

SPORTS

Knights cut down Knappa boys in third-place game

The Astorian

It was, unfortunately for the Knappa Loggers, a near repeat of last year’s state tournament results — a win over Oakland, and losses to Toledo and Columbia Christian, just in reverse order.

Knappa fell behind 17-0 to start Saturday afternoon’s third-place game in Pendleton against rival Columbia Christian.

The Knights (24-6 overall) increased the lead to 39-13 by halftime, and although the Loggers (26-4) put up a good fight in the second half, the deficit was just too much to overcome, with Columbia Christian hanging on for a 64-49 win.

For the second year in a row, Knappa finished the 2A boys basketball tournament with two straight losses to the same two teams. The losses also came against two teams the Loggers had beaten during the regular season.

In a Friday semifinal game, Knappa led Toledo 21-18 after one quarter, but Toledo lowered the boom on the Loggers after that for a 69-46 victory.

Toledo went on to win the 2A state championship Saturday night over Western Christian, 58-48 — the first state title in any team sport for Toledo High School since it opened in 1959.

Columbia Christian — which suffered a 52-49 loss at Knappa Jan. 15 — bounced back with a 59-42 victory over the Loggers Feb. 10, then completely dominated Knappa in the first half of Saturday’s tournament game, leading 25-3 early in the second quarter.

Senior Isiah Mariscal finished the first half with 16 points, 14 in the first quarter.

Knappa’s Joe Ramvick, Eli Takalo and Devin Hoover combined to make five 3-pointers in the second half, helping the Loggers close to within 57-46 late in the game.

Columbia Christian made just enough free throws (14-of-22 in the fourth quarter) to hold off the Loggers for third place, forcing Knappa to accept the fifth place trophy for the second year in a row. (Toledo defeated Knappa 67-40 in last year’s third/fifth place game).

“Obviously not the result we were looking for, but like I told the guys, playing



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Knappa’s Devin Hoover, left, and Mason Westerholm surround Freddie Jackson of Columbia Christian in Saturday’s third place game.

on Saturday in Pendleton in any game is no easy task, and is something to be proud of,” said Knappa coach Paul Isom. “I was also proud of the way the guys battled back. It would have been really easy after that first half to just roll over, but the guys fought and got back into the game, which really showed a lot of heart and character.”

Also for the second year in a row at the state tournament, Knappa defeated the same team (Oakland) in the first round, followed by two losses to the same two teams.

The Loggers lose four seniors (Kanai Phillip, Mason Westerholm, Ramvick and Takalo), but Knappa returns plenty of talent next season, and will be favored to make a fourth straight trip to Pendleton.

“Overall it was was a successful year, with a lot of great moments,” Isom said. “Winning 26 games is a great accomplishment in and of itself. Oddly, we also beat the eventual 3A and 2A state champions (Oregon Episcopal and Toledo) along the way. Overall I couldn’t be more proud of this group and all the hard work they put in.”

Toledo 69, Knappa 46

After dominating Oakland in a 71-55 quarterfi-

nal win Thursday, Knappa appeared to have the inside track to a state title in the match against Toledo, which held the No. 1 seed, but was thoroughly outplayed by Knappa in a Jan. 3 game at Toledo.

But for the fourth straight sports season, the Loggers suffered another semifinal loss, 69-46, in another sport.

Going back to the 2018-19 basketball season, the Loggers have lost semifinal play-off games in boys basketball, baseball, football last fall and again in boys basketball.

Knappa was in control of Friday’s semifinal game, leading 25-18 in the opening minute of the second quarter.

But Toledo answered with a huge 23-5 run to close the first half. Toledo’s lead reached 55-35 in the final minute of the third quarter, and the Boomers stretched the lead to 66-39 early in the fourth.

Conner Marchant led Toledo with 28 points, followed by Mason McAlpine with 18 and Jaxon Rozewski with 10.

Devin Hoover had 14 points and Mason Westerholm chipped in 10 for the Loggers. Knappa was 3-for-15 from the 3-point line, to Toledo’s 11-for-26. McAlpine hit five treys, and Marchant had four.

Naselle earns third place at state

By PATRICK WEBB
For The Astorian

SPOKANE, Wash. — Naselle brought home the third-place trophy from the WIAA state basketball championships Saturday.

The Comets beat Lummi Nation 70-41 in the consolation final after a 62-56 loss to Odessa in a closely contested semifinal Friday.

Three-point accuracy by the Comets meant that they were never behind and some lapses by the Backhawks meant the score stretched further and further ahead as the game progressed.

