

SPORTS

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BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Warrenton is Final Four bound, with win over Brookings-Harbor

The Astorian

The team no one wants to face right now in the Class 3A baseball state playoffs? The answer, all of a sudden, is the Warrenton Warriors, who took down No. 2 seed Brookings-Harbor, 3-2, in a quarterfinal game Friday in Brookings.

The win sends Warrenton — for the first time since 2003 — on to the semifinals, where the Warriors will play Santiam Christian, which defeated Taft in another quarterfinal.

“Gosh ... we just pitched and defended well, and did a fantastic job,” said Warrenton coach Lennie Wolfe, shortly after the game ended. “And as everybody has been texting me and telling me, it’s going to make for a nice ride home.”

Three runs in the first inning was all the Warriors could score in Friday’s game ... and three runs was all they would need.

In their one big inning, Gabe Breitmeyer drew a one-out walk in the top of the first, and Jake Morrow singled to center and took second on the throw.

Duane Falls followed with an infield hit to score Breitmeyer with the first run, and Dalton Knight singled to right to plate Morrow and Falls for a 3-0 lead.

The Bruins scored a run in the second inning — a line-drive homer to left by Jacob McCollum — but Knight gave up little else. The senior threw 94 pitches, and allowed eight hits with one strikeout and one walk.

Brookings starter Adam Shew (“he’s going to be pretty special,” Wolfe said) also went the distance, and scattered seven hits with 10 strikeouts and two walks.

The Bruins cut the deficit to 3-2 in the fifth inning, and had runners at first and second with one out in the sixth before Knight retired the side.

“The key was Dalton,” Wolfe said. “He kept the ball down and got us out of some tight spots in almost every inning. He only had one strikeout, which tells you a little about how we played defensively. The kids just made play after play after play.”

The Warriors turned one double play, running their season total to “17 or 18” DPs, according to Wolfe.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE TODAY

Baseball — OSAA semifinals: (4A) Astoria at Henley, 4:30 p.m.; (3A) Warrenton at Santiam Christian, 5 p.m.; (2A) Umpqua Valley Christian at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Astoria 8, Sweet Home 1

Astoria 400 040 0—8 15 2
 S.Home 000 100 0—1 2 3

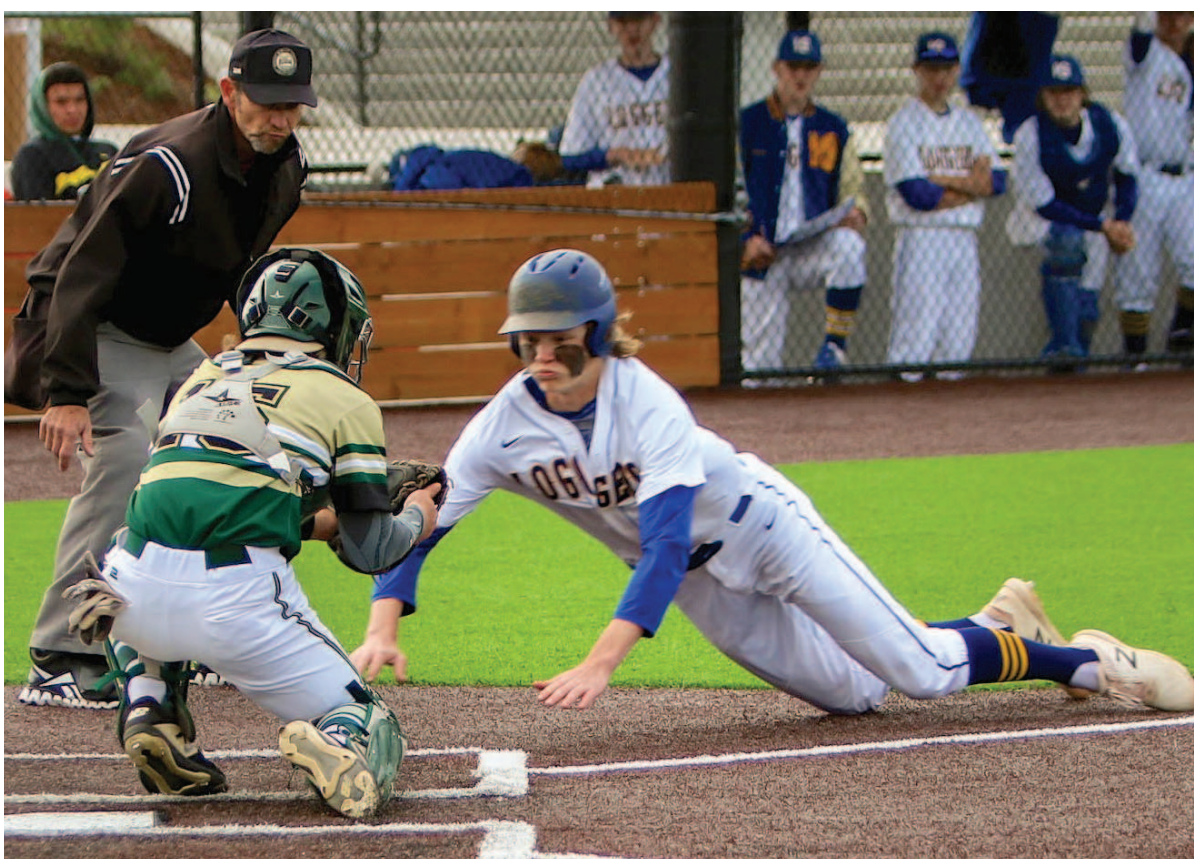
Reed and Hillard; Virtue, Zanona (5) and Thorpe. W: Reed. L: Virtue. RBI: Ast, Feldman 3, Hirsch 2, Kolee, Reed. 2B: Ast, B. Matthews 2, Rush, Hillard. HR: Ast, Feldman. HBP: Ast, Reed. LOB: Astoria 9, Sweet Home 3. DP: Sweet Home.

