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SPORTS

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Krissy Barendse-Goodman

The senior (Madelynn) and freshman (Katelynn) put up big numbers in three league games last week. In a 46-43 loss Jan. 13 to Mannahouse Christian, Katelynn led the Loggers with 14 points to go with seven rebounds and three steals. Two days later, Katelynn scored 14 points (eight in the third quarter) and Madelynn added 12 points and eight rebounds in a 35-24 win over Columbia Christian. The two had a combined 14 steals. In a Jan. 17 loss at Nestucca, Katelynn had 10 points, six steals and five boards, with Madelynn chipping in six points and six rebounds.



Mindy Little

In back-to-back wins, the Little brothers (senior Austin and freshman Dawson) played key roles in helping Warrenton. In a Jan. 10 nonleague victory over Colton, 44-30, Dawson scored a game-high 16 points, with four rebounds and two steals, while Austin finished with eight boards. After a Jan. 13 game at Gaston was cancelled, the Warriors posted a league-opening win at Taft, 55-39. Dawson had 19 points with five rebounds and three assists; Austin added 11 points and finished with three steals and two assists. The Little's were 9-for-10 on two-point field goals.



Butch Dill/AP Photo

Oregon's Justin Herbert of the South squad runs drills during practice for the Senior Bowl college football game.

Herbert, other Senior Bowl players hope staying pays off

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — A year ago, Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert decided to stick around for his senior season instead of turning pro. Wisconsin linebacker Zack Baun didn't really have much choice. Both had impressive final college seasons, including a head-to-head Rose Bowl matchup, and believe they're more NFL-ready now. They're among the participants in Saturday's Senior Bowl game for senior NFL prospects and some junior graduates. Some of them, including Baun, have only recently emerged as legitimate prospects. Others like South Carolina defensive tackle Javon Kinlaw and Michigan State defensive end Kenny Willekes stayed in college for one more season largely because of injuries. Ditto for Alabama linebacker Terrell Lewis. "I wanted to be a better leader, a better teammate, a better quarterback," said Herbert, who would also have been a likely first-round draft pick last year. "All these things that I felt like I accomplished this year." He did turn in perhaps his best season with 3,471 yards, 32 touchdowns and six interceptions. Herbert is one of the top quarterbacks in an upcoming draft where LSU Heisman Trophy winner

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Justin Herbert | Oregon quarterback

Joe Burrow is the likely No. 1 pick and some of the 99 underclassmen granted eligibility by the NFL are among the most coveted prospects. Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is one of them and a potential top-5 pick. Lewis, Arizona State running back Eno Benjamin, Texas A&M wide receiver Quartney Davis and Utah State quarterback Jordan Love are among the juniors in the Senior Bowl who have already graduated. Lewis, a fourth-year junior, and Love are widely regarded as potential first-round picks. Lewis's fellow Alabama linebacker Anfernee Jennings opted to return for

his senior season and try to improve his stock, and feels like he did just that. Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban, who lost six underclassmen to the draft counting Lewis, said he advises all his juniors to leave if they're likely first-round picks. "I think most of our guys have made a good decision that way," Saban said. "I think in Anfernee and Terrell's case, both, they certainly did themselves a lot of good by coming back. I think most of our players who have come back have been able to do that." Herbert and Baun are hoping that call pays off for players like them, too. Willekes (broken leg) and Kinlaw (torn hip labrum) both indicated they likely would have left after their junior seasons but for the injuries. Kinlaw especially is pegged as a likely first-rounder after earning first-team Associated Press All-America honors. Willekes posted a career-high 10.5 sacks and finished as Michigan State's career leader with 51 tackles for loss. In the last offseason, he spent time at Von Miller's pass rush summit in Las Vegas and working with former NFL defensive end Chuck Smith. "I do feel a lot more ready, especially mentally," Willekes said. "I feel like I was still a little young last year and I had some growing up and maturing to do and I was able to do that."

Knappa girls snag 32 steals in win over Gaston

The Astorian

Still very much in the running for the Northwest League playoffs, the Knappa girls are back on the winning track following a 61-16 victory over Gaston, in NWL girls basketball action Thursday. The win was big for the Lady Loggers (3-6 in league), who had lost six of their last eight. "The girls came out of the gates ready to play," said Knappa coach Tracie Brockey. "They applied pressure early and didn't let up. As a coach, but also a Knappa alumna and community member, it was a great game to see." Knappa improved to 7-10 overall, while Gaston — ranked last in the state — dropped to 1-13, 0-7 in league. The Loggers were taking the ball at will from the Greyhounds, as Knappa finished with 32 steals. Freshman Katelynn Weaver had 21 points and nine steals, while senior sister Madelynn Weaver added nine points, eight steals and five assists. "I'm really proud of the way they played tonight," Brockey said of her players. "We talk a lot about who we are as a team, who sits in our stands, who we represent, and we are a community filled with blue-collared, hard working people. "We want to embody that on the court, diving for balls and making hustle plays," she said. "We want to reward the nitty-gritty performances that don't always appear on a stat sheet but are vitally important to our success as a program." The Weaver sisters "owned that blue collar mentality tonight," Brockey said. "We came away with 32 steals and had double digit scoring in each quarter." Sophia Carlson chipped in 10 points and four steals, while Hannah Dietrichs returned from an illness to grab nine rebounds to go with six points. Vicki Ramvick also returned for the Loggers, who could be tested next week in games at Vernonia Monday and Portland Christian Wednesday.

Knappa boys score another 30-point win over Gaston

The Astorian

The Knappa Loggers bounced back from their stunning upset loss at Nestucca last Friday and took out their frustrations on Gaston in a 59-29 win Thursday night over the Greyhounds in boys basketball action at Knappa. Knappa — which beat Gaston 72-40 in the first meeting Dec. 16 — led 16-8 after one quarter and 29-11 at halftime, then continued to pound the 'Hounds in the second half. The No. 2-ranked Loggers are back in charge of the NWL at 8-1 (16-1 overall), with road contests coming up at Vernonia (2-6) and Portland Christian (3-3) next week.