The first quarter saw the Comets in front 17-9, thanks to threes from Chase Haataia, Ethan Lindstrom and Kolby Glenn. Corey Gregory proved strong throughout, grabbing defensive rebounds when the Lummi team missed the hoop and Jimmy Strange showed his defensive mettle, too, sparking swift counter attacks.

Glenn and Warren Wirkkala added threes and Strange forced his way through the defense to score from close in. The half ended with Haataia tossing in another three to make it 35-18.

After the break, Naselle took its chances and Lummi didn’t. Strange was stopped on the way to the basket, but a short pass to Gregory added two more points. Glenn was fouled on a scoring layup then nailed the free throw. Haataia added back-to-back scores as the margin stretched to 53-24.

With the score at 63-27 and 4 1/2 minutes remaining, head coach Bill Olsen subbed out his starters to generous applause. As the game waned, Caleb Haataia’s two three pointers and fellow senior Monte Schell’s score had the bench and fans on their feet.

Glenn had led the way with 17 points, Chase Haataia had 14 and Gregory 10.

An ecstatic Olsen said the Comets’ season-long work on defense sparked the win, with the team stepping up offensively when it mattered. “The kids played

with a lot of confidence and relaxed,” he said. “We practice defense 20 minutes a day, it’s our first thing, after our stretch and warm-ups, we go straight to defense for 20 minutes. All that work every day paid off today.”

Pacific County’s two other teams had a tough time at state. Naselle girls were eliminated 53-26 by Curlew and 2B Ilwaco girls lost their games, 50-37 to Northwest Christian Colbert and 66-45 to Columbia Burbank.

Odessa, again

Enjoying a first-round bye, Naselle began the tournament with an overtime win over Muckelshoot 57-50, then fell to Odessa, a multiple sport rival.

New head coach Olsen was recruited after a stellar career at neighboring Wahkiakum. Instead of the clichéed “one game at a time” approach, Olsen’s first words on meeting his squad were to whet their appetites for contesting the state championship final.

That dream ended Friday at the hands of Odessa, whose players had defeated Naselle in the 1B state football championship game in December.

The Tigers had more success finding the basket early on and led 22-15 in the first quarter, although Lindstrom contributed two three-pointers. Strange scored after a teammate stole the ball under the Odessa basket and Gregory raced the length of the court to add two more points.

The second quarter saw Lindstrom and Wirkkala adding treys then Glenn patiently playing with the ball before tossing it in the hoop to put the Comets ahead 29-27 for the only time in the game.

The Tigers replied with two threes of their own before Lindstrom powered to the hoop then tossed it back to Gregory who added a three from the corner.

At half-time the scores

were 35-32 in Odessa’s favor and the Tigers stretched the margin to nine points three times in the third, which ended 51-42.

As the intensity level in the packed stadium rose, Caleb Haataia and Gregory each scored from long range and Haataia added two with a layup that followed a twisting move that confounded a defender.

As time lapsed, Glenn lobbed in a three to bring the scores to 55-53 with 4:31 remaining. Odessa tried to play keep-away to burn the clock, but Naselle had several possessions. Lindstrom missed then scored from the line, Glenn tossed in a basket to bring the margin to 59-56, but as the seconds counted down, Odessa went to the line. The Tiger player scored the first, missed the second, but gained possession and threw the ball into the hoop for the win.

As the disconsolate Naselle players gathered by the bench, coach Olsen was firm. “We are going to bounce back from this game!” he roared.

Later, he commended Lindstrom, who was high scorer with 16 points with Glenn and Gregory each scoring 13. He praised Lindstrom for his defensive work, keeping Odessa’s Ryan Moffet to just six points. The star senior averages 28 per game.

“To do what he did is almost impossible” he said. “He played him perfectly, he played off of him just enough and had his arms out to deny the ball so well that Moffet didn’t even want the ball.”

Regrettably for the Comets, four other Tiger players stepped up, all scoring in double figures.

“Had we made a couple of extra shots, it would have been a different story,” the coach said. “We got beaten by a better team. Hopefully we were a formidable opponent that they will remember along the way.”

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Astoria girls: Send-off Thursday morning

Continued from Page A8

Astoria not only has the best defense at the 4A level, but their 73 points was the most scored by any team in the first round. It was also the most lop-sided win of the eight games.

After Helmersen, Hankwitz scored 16 points and Fausett chipped in 12 for

Astoria, while Hartle was high scorer for the Tigers with seven points.

Still, it’s the defense that should carry the Fishermen to a state title.

Astoria’s routine all season has been to build big first half leads (it was 43-14 at halftime Friday), then let the defense do the rest.

