

SPORTS

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



LILLI TAYLOR
 Seaside

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The sophomore guard for No. 12-ranked Seaside had a license to drive the lane, over and over, in a 45-31 nonleague win Dec. 10 over Scappoose. Taylor scored a career-high 28 points, including 8-of-10 at the free throw line. She also had 16 rebounds (seven offensive boards) and five blocks. Taylor had nine points and nine rebounds in another nonleague win at Corbett Dec. 12, before fouling out.



NIC PIOR
 Warrenton

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

In the Warriors' wrestling invitational Dec. 14, Prior won the championship at 145 pounds, scoring a 46-second fall over Knappa's Addison Pietila, a 9-0 major decision against Ilwaco's Christophe Lake, and a pin (2:30) against Vernonia's Austin Sicard in the title match. Prior was named the meet's outstanding wrestler for the lighter weights, contributing big points to Warrenton's team championship.

Montesano boys hold off Astoria, 57-51

The Astorian

SEASIDE — A bunch of untimely turnovers by Astoria, and some timely free throws for Montesano made the difference Thursday, in a first round boys game of the Seaside Holiday Classic.

The Fishermen finished with 27 turnovers, while the Bulldogs connected on 17-of-23 free throws on their way to a 57-51 win over Astoria.

Montesano was on the verge of breaking the game wide open midway through the second quarter, holding a 30-17 lead.

That's when Astoria's Dylan Junes scored on a layup, Xander Marincovich followed with a 3-pointer and Isaac Brockman converted a three-point play to spark a 19-8 run for the Fishermen.

A jumper by Marincovich to open the fourth period had Astoria within 38-36, but that's as close as the Fishermen would get.

Braden Dohrmann connected on a 3-pointer for the Bulldogs, while Montesano was 8-for-12 at the free throw line in the fourth quarter (6-of-8 in the final 2:51) to help secure the win.

The Fishermen could not take advantage of numerous offensive rebounds, but still finished 20-of-49 from the field. Marincovich had 20 points to lead all scorers, with Brockman adding 12 and Colton McMaster scoring 10 for Astoria.

Wesley Bjornsgard had 12 points for Montesano.

Seaside boys cruise past Newport

The Astorian

For the last three years, Newport vs. Seaside was the boys championship game of the annual Seaside Holiday Classic.

This season, the Cubs and the Gulls met in a first round game of the Classic, with Seaside posting an easy 61-48 win over Newport.

The heavy favorites to make the championship game for the sixth year in a row, the Gulls snapped a 36-36 tie in the third quarter with a 17-3 run to put the game away.

Ryan Hague, Stephen Snyder and Everest Sibony all knocked down 3-pointers during the decisive run.

Snyder led a trio of players in double figures with 18, followed by Hague with 11 and Brayden Johnson with 10. Sibony and Beau Johnson scored eight points each.

Seaside has won the boys' championship of the Holiday Classic three times in the last five years.



LEFT: Brayden Johnson scored 10 points in the win over Newport. RIGHT: Derrick Bennett contributed to the scoring in Seaside's win over Newport.



Photos by Jeff Ter Har

PREP ROUNDUP

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Astoria hammers Crook County, 60-13

The Astoria Lady Fishermen are already rounding into state championship form, as they showed in a first round game Thursday of the South Coast Les Schwab Tournament, in Marshfield.

Astoria's Hailey O'Brien scored 13 points in the first quarter — which equalled Crook County's total for the entire game, in a 60-13 win for the Lady Fishermen.

O'Brien finished with 18 and Kajsa Jackson added eight for Astoria, which led 24-3 after one quarter, then outscored Crook County 15-0 in the second.

Ten players made it into the scoring column for Astoria.

Early run lifts Rochester over Seaside

A 17-0 run in the first half was enough for the Rochester girls basketball team to pull away for a late-night win Thursday, in the final girls game on Day 1 of the Seaside Holiday Classic.

Tied 4-4 early in the first quarter, the Warriors scored 17 straight for a 21-4 lead, on their way to a 45-25 win over the host Gulls.

Rochester senior Paige Winter scored 11 of her game-high 17 points in the first half, and the Warriors drained 3-pointers from Lexi Sederberg-Jones, Megan Elkins and Maddix Schneider to pull away in the third quarter.

Seaside — which lost freshman Caleigh Peterson to an injury in the first period — was led by Ruby Douglas with 10 points and Lilli Taylor with eight.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Knappa pounds Vernonia, 63-27

The Battle of the Loggers is not much of a battle any more.

Following Knappa's four straight wins over Vernonia in football (42-17, 62-30, 40-7 and 50-6), the Knappa boys basketball team continued the school's dominance over Vernonia, with a 63-27 victory Wednesday night on Knappa's home court.

Since Vernonia's huge upset in the 2017-18 state tournament, Knappa has won three in a row over

their Logger rivals, 88-66, 74-44, and Wednesday's 36-point victory.

