Jalen Maddox placed second (3:59.28) out of seven teams in the 1,600-meter relay.

Portland looks to avoid another early exit in playoffs

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — For the second straight season, the Portland Trail Blazers earned the third seed in the West and home court for the playoffs. This year they’re looking for a better outcome than last year when they were surprisingly swept in the opening round by New Orleans.

It won’t be easy.

The Trail Blazers take on Oklahoma City, a team that swept Portland in their four regular-season meetings.

“Being a top three team in the West is quite an accomplishment. It shows that our work has paid off — especially after last season to be able to bounce back and do it again — to me that’s proving it up,” Damian Lillard said. “That’s showing a certain amount of grit and desire to get back to this point.

“We should be proud of ourselves, but obviously our business is just beginning.”

Portland locked the No. 3 seed with a wild 136-131 win over the Sacramento Kings in the regular-season finale on Wednesday night. Rookie Anfernee Simons, just 19, had 37 points in his first career start and the Blazers used just six players.

On the surface it appeared the Blazers (53-29) were trying to sink the final game to get the No.



Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard reacts after being called for a foul against the Denver Nuggets.

AP Photo/David Zalubowski

4 seed and a first-round matchup with the Utah Jazz. But the Denver Nuggets rallied to beat Minnesota and nail down the second seed, and Portland overcame a 28-point deficit against the Kings to win.

Though Oklahoma City swept Portland, all of the Blazers losses were by single-digit margins.

“You know every game that we played against them has been a close game. We lost all four

against them last season, but last season we beat them all four games,” Lillard said. “So we know that we’re capable of beating them. Each game this season came down to a possession here, a possession there. It’s going to be a tough, tough series.

“We’ve got to go out and just

be aggressive going into it.”

Following a rough-and-tumble 129-121 overtime loss in Portland on March 7, center Jusuf Nurkic said he’d be “the happiest man on the earth” to face Thunder in the playoffs.

But the Blazers will have to go it without their dominating 7-foot big man, who broke his left leg after crashing awkwardly in an overtime victory at home over the Brooklyn Nets on March 25.

‘WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF OURSELVES, BUT OBVIOUSLY OUR BUSINESS IS JUST BEGINNING.’

Damian Lillard, Blazers guard

Mariners homer in 15th straight game

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Seattle Mariners became the first major league team to homer in each of its first 15 games when Dee Gordon connected in the sixth inning, then beat the Kansas City Royals 7-6 Thursday behind Daniel Vogelbach’s home run leading off the 10th.

Seattle improved the best record in the major leagues to 13-2, completing a four-game sweep and extending its winning streak to six. The Mariners became just the third team since 1987 to open with at least 13 wins in the first 15 games after Milwaukee (14-1 in 1987) and Boston (13-2 last year).

Kansas City has lost 10 straight games, has the poorest record in the big leagues at 2-10 and is off to its worst 12-game start since 2006. The Royals failed to preserve leads of 4-0 in the sixth and 6-4 with two outs



Mariners designated hitter Daniel Vogelbach hits a solo home run during the 10th inning.

AP Photo/Orlin Wagner

in the ninth.

Whit Merrifield went 0 for 5, ending his hitting streak at 31 games. He had not gone hitless since Sept. 9. Royals center fielder Billy Hamilton was carted off with a knee injury after failing to grab Mitch Haniger’s tying, two-run triple in the ninth.

The 2002 Cleveland Indians had homered in each of their first 14 games. Seattle’s 36 home runs are tied with the 2000 St. Louis Cardinals for the most in a club’s first 15 games. The Mariners have scored five or more runs in all but one game.

Vogelbach hit a 427-foot drive off Glenn Sparkman (0-1) for his

sixth home run this season.

Brandon Brennan (1-0) struck out three in the ninth, working around his own throwing error on a grounder to get his first big league win. Brennan has not allowed a run in his first 9 2/3 innings in the major leagues, holding batters to a .156 average (5 for 32).

Connor Sadzeck pitched a perfect 10th for his first professional save.

Seattle trailed 6-3 before Edwin Encarnación hit an RBI single off Wily Peralta in the eighth.

Pinch-hitter Omar Narváez and Gordon singled off Brad Boxberger with one out in the ninth and Mallex Smith took a called third strike. Haniger hit a long drive on a full count and Hamilton, who entered at the start of the half-inning for defense, allowed the ball to glance off his glove on the warning track.

Astoria’s fisherman takes second

The Daily Astorian

Local fisherman Michael Postlewait finished second out of 30 youth competitors last weekend, during the first stage of the 2019 Coors Light Future Pro Tour, which is based in northern California.

A junior at Astoria High School, Postlewait competed on Lake Berryessa in Napa, California, and weighed in a five-fish limit of 10.21 pounds, earning his first check as a tournament angler.

His total was less than a half-pound behind first-place finisher Justin Cunningham, and a pound ahead of third-place Tanner Castillo, both California students.

The top 10 anglers, based on

points earned through the five-stage tour, will qualify for the FPT Youth Angler Championship, held in early 2020.

Postlewait’s 10.21 pounds was marginally increased to 10.23 for a team weight that placed 34th out of 103 boats in the adult open category.

Postlewait fished with his father, Walt Postlewait, as a team partner.

