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Knappa's Mason Westerholm (15) and Eli Takalo (33) challenge Oakland's Colton Brownson.

Photos by Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

KNAPPA BOYS POUND OAKLAND, ADVANCE TO FINAL FOUR GAME

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

PENDLETON — The stage is set, and the Knappa boys basketball program is closing in on its first state title since 2009, following a state tournament quarterfinal win Thursday afternoon.

The Loggers cut down the not-so-mighty Oakers of Oakland, 71-55, as Oakland fell to Knappa for the second year in a row in a first round game at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Knappa, which led from start to finish, will face Toledo in Friday's Final Four, with the winner to play in the state championship game, Friday at 8:30 p.m. Toledo may have the No. 1 seed, but the Loggers have the best



Knappa's Devin Hoover goes up for two of his 23 points in Thursday's win.

Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

overall record (26-2) of the remaining teams.

A year after Timber Engblom scored 29 points in last year's first round win over Oakland, Knappa's Devin Hoover tossed in a game-high 23 points in Thursday's victory.

The Loggers were simply quicker, taller and stronger than the Oakers, and Knappa's athleticism helped the Loggers to a 10-2 lead in the first quarter, following a 3-pointer by Hoover.

After every Knappa score, the Loggers had three players at midcourt as Oakland worked the ball up the floor, and the Loggers made steal after steal, resulting in 11 Oakland turnovers in the first half.

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Naselle boys win in overtime, advance to semifinals

By **PATRICK WEBB**
For The Astorian

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Naselle boys stormed into the semifinals of the WIAA 1B state tournament with a come-from-behind performance that forced overtime and resulted in a 57-50 win Thursday.

Muckleshoot Tribal School put on an early clinic of accurate passing to remain in the lead throughout the contest. But Naselle tied the game with just seconds remaining, then moved ahead through the extra four minutes.

The victory advances Naselle to the semifinals, 3:45 p.m. Friday against No. 1-ranked Odessa which beat eastern Washington neighbors Almira-Coulee-Hartline, 42-39.

Although the first quarter ended 13-11 in the Kings' favor, by halftime they were ahead 25-19. They were looking comfortable in the third, extending the lead to 37-28 with 90 seconds remaining.

Senior Ethan Lindstrom went to the line and sank both shots to steady the ship, but there was still a seven-point margin as the final quarter began.

The scoring went back and forth as time

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Naselle girls fall in first round at state

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faded. Kolby Glenn intercepted a pass to set up a good scoring chance and fellow junior Jimmy Strange was again in action, constantly fighting for the ball.

With the scores at 44-42, the Naselle band started playing the Beach Boys' "Barbara Ann," but the Comets weren't surfing yet. Muckleshoot extended its lead then tried to burn off the clock with cross-court passes, but the Naselle boys were having none of it. Gregory missed a three then stole the ball. Warren Wirkkala tried for another three, missed then was fouled.

It proved the pivotal moment.

Calmly the junior bounced the ball a couple of times and scored a point. 43-47.

Calmly the junior bounced the ball a couple of times again and scored another point. 44-47.

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Determination to keep the ball is evident on the face of Naselle captain Ethan Lindstrom as he battles against Muckleshoot defenders. Behind him is teammate Corey Gregory.

Patrick Webb

Ilwaco girls fall in huge quarterfinal upset, 66-45

By **PATRICK WEBB**
For The Astorian

SPOKANE, Wash. — Ilwaco girls' quest for silverware in the WIAA state basketball championships ended Friday.

The Fisherman suffered a quarterfinal loss Thursday and then were defeated by Columbia Burbank Friday. Score was 66-45.

Columbia Burbank will play for fourth or sixth place Saturday.

The Northwest Christian team from Colbert advanced to the semifinals with a 50-37 win over the Fishermen in a quarterfinal game Thursday.

The game was one of attrition and a case of the ball just not dropping for the Fishermen when needed, despite a 20-point performance from junior leader Erika Glenn.

The Crusaders were patient early on, with a low-scoring first quarter, building to a 25-18 lead at the half then a more comfortable 36-27 lead as the fourth quarter began. Senior Natalie Smith led the way with 15 points and junior Ellie Sander had 13.

Fisherman coach Ned Bittner was realistic in defeat.

"We had two good quarters then didn't deliver," he said. "We didn't have the chance to get going. We did get some stops, but we didn't deliver at the other end. The girls stuck with it, and we fought back, but it wasn't enough."