And for the second time in three days, Knappa had a game officially locked up by halftime, leading Vernonia 32-21.

Knappa went on to outscore Vernonia 20-2 in the third quarter and 11-4 in the fourth.

Knappa "Really played with energy and effort tonight, particularly in the second half," said coach Paul Isom. "We held them to six points in the second half and blew the game open in the third quarter."

Knappa's Mason Westerholm "really flew around, getting a number of deflections and steals leading to easy baskets," Isom said. "Kanai Phillip also played well on both ends. He was really aggressive offensively, which was great to see."

"And then our bench again brought energy and intensity that we really needed," he said. "Cameron Mieth and Shane McMahan had the difficult assignments of guarding Vernonia's two best players, and both did an outstanding job. All in all it was a good team effort and another nice league win."

Eli Takalo scored 11 points, Phillip added 11 and Devin Hoover scored 10 for Knappa.

— The Astorian

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Vernonia gets past Knappa, 47-32

The Astorian

After allowing a combined 30 points in their previous two games, the Knappa girls basketball team gave up 47 Wednesday night to visiting Vernonia.

And the visiting Loggers defeated the home Loggers, 47-32, in a key showdown between two Northwest League title contenders.

"Our goal was to play aggressive defense, limit their top scorer's touches and force them to make uncomfortable passes," said Knappa coach Tracie Brockey. "For a majority of the game, our girls were successful in achieving that. We forced several turnovers (multiple five-second violations and 21 team steals) again tonight."

Vernonia's top scorer, Brooklyn Walters, sat much of the second quarter, in which Vernonia scored just three points.

"She and her sister, Jordan, are very strong, smooth shooters with a deep range," Brockey said of the sisters, who combined for five 3-pointers.

Meanwhile, "We got open looks in both halves that we just have to knock down," Brockey said. "Despite our lack of finishing at the rim, it was only a six-point deficit at the half, but we were unable to close the gap."

Vernonia took advantage of Knappa foul trouble and injury in the fourth.

"I think the score is deceiving," Brockey said. "We can absolutely compete with a team like Vernonia. We had players step up defensively in ways I haven't seen yet this season, and it was reassuring that we are progressing."

Aiko Miller finished with 12 points, five steals and five rebounds.

Sophia Carlson, Madelynn Weaver, Katelynn Weaver and Megan Hallberg each contributed four steals, while Hellberg had seven rebounds.

Brooklyn Walters led Vernonia with 13 points, followed by Jordan Walters (11) and Jayden Hartman (10).

In other NWL girls' action, Faith Bible defeated Portland Christian (49-33), and Columbia Christian topped Gaston (41-12).

SCOREBOARD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

| |
|--|
| Astoria 60, Crook County 13 |
| CC (13): Martins 25 6, Taylor 4, McKamzap 2, McCall 1. |
| AST (60): Hailey O'Brien 18, Jackson 8, Helmersen 6, Norris 6, Rasmussen 6, Hankwitz 5, Espelien 4, Long 2, Matthews 2, Fausett 2. |
| Crook County 3 0 9 1-13 |
| Astoria 24 15 11 10-60 |

BOYS BASKETBALL

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|---|
| Montesano 57, Astoria 51 |
| MON (57): Wesley Bjornsgard 12, Olsen 11, Tyler 8, Ridgway 8, Daniels 7, Dohrmann 6, Adams 3, Wills 2. |
| AST (51): Xander Marincovich 20, Brockman 12, McMaster 10, Junes 5, Altheide-Nielson 3, Moore 1. |
| Montesano 17 15 6 19-57 |
| Astoria 8 19 7 17-51 |
| Seaside 61, Newport 48 |
| NEW (48): Fredy Hildalgo 24, Tapia 10, Bruns 8, Losier 6. |
| SEA (61): Stephen Snyder 18, Hague 11, Br. Johnson 10, Be. Johnson 8, Sibony 8, Langmo 4, Bennett 2. |
| Newport 11 13 15 9-48 |
| Seaside 17 15 14 15-61 |
| Knappa 63, Vernonia 27 |
| Vernonia 7 14 2 4-27 |
| Knappa 16 16 20 11-63 |
| KNA (67): Eli Takalo 16, Phillip 11, Hoover 10, Westerholm 6, L. Morrill 6, Ramvick 5, Gale 5, McMahan 4, C. Morrill, Miller, Jackson, Mieth. |
| Warrenton 38, Santiam Christian 34 |
| WAR (38): Austin Little 9, Devin Jackson 9, Hordie Bodden-Bodden 9, Maddox 6, Morrow 5. |
| SC (34): Galceran 12, Bourne 8, Williamson 7, Villers 7. |
| Warrenton 4 13 2 10 9-38 |
| Santiam C 15 3 7 4 5-34 |