“We wanted to keep the

pressure on” in Saturday’s win, Jacobson said. “Any other game, we’re going to go back to half-court on our defense. But we wanted to keep the pressure on, and just keep that mentality. When we back off, the kids get kind of lackadaisical.”

Astoria High School is planning a send-off for the team at 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
51 38	51 37	50 37	46 34	48 32	50 31	50 35
Partly sunny	Low clouds	Partly sunny	Chilly with rain	A little morning rain	Cloudy	Mostly sunny

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

Temperatures

High/low 49/32
Normal high/low 53/38
Record high 76 in 1905
Record low 27 in 1974

Precipitation

Sunday 0.01"
Month to date 1.63"
Normal month to date 2.03"
Year to date 26.67"
Normal year to date 19.67"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
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UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: Full “worm moon”/“supermoon” (10:48 a.m.).

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:37 a.m.
Sunset tonight 7:15 p.m.
Moonrise today 8:50 p.m.
Moonset today 8:35 a.m.

	Full	Last	New	First
Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 24	Apr 1	

TODAY’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
2:39 a.m.	8.5	8:46 a.m.	0.7	
2:37 p.m.	9.0	9:11 p.m.	-0.7	
Cape Disappointment				
2:13 a.m.	8.6	7:51 a.m.	0.8	
2:09 p.m.	9.1	8:15 p.m.	-0.7	
Hammond				
2:24 a.m.	8.8	8:11 a.m.	0.6	
2:22 p.m.	9.4	8:36 p.m.	-0.9	
Warrenton				
2:34 a.m.	8.9	8:30 a.m.	0.8	
2:32 p.m.	9.4	8:55 p.m.	-0.6	
Knappa				
3:16 a.m.	8.7	9:47 a.m.	0.6	
3:14 p.m.	9.2	10:12 p.m.	-0.6	
Depoe Bay				
1:26 a.m.	8.7	7:20 a.m.	0.7	
1:22 p.m.	9.3	7:45 p.m.	-0.9	

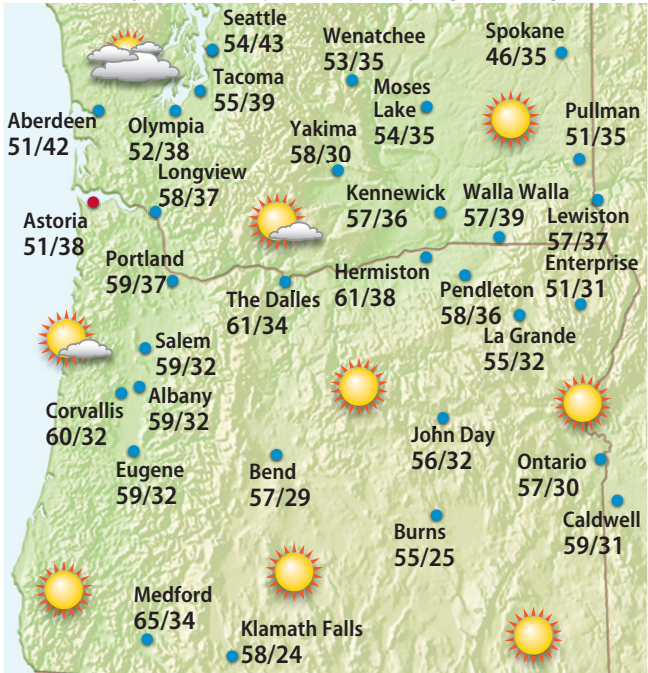
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	67/58/t	70/58/t
Boston	65/45/c	53/39/pc
Chicago	48/35/pc	50/38/sn
Dallas	80/65/pc	82/65/c
Denver	62/36/pc	66/39/pc
Honolulu	82/67/sh	82/67/sh
Houston	79/61/pc	82/64/c
Los Angeles	64/55/r	69/52/sh
Miami	80/69/pc	80/68/pc
New York City	64/46/r	56/43/pc
Phoenix	69/60/sh	73/59/r
San Francisco	68/52/c	65/49/c
Wash., DC	69/47/c	61/45/pc
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.		

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REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	55/26/s	58/26/s	North Bend	56/39/s	55/38/pc
Brookings	61/43/s	62/44/pc	Roseburg	61/34/s	60/37/c
Ilwaco	49/40/pc	49/40/c	Seaside	52/37/s	50/37/c
Newberg	59/32/pc	56/32/pc	Springfield	60/32/s	58/32/s
Newport	52/37/s	50/36/pc	Vancouver	58/34/s	55/32/c