Northwest Christian Colbert had advanced after beating Adna 47-28. The Crusaders play Liberty (Spangle) in a semifinal at 3:45 p.m. Friday.

Last year the Fishermen advanced to state but were eliminated 59-41 in the first round by St. George's, which eventually placed sixth.



Patrick Webb

Senior Estella Sheldon races down the court for a chance of a basket during quarterfinal action at the WIAA championships in Spokane, Washington, Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE				
SATURDAY				
Boys Basketball — (OR 4A) Seaside at Gladstone, 5:30 p.m.; (OR 2A) TBA vs. Knappa, 8:30 p.m.; (WA 1B) TBA vs. Naselle, 7 p.m.				
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
NW Christian 50, Ilwaco 36				
NW CHRISTIAN (50): Natalie Smith 15, Ellie Sander 13, Avery Bowman 9, Chiara Carey 7, Makenzie Nelson 2, Naomi Turner 2, Skylia Tunison 2, Mia Tunison, Jazlynn Johnson, Integrity Larson, Eden Clemmer.				
ILWACO (36): Erika Glenn 20, Tiama Ramsey 6, Kylie Gray 4, Ione Sheldon 3, Estella Sheldon 2, Maggie Jacobson 2, Sunny Kemmer, Kaytlenn Wheldon, Zoey Zuern, Gabby Bell, Jaymi Kemmer, Olivia McKinstry.				
N.Christian	10	15	11	14—50
Ilwaco	9	9	9	9—36
Field goals: NWC 16-47, Ilwaco 12-46. 3-Point FG: NWC 2-11, Ilwaco 6-20. Free throws: NWC 16-25, Ilwaco 7-7. Rebounds: NWC 42, Ilwaco 29. Turnovers: NWC 17, Ilwaco 18.				
Curlew 53, Naselle 26				
NAS (26): Lauren Katyrnyniuk 8, Bella Colombo 7, Jackie Steenerson 6, Peyton Dalton 2, Kaylin Shrives 2, Echo Cenci 1, Grace Hunt, Delaney Kragerud, Amera Larson.				
CUR (53): Korin Baker 25, Hannah McIrvine 8, Emma Lena Baker 7, Olivia Kjolseth 6, Megan Thomas 3, Claire Ladue 2, Macey Singer 2, Erikah Lindgren, Maddie Calhoun, Abi Beedle.				
Naselle	8	7	6	5—26
Curlew	14	13	8	18—53
Field goals: Naselle 11-47, Curlew 21-53. 3-Point FG: Naselle 3-12, Curlew 6-17. Free throws: Naselle 1-4, Curlew 5-10. Rebounds: Naselle 27, Curlew 46. Turnovers: Naselle 18, Curlew 17.				
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Knappa 71, Oakland 55				
OAKLAND (55): Noah Strempe 18, Colton Brownson 16, Triston Mask 13, Zach Cummings 4, Conrad Jones 2, Caleb Chastain, Chandler Miller.				
KNAPPA (71): Devin Hoover 23, Eli Takalo 16, Kanai Phillip 12, Mason Westerholm 9, Joe Ramwick 4, Logan Morril 4, Cameron Miethe 3, Carter Morrill, Mark Miller, Shane McMahan.				
Oakland	11	14	15	15—55
Knappa	14	17	18	22—71
Field goals: Oakland 20-54, Knappa 27-57. 3-Point FG: Oakland 4-24, Knappa 5-17. Free throws: Oakland 11-18, Knappa 12-19. Rebounds: Oakland 31, Knappa 38. Turnovers: Oakland 19, Knappa 19.				
Naselle 57, Muckleshoot 50				
MUCKLESHOOT (50): Lamont Nichols 22, Tyrelle Nichols 9, Josiah Vaomn 7, Jordan Mathias 5, Bendon Brown 3, Martin Reyes 2, Carlos Bennett 2, Jaden James.				
NASELLE (57): Corey Gregory 24, Ethan Lindstrom 16, Warren Wirkkala 6, Jimmy Strange 4, Chase Haataia 3, Kolby Glenn 2, Caleb Haataia 2, Jack Ruch, Kolten Lindstrom.				
Muckie	13	12	12	3—50
Naselle	11	8	11	17—57
Field goals: Muckleshoot 21-62, Naselle 19-64. 3-Point FG: Muckleshoot 3-25, Naselle 7-33. Free throws: Muckleshoot 5-9, Naselle 12-15. Rebounds: Muckleshoot 53, Naselle 38. Turnovers: Muckleshoot 21, Naselle 11.				