

SPORTS

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Warren wins state title in shot put

The Astorian

A Warrenton Warrior was Clatsop County's first individual champion of the 2019 state track and field meet, which began Friday at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham.

Mark Warren scored Warrenton's first points of the meet Friday morning in the 3A boys javelin competition, placing third with a throw of 167 feet, 7 inches. Derek Bonde of Brookings-Harbor had the winning toss of 173-8.

Warren's third throw traveled 167-4, followed by the toss of 167-7, just one inch shy of his school record.

Later in the afternoon,

Warren got his school record and 10 more team points, with a toss of 53-0 $\frac{3}{4}$ to win the shot put. Mason Strunk of Salem Academy was second (52-10 $\frac{1}{4}$). Warren's winning throw beat his own school record of 52-10 $\frac{1}{2}$.

It was the first individual state title for Warren, who took second in the javelin last year. It was also Warrenton's first individual title in the shot put (Jordan Hollaway took second in 2013).

Warren will be back in action Saturday in the discus.

Warrenton's Fernanda Alvarez was 12th in the 3A girls javelin (88-5). She will take part in Saturday's finals of the discus and shot put.

Fausett fourth in javelin

Seeded fifth entering the 4A javelin competition, Astoria sophomore Kelsey Fausett moved up one spot and placed fourth in the event final Friday afternoon.

Fausett's best throw traveled 122 feet, 9 inches, good enough for fourth place and five team points. Her toss fell short of her personal best (124-1), set in last week's league championship meet.

Makaelyn Jennings of Estacada won with a throw of 139-11, followed by Kaylee Touey of North Valley (130-7) and Newport's Madison Hargett (127-5).

Fausett was in ninth place before launching her best toss

on her next-to-last throw, and skipped off the runway while getting shouts of celebration from the grandstands.

"Coach told me to keep my hand up as high as I could," Fausett said. "As soon as I released it I could tell it wasn't coming down early. I knew it was a big throw."

Seaside senior Anna Huddleston was 10th with her toss of 107-2.

Astoria long jumpers

Two Astoria athletes took part in the 4A long jump finals, won by Marshfield's Ravyn Miranda with a leap of 17-5.

Astoria freshman Mad-die Sisley placed ninth out

of 13 athletes with a lifetime best jump of 16-2, and senior teammate Andrea Harris was 13th at 14-10 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Lady Fishermen have several athletes competing in Saturday's finals, including Elizabeth Barnett in the pole vault, Kes Sandstrom in the discus, and both Nara Van De Grift and Barnett in the triple jump.

On the boys' side, Astoria's Presley Beck was ninth in the 4A boys triple jump, with a leap of 39-4 $\frac{3}{4}$. Seaside's Levi Card placed 13th (36-7).

Pending results of Friday preliminary races, the Fishermen and Gulls could also have athletes competing in

Saturday finals on the track.

Knappa fourth in 3,000

In the 2A/1A meet at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, junior Robert Piña-Morton of Knappa finished fourth in the 2A boys 3,000-meter final.

Piña-Morton came in as the top-seeded runner with a time of 9:21.57, but Hep-pner's Hunter Nichols crossed the line first in 8:59.29, the only runner to finish under nine minutes.

Piña-Morton ran a 9:14.07 for fourth, but his time was still a personal best and topped his own school record. He will run again Saturday in the 1,500-meter final.

BASEBALL

Gladstone holds off Astoria, 4-3, in playoff tuneup

The Astorian

Two teams warming up for the 4A baseball state playoffs met for a quick nonleague game Thursday afternoon at CMH Field, where Gladstone posted a 4-3 win over Astoria.

Two Gladstone pitchers, Wesley Haverland and Austin Conner, tossed a combined perfect game through four innings, retiring 12 straight Fishermen batters to start the game.

Meanwhile, the Gladiators scored a pair of runs in the top of the fourth for a 2-0 lead.

Astoria took advantage of Gladstone's third pitching change, as the Fishermen loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the fifth.

With two outs, a bloop single into shallow right field by Dylan Rush scored two runs to tie the game.

But Gladstone answered right back in the top of the sixth.

Matthew Kuhn had a leadoff single, which was followed by two walks and a two-run single by Jackson Simmons.

The Fishermen began the bottom of the seventh with a potentially big rally, as Ebin Hillard was hit by the first pitch of the inning, and scored one out later on a double down the right field line by Danny Johnson.



Colin Murphey/The Astorian
Calvin Kaul slides safely into home base for the Fishermen.

Trying to stretch a double into a triple, Johnson was thrown out at third, and Gladstone pitcher Jake Gehrke retired the next batter to end the game.