Warrenton 3, Brookings-Harbor 2

Warrenton 300 000 0—3 7 0
 Brookings 010 010 0—2 10 1
 Knight and Morrow; Shew and McCollum. W: Knight. L: Shew. RBI: War, Knight 2, Falls. 2B: BH, Shew. HR: BH, McCollum. LOB: Warrenton 3, Brookings-Harbor 6. DP: Warrenton.

Knappa 9, Regis 1

Regis 000 000 1—1 5 5
 Knappa 203 202 x—9 7 1
 Voltin, Bishop (6) and Alley; Wallace, Flues (7) and Patterson. W: Wallace. L: Voltin. RBI: Reg, Koenig; Kna, Patterson 3, Wallace 2, Bartlett, Takalo, Hoover. 2B: Kna, Patterson, Takalo. HBP: Reg, Campbell; Kna, Bartlett. LOB: Regis 4, Knappa 8. DP: Knappa.



Photos by Krissy Barendse-Goodman

Knappa’s Eli Takalo slides into home plate, where Regis catcher Joe Alley awaits to apply the tag.

KNAPPA KNOCKS OUT REGIS, AS LOGGERS CLOSE IN ON THREE-PEAT

The Astorian

The Knappa Loggers are making their march to a three-peat look easy, as they scored a 9-1 win Friday over Regis in a Class 2A baseball quarterfinal.

The game was moved to Ridgefield, Washington to avoid soggy field conditions in Knappa.

Winners of 10 straight playoff games since their loss to Burns in the 2016 championship, the Loggers will be at home Tuesday (4:30 p.m.) to play Umpqua Valley Christian, with top-ranked Knappa the favorite to make its fifth consecutive trip to the title game, and fourth championship in five years.

Knappa jumped on Regis starter Tyler Voltin right away, as Tristin Wallace had an infield hit, Shawn Lackey reached on an error, and Eli Takalo’s single to center scored Wallace. Lackey sprinted home on a ground ball by Logan Bartlett.

The 2-0 lead was more than enough for Wallace on the mound.

Knappa’s starting pitcher threw 85 pitches over six innings, allowing three hits with 11 strikeouts and no walks. Logan Flues pitched the seventh.

“It was Tristin’s best performance of the season,” said Knappa coach Jeff Miller. “He had seven strikeouts over the first three innings. And we were able to score a couple runs in the first inning, which is always nice in a playoff game, because it sort of settles everybody down, and you’re able to take a breath.”



Knappa pitcher Tristin Wallace allowed just three hits in Friday’s win over Regis, with 11 strikeouts and no walks.

After a scoreless second inning, the Loggers tacked on three runs in the third, highlighted by doubles from Takalo and the first of two by Ryson Patterson.

With one run already in, Devin Hoover drew a walk to load the bases, and Wallace helped his cause with a two-out single to score two runs for a 5-0 lead.

In the fourth inning, Patterson had an RBI single and a pair of Regis errors eventually led to a steal of home plate by Luke Goozee to make it 7-0.

Regis helped the Loggers with four errors, while Knappa finished with eight stolen bases.

The Loggers added two runs in the bottom of the sixth, all without a hit, as they took advantage of one hit batter and three straight walks.

Knappa’s victory sets up a semifinal with an old playoff foe, Umpqua Valley Christian, which defeated Reedsport 8-1 in another Friday quarterfinal, scoring all eight runs (on two hits) in the first inning.

The Loggers defeated the Monarchs (at Umpqua) in the semifinals in Knappa’s march to the 2010 state title.

