

SPORTS

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Andrew Fick

Astoria runner John Clement rounds a corner on his way to a fourth place finish in the Bigfoot Classic Tuesday near Rockaway Beach.

Astoria girls and Ilwaco boys post wins

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

Another meet, another win for the Astoria girls cross-country team, which is quickly turning into the team to beat at the 4A level.

The Lady Fishermen took the top spot Tuesday afternoon at the Bigfoot Classic held at the Twin Rocks Friends Camp near Rockaway Beach. The Astoria boys were second behind Ilwaco.

Individually, Astoria runners were edged out by a few small-school runners, as Neah-Kah-Nie sophomore Jordan White won the girls' race in 23 minutes, 58 seconds, with Sophie Long of Astoria second (24:25) on the 5,000-meter course.

And Ilwaco sophomore Daniel Quintana captured first place in the boys' race (19:28), ahead of Ilwaco teammate Daniel Whiting (19:41), Robert Piña-Morton of Knappa (third, 20:07) and Astoria's John Clement (fourth, 20:39). Knappa freshman Isaiah Rodriguez

was fifth in 21:35.

Team-wise, the Ilwaco boys finished with 40 points, followed by Astoria (46), Knappa (63) and Warrenton (107), with Seaside sixth out of seven scoring teams.

The Astoria girls had 41 points, ahead of Neah-Kah-Nie (60), Ilwaco (70), Warrenton (95) and Seaside (110).

Warrenton's top runners were Forrest Cooley (seventh, 22:08) for the boys, and Abigail Miller (13th, 28:24) for the girls.

Knappa freshman Emily Larson was 14th in 28:33, while Seaside was paced by Cole Jervis (18th, 23:07) and Brooke Blankenhorn (16th, 28:36).

"We knew that the day was about how you face challenges," said Astoria coach Andrew Fick. "With the steep hills and tough terrain, combined with some of the fastest runners in the state from the smaller divisions, we knew that we would have our work cut out for us."

"I was proud of how we worked as a team and how we confronted those challenges,"

he said. "We ran aggressively and more confidently. I know that we still have plenty of room to grow, but today was another big step forward."

Clement ran right on the heels Piña-Morton in the boys race, while "Ella (Zilli) and Lindsay (Riutta) both got out fast and pushed the whole way through," in the girls race, Fick said, finishing fourth and sixth, respectively.

"Everyone moving up and pushing themselves is what makes our team better as a whole, and is how we're going to keep racing competitively," he said. "Today was a good mental and physical test, and that ability to get out fast and keep working is what we're looking for and what we saw in our races."

Astoria cross-country hosts the annual "Run with the Fishermen" race Saturday at Coffenbury Lake, with an 11 a.m. start time.

The course is a scenic 2.5-mile race around the lake. Participants are also invited to join in a picnic lunch and campfire following the race at Shelter A.

PREP ROUNDUP

VOLLEYBALL

Warrenton tops Taft, remains undefeated in league

Warrenton improved to 5-0 in league play with a four-set win Tuesday night over Taft, 25-21, 18-25, 25-16, 25-15.

The Lady Warriors continue a busy week with a home match Thursday vs. Clatskanie (0-4), and will participate in the Seaside tournament Saturday.

"I told the girls to win this with a little bit less drama than our first, that went five sets and each game only being decided by two," said Warrenton coach Staci Mieth. "We had to get our serves in (Taft missed 24 the first match). They listened and delivered. We served 81-for-91 (just under 90%) and had 37 aces."

Mia McFadden led the Warriors with 12 aces, followed by Avyree Mieth (nine) and Nora Ayo (seven).

Mieth led the offensive attack with nine kills, followed by McFadden, Leah Schiewe and Marlie Annat, all with four. Annie Heyen added four block kills.

Knappa sweeps Mannahouse Christian

After a 1-5 start in league play, the Knappa volleyball team is gradually working its way back into the league playoff race, as the Lady Loggers won their second match in a row Monday night at home.

Knappa scored its second straight three-game sweep, 25-14, 25-16, 25-14, over

Mannahouse Christian.

The Loggers improve to 3-5 in the Northwest League standings, while Mannahouse drops to 0-8, 0-15 overall. The Lions have now been swept in 14 of their 15 matches.

"The games were kind of slow, but it gave us some time to work on our new rotation and get some younger players into the rotation a few times," said Knappa coach Jeff Kaul. "Both Taryn Barendse and Charlie Casper played for us tonight and both were 100% from the (service) line, with Taryn going 6-for-6 with one ace and a bump kill and Charlie 2-for-2 and a kill."