Walt Postlewait was unable to land a large fish that would have likely moved up their finish to the top 15. Only one-and-a-half pounds separated their 34th place and 15th place.

Michael Postlewait will be active this weekend in the quarterfinals of All-Star bass fish-

ing’s “Bass Battles” on Tahkenitch Lake south of Florence. He is fishing head-to-head against Nathan Bromley of Albany.

The winner will advance to fish Sunday on Mercer Lake against the winner of two-time Bass Battles champion Jeremy McKay and Kevin Heitsman.

Postlewait and his Astoria High School partner, Leo Matthews, will be active April 13, defending their 2018 state championship on Celilo Pool of the Columbia River, where the team currently sits in fourth place on points.

There are only two more tournaments in the high school season for the Fishermen team to move up in the standings.



Walt Postlewait/For The Daily Astorian
Astoria's Michael Postlewait, with last weekend's catch.

Knappa draws 22 walks in Game 2 win

Hendrickson wins game with walk-off walk

The Daily Astorian

The Gaston and Knappa softball teams met for a doubleheader Thursday afternoon and well into the night at CMH Field, where the Greyhounds and Loggers split a pair of games.

Gaston scored a wild 13-10 win in Game 1, while Knappa gained revenge with an even wilder 15-14 victory in the nightcap.

In 14 innings of softball, the two teams combined for 52 runs, 37 hits, 37 walks and 19 errors in the Northwest League twinbill.

“It was ugly,” said Knappa coach James Nichols. “It’s disappointing that we didn’t win both, but at least we got the split. Gaston has some good hitters.”

In a two-and-a-half hour opener, Gaston built an 8-0 lead through two-and-a-half innings, highlighted by a six-run rally in the second.

But Gaston’s big lead would not hold up, as Knappa needed just three innings to erase the eight-run deficit.

The Loggers scored four runs in the bottom of the third and six runs in the fifth, highlighted by a run-scoring triple from Laicee Hendrickson, a two-run single by Baylee McCall and Katie Patterson’s two-run, pinch-hit double that gave Knappa a 10-8 lead.

With the help of five Logger errors, Gaston scored five in the top of the sixth to grab a three-run lead.

Greyhound pitcher Olivia Belle-Isle managed to keep the Loggers scoreless over the final two innings to pick up the win.

Knappa committed seven errors, while Logger pitcher Madelynn Weaver threw 162 pitches, struck out 11 and allowed 16 hits with four walks in the loss.

The Loggers bounced back to win Game 2, scoring 15 runs on four hits and 22 walks.

After falling behind 4-0, Knappa scored six runs in the second inning on no hits, three errors, three walks and four passed balls.

Gaston answered with four runs in the fourth and five in the fifth for a 14-9 lead.

The Loggers scored twice in the bottom of the fifth and once in the sixth to cut the deficit to 14-12.

Belle-Isle threw 350 pitches over the two games, and finally gave out in the bottom of the seventh, when Knappa put together a three-run rally on one hit and five walks.

Vicki Ramvick drew a one-out walk, Katie Denny singled to center, and Sophia Carlson walked to load the bases with two outs.

After facing a 1-2 count, Emily Nicholson drew Knappa’s 23rd walk of the day to force in a run, Weaver walked to bring in the tying run, and Hendrickson came through with the walk-off walk to force in Carlson with the game-winner.

For the day, Belle-Isle allowed just 13 hits, but walked 25.

Hannah Dietrichs pitched Game 2 for the Loggers, giving up eight hits with eight strikeouts and eight walks.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE TODAY	
Baseball — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Tillamook at Seaside, 5 p.m.; Warrenton at Taft (2), 3 p.m.; Knappa at Nestucca (2), 3 p.m.	
Softball — Banks at Astoria, 4 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 5 p.m.; Warrenton at Taft (2), 3:30 p.m.	
SATURDAY	
Track — Astoria at Lower Columbia Invite, St. Helens, 12:30 p.m.; Meet of Champions, Willamette U, TBA	
SOFTBALL	
Gaston 13, Knappa 10 Gaston 161 005 0—13 16 2 Knappa 004 060 0—10 9 7 W: Olivia Belle-Isle. L: Madelynn Weaver. RBI: Gas, Johnston 2, Kuvkowski 2, Jordan, Heisler, Cunningham, Kellar; Kna, Hendrickson 2, McCall 2, Patterson 2, Dietrichs, Hellberg. 2B: Gas, Cunningham, Kuvkowski; Kna, Patterson. 3B: Gas, Johnston; Kna, Hendrickson. HBP: Gas, Belle-Isle; Kna, Ramvick, Weaver. LOB: Gaston 11, Knappa 6.	
Knappa 15, Gaston 14 Gaston 131 450 0—14 8 6 Knappa 062 121 3—15 4 4 W: Hannah Dietrichs. L: Olivia Belle-Isle. RBI: Gas, Heisler 2, Johnston 2, Belle-Isle, Cutright, Farmer; Kna, Carlson 2, Hendrickson 2, Hellberg, Nicholson, Ramvick, Weaver. 2B: Gas, Heisler; Kna, Nicholson. 3B: Gas, Belle-Isle. HBP: Gas, Watson-Rasmussen. LOB: Gaston 3, Knappa 11. DP: Gaston.	