Four Gladstone pitchers combined on a three-hitter with two strikeouts, while four Astoria pitchers gave up five hits.

Astoria coach Glen Fromwiller was pleased with his team's play Thursday, despite the loss.

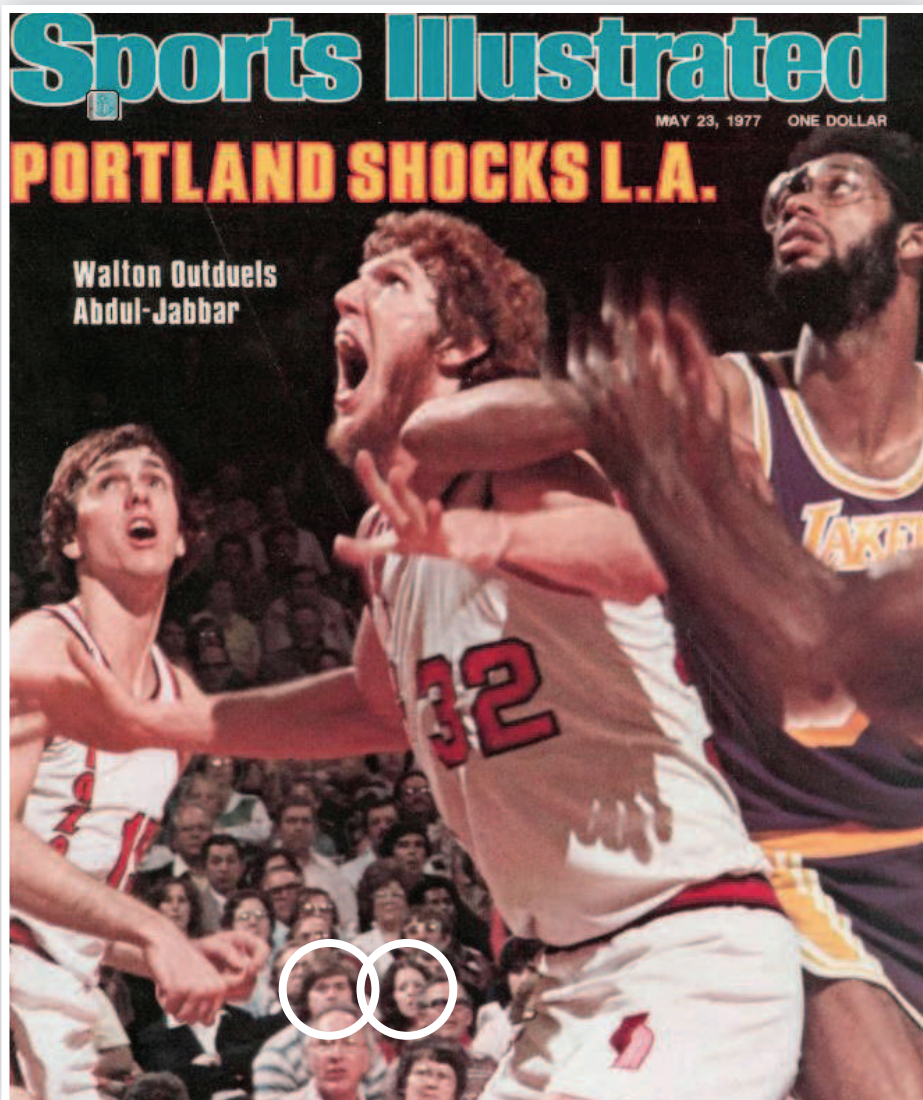
"As long as we're pitching well and playing solid defense ... we just need to hit the ball and we'll be playing well in all three parts," he said.

The Fishermen are awaiting results of the play-in round to determine next week's opponent in the state playoffs. Astoria will likely travel for the first round.

with a single, followed by a Warrenton error, two more singles, a double by Olivia Coulter, a hit batter and a single by Kyla Knott for a 5-0 lead.

The Warriors had back-to-back singles by Ruby Dyer and Kenzie Ramsey in the top of the fourth, but Emma Coulter worked herself out of the jam. Coulter struck out nine batters with no walks.

The No. 6-ranked Tigers opened the bottom of the fourth with consecutive doubles, which led to another three runs.



The cover of the May 23, 1977 issue of Sports Illustrated. Circled are Astoria fans Jim Heater, left, and Shawn Hope, watching Portland's 1977 playoff win over the Lakers.

BLAZER FANS HAD HOPE (AND GREAT SEATS) FOR '77 PLAYOFF

By GARY HENLEY

The Astorian

Not since 1992 have the Portland Trail Blazers played for an NBA Championship. And not since 1977 have they won it.

They've got a good chance this year — so says Charles Barkley. But back in '77, they had some real "Hope."

