

SPORTS

FIND MORE SPORTS
COVERAGE INSIDE
ON PAGE A7

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Seaside senior Gretchen Hoekstre stands next to her winning mark in the discus, a new state meet record.

Photos by David Ball



STATE TITLES FOR HOEKSTRE, LONG AND WARREN

Astoria girls seventh in team standings

By DAVID BALL
For The Astorian

RESHAM — Seaside senior Gretchen Hoekstre knew it was a special throw right away, but she had to wait a few moments to learn just indeed how special.

Hoekstre was already tops on the leaderboard when she stepped into the discus ring for her first throw of the finals Saturday at the 4A state track and field meet hosted by Mt. Hood Community College.

She spun in a tight circle and flung the metal disc high into the air. It hung there for a long breath before landing deep in the sector. Fans packed onto a grassy hillside on the north end of the stadium erupted in whoops and hollers, and Hoekstre gave a fist pump on her way out of the ring.

She paused by the event signboard waiting for her mark to be displayed. The officials spun the dials to show 157 feet even (official mark was 156-11). Hoekstre jumped away pumping her arms over her head, while rejoicing the celebration with her fans across the track.

The mark beat the meet record, held by one of her heroes, Laura Bobek of Astoria, by more than four feet.

"She had a goal, and she likes to get those records. She admires Laura, and that was a little motivator to push her through to that mark," Seaside throws coach Krystal Pike said. "She was feel-



Astoria's Sophie Long accepts the first-place medal from Astoria distance runner coach Andrew Fick.

ing good and relaxed, and everything just hit right when it needed to."

Hoekstre spun another deep one out there on her final attempt, touching down at 155-3. Four of her six attempts went over 145.

Hoekstre climbed to the top of the awards podium, collected her first-place medal, then rushed off to the shot put ring to compete in her next event.

She won it on her first throw, sending the ball 43-8¾.

Meanwhile, Astoria finished seventh in the girls team standings with 31 points, highlighted by Sophie Long's win in the 800-meter final Saturday.

She was a member of the three-person breakaway pack at the bell and made her winning surge late on the

backstretch.

"I wanted to stay with that front pack and use my speed at the end," Long said. "Right before we hit 200 to go, I could tell the girl in first was getting tired, so I took my chance. After that I was just trying to get to the finish, thinking about how good it would feel to be done."

She clocked in at 2:20.57 for the two-lap race.

Teammate Kes Sandstrom finished third in the discus (125-8), Elizabeth Barnett was fifth in the pole vault (9-0) and Nara Van De Grift was sixth in the triple jump (34-4 3/4).

Astoria also got points from each of its relay teams.

On the boys side, Astoria senior Ian Hunt had the team's top performance by



Warrenton's Mark Warren takes a break between throws in the discus.

clearing a personal-best of 6 feet on his first attempt. He then moved to a bench on the infield and watched seven competitors drop out at that bar.

"It was exciting to get that clearance on my first try today — it set me up for a good spot on the podium," Hunt said. "I was feeling the adrenaline of being at state, and that bar didn't seem as high as it usually does."

See Track, Page A7

Seaside wins play-in game at Ontario, 6-3

First postseason win for Gulls since 2005

The Astorian

It's on to state for the Seaside baseball team.

A long road trip (900-plus miles, round trip) that turned into a three-day stay in Ontario was worth it for the Gulls, who defeated the Tigers 6-3 Saturday morning in a Class 4A play-in game.

A two-run home run by Seaside's Brayden Johnson in the sixth inning highlighted the win, the Gulls' first postseason victory in 12 years, to the day.

The Gulls left Thursday for the Friday game in Ontario, where rain postponed the play-in game to Saturday.

The 11th-ranked Tigers finish 12-9 overall, while Seaside (11-12 overall), advances to the round of 16, where the Gulls will play Wednesday at Henley (4 p.m.).

In Saturday's win, Seaside

pitchers Travis Fenton and Payton Westerholm scattered eight hits with seven strikeouts and two walks, while Ontario's Seth Forsyth went the distance, allowing nine hits with seven strikeouts and a walk.

Seaside scored a run in the first inning (a double by Alex Teubner driving in Duncan Thompson), before the Tigers answered with two runs in the bottom of the second.

The Gulls came right back with two in the top of the third, with a single by Teubner driving Gage McFadden for the go-ahead run.

After Ontario tied the game, Seaside took the lead for good in the fourth, when the Gulls loaded the bases with one out, and Fenton scored on an error. The Tigers got out of the inning without any further damage.

From there, Westerholm and the Gulls kept Ontario scoreless over the final four innings.



In the sixth, Justin Morris reached base on a bunt, and came in moments later on Johnson's two-run homer.

McFadden, Teubner and Isaias Jantes all had two hits apiece for Seaside, which had four stolen bases.

It was Seaside's first playoff victory since May 18, 2007, when the Gulls won 12-6 at Sweet Home.

Wednesday's game will mark Seaside's first appearance in the state playoffs since 2010, when the Gulls lost a first-round game at Sutherlin, 14-6.

Meanwhile, Seaside's last play-in appearance was in 2011, a 6-4 loss at Gladstone.

All four Clatsop County baseball teams (Astoria, Seaside, Warrenton and Knappa) will be in Sweet 16 action Wednesday at the 2A, 3A and 4A levels.

Lakeview defeats Knappa softball team in playoff, 5-3

The Astorian

The first-round playoff jinx struck again Monday afternoon at Knappa, where Lakeview posted a 5-3 win over the Loggers in a first-round game of the 2A softball state playoffs.

Over the last 10 years, the Loggers are now 1-8 in first-round games, as Knappa saw its 2019 season come to an end.

With 10 wins in their last 11 games, Lakeview advances to the round of 16, where the Honkers will play Wednesday at Weston-McEwen. The Loggers — who were riding an eight-game win streak — finish at 19-8 overall.

Meanwhile, Lakeview pitcher Alyson Yates struck out the first eight batters she faced in Monday's game, while her team gave her a 2-0 lead in the top of the third inning on two Logger errors and a two-run single by Zoe Suba.

Lakeview managed two runs

in the fourth and one in the fifth to make it 5-0.

Knappa finally went to work offensively in the bottom of the fifth.

Katie Patterson had a leadoff double and took third on an error, then scored moments later when Raven Corcoran reached on another error.

Katie Denny reached base on a third error, which brought in Corcoran to make it 5-2.

After a scoreless sixth, Knappa's Madelynn Weaver doubled with two outs in the seventh to bring in a run, but that's where the rally ended, as Yates struck out the final batter to end the game.

Lakeview's junior pitcher struck out 14 Loggers, while allowing three hits with two walks.

Weaver — who had two of Knappa's three hits — pitched the entire game for the Loggers, allowing seven hits with two strikeouts, but Knappa committed five errors of its own.