

# SPORTS

**CONTACT US**  
**Gary Henley** | Sports Reporter  
 ghenley@dailyastorian.com

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## Warriors clinch spot in title game



Warrenton Warriors

The 2019 Warrenton baseball team.

First championship game appearance since 1998

By **GARY HENLEY**  
*The Astorian*

In sports, you can't beat destiny. And the Warrenton Warriors definitely have destiny on their side in 2019.

In fact, the Warriors might as well put a big "D" on their hats and "Destiny" on their uniforms. Because at this point, the Class 3A baseball state title appears to be theirs for the taking.

Warrenton's latest victory, a 7-5 decision Tuesday at Santiam Christian, sends the Warriors to the state championship game for

the first time since 1998. Warrenton will play La Pine at Volcanoes Stadium on Friday, game time 5 p.m.

"The thing that we're trying to keep in mind now, is that nothing is a given and we're taking nothing for granted," said Warrenton coach Lennie Wolfe. "We have two days to get better for La Pine. That's our focus now. We're excited as can be about Friday, but we're going to focus on tomorrow."

With Clatsop County's other two title contenders (Knappa and Astoria) both going down in their respective semifinals, Warrenton will be this year's county representative in Keizer.

Baseball teams from the North

Coast have played in a state championship game nine of the last 13 years.

Up until now, it just hasn't been Warrenton.

But with wins over No. 2 seed Brookings-Harbor and No. 3 seed Santiam Christian, the Warriors have clinched their spot in the final. They will face No. 4 seed La Pine — more proof that destiny is on Warrenton's side, as the Hawks knocked off No. 1-ranked Pleasant Hill in Tuesday's other semifinal.

"The kids feel good about their achievements," said Wolfe, whose last state title came in 1994. "And again, such a big part of it is that they know they've earned it."

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### TRACK

## Naselle Comets among best in their field

By **PATRICK WEBB**  
*For The Astorian*

CHENEY, Wash. — Naselle had a solid showing over the weekend at the WIAA state track meet from the 20 athletes who qualified.

In team scores at Eastern Washington University, the Comet boys placed eighth and the girls ninth among 1B teams. Mount Vernon Christian won the boys and Oakesdale won the girls team trophies.

Naselle's Faaoso Tutu'u was third in the 100 meters with 11.96 seconds (the winner, from Mount Vernon Christian, ran in 11.59). He was also fifth in the long jump, jumping 20 feet, 5 1/4 inches. The winner, from Mary K. Knight School, leaped 20-10 1/2.

Cody Condon was seventh in the pole vault, an event in which two other Naselle athletes, Parker Dalton (9-6) and Caleb Haataia (8-6) also participated. Condon cleared 11-6.

Unfortunately the Comet trio competed on a day when two athletes from other schools, cheered on by the stadium crowd a short distance across from their landing pit, attempted to push the bar up beyond prior heights. Micah Colburn, a sophomore from Trout Lake, won by clearing a meet record height of 14-0.

The boys 400-meter relay team of Tutu'u, Corey Gregory, Condon and Antonio Nolan placed fourth.

Monte Schell had two individual successes, placing sixth in the high jump and sixth in the 800 meters with 2:12.49 (the winner from Pope John Paul II School had 2:01.31).

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## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY

**Baseball** — 3A state championship: Warrenton vs. La Pine, 5 p.m., Volcanoes Stadium, Keizer.

#### BASEBALL

##### Henley 9, Astoria 3

Astoria 000 120 0—3 6 5  
 Henley 010 323 X—9 10 3  
 Rush, Kaul (6) and Hillard; Ha.Rasica and He.Rasica. W: Ha.Rasica. L: Rush. RBI: Ast, Hillard, Johnson; Hen, Tacchini 2, Rote, Loney, He.Rasica, Hasskamp. 2B: Ast, Hillard, Johnson; Hen, Ha.Rasica 2. HR: Hen, He.Rasica, Tacchini. HBP: Ast, Hirsch. LOB: Astoria 8, Henley 6. DP: Astoria, Henley.

##### Warrenton 7, Santiam Christian 5

Warrenton 021 310 0—7 9 1  
 S.Christian 002 002 1—5 9 5  
 Jackson, Knight (6), Breitmeyer (7) and Morrow; Riley, Black (7) and Wirth. W: Jackson. L: Riley. RBI: War, Morrow, Falls, Kapua, Herrera. 2B: War, Little, Kapua. HBP: War, Morrow. LOB: Warrenton 8, Santiam Christian 8.

##### Umpqua Valley 12, Knappa 10

Umpqua 000 390 0—12 10 4  
 Knappa 135 100 0—10 15 1  
 Pettibone, Luther (2), A.Buechley (6) and Guastafarro; Takalo, Flues (1), Wallace (5), Goodman (5) and Patterson. W: Luther. L: Goodman. RBI: UVC, A.Buechley 5, Luther 3, E.Buechley 2, Heard, Kna, Bartlett 4, Coffey 2, Wallace. 2B: UVC, A.Buechley 2, E.Buechley; Kna, Goodman, Patterson, Wallace. HR: Kna, Bartlett. HBP: UVC, Guastafarro 2, Mahoney, Mesa, Gale. LOB: Umpqua Valley 11, Knappa 13. DP: Umpqua Valley.

