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SPORTS

A CLATSOP CLASH FAREWELL TO SEASIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Wins for Astoria girls, Seaside boys teams

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The final Clatsop Clash basketball games of 2019-20 went out with a bang Friday night. No major upsets, but the four teams at least put on a show for the last Clatsop Clash to be played alongside U.S. Highway 101.

Barring any state playoff meetings between the two schools, the last basketball games between the Fishermen and Gulls at Seaside High School (before it moves to its new campus) played out as expected.

In game one of Friday's doubleheader, the No. 2-ranked Astoria girls took advantage of one bad quarter for the Lady Gulls in a 49-38 win over Seaside.

And the No. 2-ranked Seaside boys capped the Clash with a non-memorable finish, in a 65-37 victory over Astoria.

The Lady Fishermen and the Seaside boys both have plans on playing for state championships March 14 in Forest Grove, but neither team was at its best Friday night.

The Astoria girls trailed 8-1, missed their first eight shots from the field and committed 22 turnovers; and the Seaside boys missed 20 shots from the 3-point line.

For the most part, Friday's games will be mostly forgotten by the time the next Clatsop Clash league meeting in Seaside takes place.

Girls Astoria 49, Seaside 38

Winners of two games straight and fresh off a win at Banks, Seaside was hoping to pull off an upset against Astoria in the girls' game.

But after jumping out to an 8-1 lead, the Lady Gulls were outscored 24-9 the remainder of the first half, then committed 15 turnovers in the third quarter and trailed 40-25 going into the fourth.

Astoria had 15 turnovers of its own in the second half, and missed 31 shots from the field.

Still, the Lady Fish improved to 5-0 in league play, and can officially lock up the Cowapa title with a win Tuesday at Banks.

Julia Norris and Brooklynn Hankwitz scored 17 points apiece for Astoria, with Norris scoring 11 in the second quarter.

Ellisa Blodgett had 13 points and Ruby Douglas added 10 for Seaside, which plays Tuesday at Valley Catholic, while the Fishermen travel to Banks.

"We had to avoid any sustained stretches of turnovers," said Seaside coach Mike Hawes. "The third quarter it looked like we forgot everything we already had done. We thought we could throw the ball over (Kelsey) Fausett, when clearly we couldn't."

But, he said, "we were better through most of the night, as I thought we would. Nice to have Elly (Blodgett) help with some scoring. I think we can beat a lot of teams with that effort, just not Astoria. You can't have any bad stretches, plus (against a team) that has a lot of offensively-skilled kids."

Boys Seaside 65, Astoria 37

In their previous meeting in January, Astoria held first half leads of 16-2 and 20-8 over Seaside, and Fisherman sophomore Colton McMaster scored 35 points. The Gulls made sure that neither happened in the rematch.

Seaside trailed 8-4 early in Friday's game, but less than five minutes later, the Gulls led 34-15.

Three-pointers by Brayden Johnson and Everest Sibony sparked a 27-5 run, and the Gulls were never threatened after that.

Meanwhile, McMaster was held to six points, while Astoria struggled from the free throw line (7-for-20) and had eight of



Melissa Linder-Cho

Ryan Stenblom's steal and dunk for Astoria was the highlight of the night in the boys' Clatsop Clash game.



Melissa Linder-Cho

Astoria's Colton McMaster tries to go up against Ryan Hague, right, and Seaside's strong wall of defense in Friday's game.



Vicki O'Brien

Astoria's Halle Helmersen (2) sets up on defense against Seaside's Tristyn McFadden.

ria shots. Despite their 28-point loss, the Fishermen owned the highlight of the night, a steal and breakaway dunk by Ryan Stenblom to open the second half. McMaster and Xander Marincovich

added 3-pointers in a 9-2 run by Astoria to start the third quarter, and drew the Fishermen to within 40-26.

Both teams are on the road Tuesday with Astoria at Banks and Seaside at Valley Catholic.

Warrenton, Rainier split doubleheader

The Astorian

Once invincible, Rainier has fallen to a 1-6 league record this season, following Warrenton's 40-30 win over the Columbians in a Coastal Range League girls basketball game Friday at Rainier.

The Lady Warriors remain tied for third in the league standings at 2-4, and finish the league

season against the top two teams in the league this week on Tuesday vs. Clatskanie and Friday at Willamina.

Boys Columbians 53, Warriors 43

The last team with a chance at catching first place Rainier in the Coastal Range League stand-

ings came up short Friday night in Rainier, where the Columbians held on for a 53-43 win over Warrenton.

Rainier remains unbeaten in league play at 7-0, while the second-place Warriors fall to 3-3.

Warrenton finishes the regular season this week at home Tuesday against Clatskanie, followed by a game Friday at Willamina.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Girls Basketball — Astoria at Banks, 6 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 6 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 7 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Astoria at Banks, 7:30 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 7:30 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton, 7:30 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Girls Basketball — Nestucca at Knappa, 6 p.m.

Boys Basketball — Nestucca at Knappa, 7:45 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Astoria 49, Seaside 38

AST (49): Julia Norris 17, Brooklynn Hankwitz 17, Helmersen 6, O'Brien 6, Fausett 3, Long, Jackson. **SEA (38):** Ellisa Blodgett 13, Douglas 10, Taylor 6, Doney 5, McFadden 2, Peterson 2.

Astoria	9	16	15	9	49
Seaside	8	9	8	13	38

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaside 65, Astoria 37

AST (37): Ryan Stenblom 10, McMaster 6, Moore 6, Marincovich 5, Williams 4, Brockman 2, Jones 2, Boudreau 1, Matthews 1, Altheide-Nielson.

SEA (65): Ryan Hague 16, BeJohnson 11, Sibony 10, Snyder 8, Langmo 6, BrJohnson 5, Bennett 4, Rich 3, Corder 2.

Astoria	10	7	11	9	37
Seaside	17	21	11	16	65