In 2009, Umpqua Valley beat Knappa 10-0 in the quarterfinals, and the Monarchs defeated the Loggers 8-6 in a 2008 quarterfinal at Knappa.

“And (the No. 4 seed Monarchs) have everybody available to pitch,” Miller said. “Their top two guys could be No. 1 pitchers for anybody, and they’re deep through No. 4. So they’re deeper than we are in that area.”

“They’ve got the same coach, Dave York, who has built that program, which is sort of the gold standard of programs.”

After two straight losses to North Douglas earlier this month, the Monarchs defeated North Douglas 14-1, the first of six straight wins in which they have outscored the opposition 69-3.

The Loggers, however, are unmatched in victories, at any level.

Knappa has won 20 in a row, and the Loggers are 62-1 over their last 63 games. Over the last three years, Knappa’s only loss to an Oregon 2A team was to Nestucca, April 18, 2017.

Naselle track athletes earn medals

The Astorian

CHENEY, Wash. — The Naselle track team celebrated success in two field events at the WIAA state championships Friday.

Senior Lilli Zimmerman placed fourth in the shot put with a toss of 33 feet, 4 3/4 inches. Senior Liz Fink of Trout Lake won with a state record throw of 38-10 1/4.

In the pole vault, Naselle senior Sophie Scrabbeck earned fourth place, successfully clearing the bar at 8-0. The winner was junior Brooklyn Emerson of Glenwood, last year’s state runner-up, who cleared 9-9. Freshman Grace Hunt of Naselle also competed, clearing 6-6.



Photos by Patrick Webb

LEFT: Sophie Scrabbeck of Naselle placed fourth in the WIAA 1B state pole vault championships Friday. RIGHT: Lilli Zimmerman of Naselle placed fourth in the WIAA 1B state shot put championships Friday.

Astoria on a playoff roll, after win at Sweet Home

The Astorian

At first a long shot to get past the first round, the Astoria Fishermen now have a very real shot at their first state championship since 2011.

The Fishermen are halfway there, following an 8-1 win Friday at Sweet Home in a Class 4A baseball state quarterfinal.

With a win over No. 3 seed North Marion already under their belt, Astoria will play No. 2-seed Henley in a Tuesday semifinal, with a trip to the championship on the line.

A win will put Astoria into the title game (with their third different coach) for the sixth time since 2006.

But first, it will be another long road trip to face the Hornets.

“Bring it on,” said Astoria second-year coach Glen Fromwiller. “The kids are getting acclimated to being on the road. We’re playing well everywhere, so we’ll just jump on the bus and go wherever we have to.”

The Fishermen wasted little time in jumping on the scoreboard in Friday’s contest.

In the top of the first inning, Astoria’s Burke Matthews had a one-out double to center field, Ryan Stutznegger reached base on an error, and Ebin Hillard singled to load the bases.

Will Reed was hit by a pitch to force in the first run, and with two outs, Josiah Hirsch lined a single to center to score Stutznegger and Hillard to make it 3-0.

Reed advanced to third on a wild pitch, and he scored moments later on Balan Kolee’s infield single.

Dylan Rush walked on four straight pitches to re-load the bases, but Sweet Home pitcher Nate Virtue retired the final batter to end the half-inning.

But it was far too late, as the 4-0 lead for the Fishermen was plenty for Reed to work with as Astoria’s starting pitcher.

Reed did not give up a hit until the fourth inning, and went the distance on the mound, tossing a two-hitter with one strikeout and three walks.

“We played great defense,” Fromwiller said. “(The Huskies) put the ball in play, so give some love to Reed. He did a great job.”

“But the four runs in the first inning ... that settles everybody’s blood pressure and the heart rate goes down, and it definitely helps the pitcher,” Fromwiller said. “We batted through the entire order (in the first inning), which gave everybody a chance to see their pitcher — who also pitched well, but he struggled at times, and we just sat on the fastball.”

And offensively, the Fishermen jumped all over the Huskies, racking up six hits through just two innings, after collecting just four hits in their win two days earlier at North Marion.

Adding some insurance in the fifth inning, the Fishermen basically took batting practice on Sweet Home reliever Zachary Zanona.

After a fly-out to start the inning, Balan Kolee reached on a single and advanced to third on a double from Dylan Rush, and everybody scored on a three-run homer by Adam Feldman.

Still not done, Matthews had his second double and eventually scored on a double steal for an 8-1 lead, as the Fishermen collected 14 hits through just five innings.

Astoria finished with 15 hits, three apiece for Matthews and Hillard.

The first four batters in Astoria’s lineup combined for nine hits.

“Adam did great — he hit the three-run homer, and that helps,” Fromwiller said. “And Burke has been hitting everything. The last few games he has hit every ball hard.”