Sophia Carlson led the Loggers with nine kills. Vicki Ramvick followed with six kills to go with five blocks, and Aiko Miller added eight digs. Hannah Dietrichs returned to the lineup and finished with six kills.

Knappa returns to action Thursday at home against Columbia Christian, a team the Loggers swept Saturday on the road.

GIRLS SOCCER

Valiants blank Astoria, 3-0

In Cowapa League girls soccer action Tuesday night, first place Valley Catholic improved to 3-0 in league with a 3-0 win over visiting Astoria.

Still searching for their first league win, the Lady Fishermen (0-3-1) have a week off before playing at Seaside.

In other Cowapa League action Tuesday, Tillamook defeated the Gulls 4-1 at Broadway Field.

— *The Astorian*

BOYS SOCCER

No. 1 Valley Catholic defeats Astoria, 5-1

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

For the winner of Tuesday night's boys soccer showdown at CMH Field — first place in the Cowapa League standings.

A victory would have vaulted Astoria over Valley Catholic to the top of the league, but the Valiants had other ideas.

Valley Catholic (3-0 in league) retained its hold on first place in the Cowapa with a 5-1 win over the Fishermen, as the Valiants backed up their No. 1 ranking in the latest OSAA poll.

Four different players scored goals in the first half for Valley Catholic, and the teams played to a 1-1 tie over the final 40 minutes.

Astoria (2-2 in league) drops from second to third in the league standings, a half-game behind Seaside (2-1), which defeated Tillamook, also by a 5-1 score.

The Fishermen packed their side of the field with 11 defenders in the first half, but the Valiants — with their precision passing and accurate shots on goal — held a 3-0 lead through 25 minutes of action, then tacked on a fourth goal with 9:10 left in the first half.

The halftime score would have been even more lopsided, if not for a few remarkable saves by Astoria goalkeeper Dylan Altheide-Nielson.

The senior made several diving stops on shots on goal from the Valiants, including back-to-back saves at the 18:55 mark.

A 10-yard shot by Valley's Berg Schmiesing was knocked down by a diving Altheide-Nielson, who got up to make

a diving stop on a point-blank rebound shot by Josh McCulloch.

The Astoria keeper had help in the first half, when Valiant shots were deflected away by Fishermen defenders Evan Randall, David Bermudez and Brooks Fromwiller.

Astoria had an early opportunity on offense when Jeremy Owen stole a Valiant pass back to keeper Luka Rak, who had to make a quick save on a shot by Owen.

Another Astoria attempt by Michael Postlewait was just over the cross bar.

Altheide-Nielson had four saves in the first half, but the Valiants soon had their offense clicking.

In the 13th minute, a perfectly placed corner kick by Valley Catholic's Nicolas Tubito was headed in by Bailey Hill for the game's first goal.

Nine minutes later, Valley's Connor Bly assisted on a close range goal by McCulloch, and three minutes after that, Bly blasted a left-footed shot into the Astoria net from 20 yards out.

The final goal of the first half came from sophomore Camden Fisco, who scored unassisted from 35 yards away.

After 23 scoreless minutes in the second half, the Valiants made it 5-0 when Schmiesing assisted Bly, whose one-touch shot from the left post got past Altheide-Nielson.

The Fishermen managed their lone goal with 10:01 left in the game, when Shrey Sharma stole a clear by Valley Catholic, and scored past Connor Matto to break up the shutout.

Matto made the save on a free kick by Astoria's Dalton Byrd in the final minutes.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE THURSDAY

Volleyball — Astoria at Seaside, 6:30 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Columbia Christian at Knappa, 6:30 p.m.; Jewell at Falls City, 6 p.m.

Girls Soccer — Seaside at Banks, 4:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer — Banks at Seaside, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Football — Astoria at Tillamook, 7 p.m.; Seaside at Molalla,

7 p.m.; Knappa at Neah-Kah-Nie, 7 p.m.; Warrenton at Vernonia, 7 p.m.; Sherman/Condon at Jewell, 6 p.m.; Ocosta at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Football — Naselle at Crescent, 3 p.m.

Volleyball — Seaside Tournament, 8:30 a.m.; Knappa at Westside tournament, TBA

Cross Country — Astoria Alumni Run, TBA; Rainier Invitational, TBA



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