There are still plenty of Portland fans around who recall those magic days of Blazermania back in 1976-77.

In just their seventh year of existence, Portland's run through the regular season ultimately led to a victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in the 1977 NBA Finals.

One Astoria resident who recalls that magical season has proof of her allegiance as an original Blazermaniac — it's a photo of herself, Shawn Hope, alongside Bill Walton and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

O.K., so big Bill and Kareem were featured a bit more prominently. But there she is, on the cover of the May 23, 1977 issue of Sports Illustrated, enjoying Portland's win over the Lakers.

Sitting with Jim Heater (her boyfriend, then and now), you can't miss her. Right there, courtside, third row, between Blazers Larry Steele and Walton, watching all the action in Game 4 (she thinks) of the '77 Western Conference finals.

"My brother (Mike Hope) worked for the Los Angeles Lakers, and some of their people weren't going to use their tickets," remembers Shawn, "and I have eight brothers and sisters, so everybody got tickets."

The seats, obviously, were in a prime location for — to that point — Portland's biggest game ever.

"We didn't know where the seats were at first, but they kept leading us down, and we ended up in the third row," she said. "It was so cool. Fabulous. That game was absolutely fascinating."

If it indeed was Game 4, Hope and Heater saw the Blazers defeat the Lakers 105-101, despite 30 points

and 17 rebounds for Abdul-Jabbar.

Later that week, a friend of Hope's, Chuck Mestrich, happened to notice someone he recognized on the cover of that week's Sports Illustrated.

"He just started looking at all the people (in the photo) to see if he knew anybody, and there I was," said Hope, who immediately "went and bought copies for everybody."

Copies of that issue can still be found on Ebay at a fairly reasonable price.

Hope's copy is in pretty rough shape now, although she has it laminated.

The revamped Blazers of 1976-77 won 22 of their first 31 games, and finished the regular season with a 49-33 record, putting Portland into the playoffs for the first time in franchise history.

The Blazers took two of three from Chicago in the first round, knocked off the Denver Nuggets (sound familiar?) in six games in the second round, then swept the Lakers in four straight in the Western Conference finals.

By then, the entire state was down with a severe case of Blazermania.

Johnny Davis, Lionel Hollins, Maurice Lucas, Dave Twardzik, Walton ... Rip City was the topic of

every conversation.

And the Blazers didn't disappoint in the finals.

Well, at first they did, as the Sixers and Julius Erving won the first two games in Philadelphia.

But, taking advantage of their incredible 45-6 record at home that season, Portland won Games 3 and 4, 129-107 and 130-98.

The pivotal contest was Game 5 back in Philadelphia, where the Blazers won, 110-104.

Game 6 was the closest of the series, and Portland got the win (109-107), setting off a celebration that hasn't been seen in 42 years.

But, there's always hope.

"I love basketball, and (in 1977) I just adored the Blazers," said Shawn Hope, who was a student at Clatsop Community College in 1977, and still lives in Astoria. "I do right now, too. I love watching the Blazers."

SOFTBALL

Taft ends Warrenton's season

The Astorian

Taft scored six runs in the third inning and tacked on three in the fourth, and that was plenty for Tiger pitcher Emma Coulter, who tossed a five-hit shutout for 10-0 win Thursday over Warrenton.

The league playoff loss spelled the end of the season for the Warriors, who struggled offensively against Coulter, and also committed four errors.

After a scoreless first inning, Taft manufactured one run in the second, then began the bottom of the third

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE TODAY
Track — OSAA today track: 4A/3A at Mt. Hood CC; 2A at Western Oregon U.
SOFTBALL
Taft 10, Warrenton 0
Warrenton 000 00—0
Taft 016 3x—10 8 0
W: Emma Coulter. L: Mia McFadden.
RBI: Taft, Lininger 3, Rundstrom 2, Danneker, E.Coulter, O.Coulter, Vandamme, Knott. 2B: Taft, Lininger, E.Coulter, O.Coulter, Vandamme. HBP:

Taft, Tolan. LOB: Warrenton 5, Taft 7.
BASEBALL
Gladstone 4, Astoria 3
Gladstone 000 202 0—4 5 0
Astoria 000 020 1—3 3 0
Haverland, Conner (3), Burgos (5), Gehrke (6) and Hill; Rush, Kaul (4), Reed (6), Matthews (7) and Hillard. W: Burgos. L: Reed. S: Gehrke. RBI: Gla, Simmons 3, Burgos; Ast, Rush 2, Johnson. 2B: Ast, Johnson. HBP: Peterson; Ast, Hirsch, Hillard. LOB: Gladstone 6, Astoria 1. DP: Astoria.