# EPIC UPSET



Devin Hoover takes a swing at the plate for the Loggers.

Colin Murphey/The Astorian

## Umpqua Valley stuns Knappa with big-time rally

By **GARY HENLEY**  
*The Astorian*

**W**e did a lot of good, but it's a tough pill to swallow at the end," said Knappa coach Jeff Miller, whose team suffered one of its toughest defeats in years. Actually, one of its *only* defeats in years.

A "tough loss" is putting it mildly, as Umpqua Valley Christian's unlikely 12-10 win Tuesday over the No. 1-ranked, two-time defending state champion Loggers will hurt for some time.

Miller's team has won a lot of games — 20 in a row coming into Tuesday's game, and 62 of their last 63 — so losing a game at home, in a state semifinal, after holding a big lead, this one definitely hurts.

But, as Miller said, "It's never easy. Win or

lose, it's never easy to say goodbye to seniors."

And, after watching Umpqua Valley battle from a nine-run deficit, he said, "You don't see that every day, thankfully. Hats off to (the Monarchs), for keeping on fighting, and taking advantage of the opportunities they had. I'm still proud of our kids. They battled and fought."

Considering how they lost it, it was even more difficult to believe.

Two years ago, the Loggers overcame a 9-1 deficit to beat Reedsport 10-9 in the 2017 state championship.

In Tuesday's game, Knappa held a 9-0 lead after three innings.

And even though Logger starting pitcher Eli Takalo suffered an arm injury in the first inning, Knappa's Logan Flues was pitching well in relief, the Loggers were racking up hits left and right, and the Monarchs were having problems making the most routine plays.

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## Henley stings Astoria 9-3 in semifinals

By **GARY HENLEY**  
*The Astorian*

Less than a week after ending Seaside's season, the Henley Hornets did the same to the Astoria Fishermen, in a Class 4A baseball semifinal Tuesday in Klamath Falls.

Henley snapped a 1-1 tie with three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, then tacked on two in the fifth and three in the sixth to pull away for a 9-3 win over the Fishermen.

The loss left Astoria one game short of its first appearance in the state championship since 2011.

Still, it was quite a run while it lasted for the No. 14 seed Fishermen, who scored victories over No. 3-ranked North Marion and No. 11 seed Sweet Home before falling to the No. 2-seed Hornets.

Henley advances to the state championship, where the Hornets will face No. 1-ranked Banks. After winning state titles in football and boys basketball, the Braves will be competing in their third state cham-



Steve Matthes/Herald and News

Astoria's Adam Feldman bats against Henley's Hayden Rasica.

pionship game in their third different sport of the 2018-19 school year.

The Hornets rapped out 10 hits in Tuesday's win, nine off Astoria starter Dylan Rush.

Henley's hard-hitting lineup — which hammered the Gulls 12-0 just six days earlier — had a pair

of doubles by Hayden Rasica and home runs by Heith Rasica and John Tacchini.

Ebin Hillard and Danny Johnson both had doubles as part of Astoria's six-hit attack, but the Fishermen also committed five errors in the field.

### TRACK

## Kaino powers Ilwaco boys to third place

By **PATRICK WEBB**  
*For The Astorian*

CHENEY, Wash. — Pressure? Not for Ilwaco sprinter Alex Kaino.

This time last year he was atop the podium after winning the 300-meter hurdles at the WIAA state track meet.

Last weekend, he stepped up to the podium five times — retaining his 300 title, placing in the 100- and 200-meter finals, and enjoying a second-place win with his 1,600-meter relay buddies.

As Saturday's light faded in Roos Stadium, the last steps he climbed in a Fisherman uniform were when WIAA officials announced that the Ilwaco boys had placed third overall. He joined many of those who had made it possible, including coaches Sarah Taylor, Dan Schenck and Thad McMullen.

Fishermen fans who had supported them rain or shine made their way onto the Eastern Washington University field, whooping and hollering with vigor.

Kaino's teammates gave him the trophy to hold and shuffled the diminutive runner into the center for photos.

Coach Taylor, beaming with pride, noted that her senior sprinter's humility was something she would miss.

"He has been a great leader," she said. "He keeps everything organized. He is truly a team player. He works like crazy for everyone else — while he is working out twice a day."

When the 2019 2B season rolled around, Kaino prepared for all his sprints while being focused on a 300 hurdles repeat. In his last run before state, he raced to 39.41 seconds, the only qualifier with a sub-40 time.

"It's been good competition both years," he said. "And the support I have received is the best — it has been more than anyone could ask. People like our fans do expect you to win, so it's a little bit of pressure."

Kaino won his heat at Cheney in 40.17 — even after knocking over the final hurdle — then prepared for the finals. As expected, Will Lane from Northwest Christian, who had been second last year, won the other heat in 40.09. They were almost side-by-side around the final curve when bad luck for one provided good luck for another.

"He clipped a hurdle and that gave me my edge," Kaino admitted. His time was 39.28. Lane was second at 39.95.

Still, Kaino didn't have long to celebrate or recover before he was back on the track for the 100 and 200. He'd had good

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