

SPORTS



Astoria's Aundi Kustura



Astoria's Carly Hogan



Seaside's Maddi Utti



Seaside's Janie Hogan



Seaside's Erika Hamer

Clatsop County all-time greatest players

Astoria, Seaside girls basketball

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

Clatsop County's best girls basketball player ever? She's still playing.

In a recent informal poll of local longtime girls basketball coaches, Seaside's Maddi Utti at least won the popular vote as the all-time best girls baller in the county.

A 2017 graduate of Seaside High School, Utti is entering her senior season at Fresno State University where the 5-foot-11 forward has already put together an impressive list of accomplishments for the Bulldogs, including conference Player of the Year last season.

In addition to Utti, the top names joining her on the all-time greatest list of players in the county include Warrenton's DeeDee Arnall, Knappa's Rene'e Evans, and Astoria's Aundi Kustura and Chris Tarabochia.

"Statistically, Maddi Utti is the top kid from Seaside," says Wally Hamer, longtime coach at Seaside. "Just look at what she's doing in college. I respect the heck out of her."

In selecting an all-time team in anything, there's more to just records, numbers and awards, Hamer said.

"As a coach, you always look at how hard a kid practices, their heart and how much they give to the team," he said. "I look at a lot more than statistics. I look at what a player contributes to a team, and it goes way beyond what people see. You have to be there every day in practice to know what a kid does and gives to the program."

After that, the numbers and records will take care of themselves.

With the help of a few local coaching legends, an all-time list of the top five Astoria and Seaside athletes include the following players.

All-time Astoria

Aundi Kustura: A four-year starter, Astoria's all-time leading scorer with 1,136 points, league MVP and first team all-state as a senior. She took part in the state tournament all four years. Kustura played four years at Pacific Lutheran University, where she is tied for third in the university's history in 3-point field goal percentage (.363, 78-for-215), and is still third in free throw percentage in a single season (.882, 45-of-51). Kustura was all-Northwest Conference in 2004 and 2005, and team captain her final three seasons. She was Pacific

Lutheran's Female Athlete of the Year as a senior.

Carly Hogan: Led Astoria in scoring and rebounding, and made second team all-state tournament in 1991, when she set a new state tournament free throw record. As a starter at the University of Portland, she took part in the 1994 and 1995 NCAA tournaments.

Kelli Johnston: League Player of the Year for the 1993 to 1994 season. She made the all-state tournament second team in 1994, first team in 1995.

Amy Reinebach: Before Kustura, she was Astoria's all-time leading scorer. At the University of Portland, she finished her career (1986 to 1990) as the school's all-time leader in made free throws (283, still 10th in school history). Team MVP during the 1988 to 1989 season, and All-West Coast Conference in 1989 to 1990.

Chris Tarabochia: Astoria was 77-20 in her four varsity years (1978 to 1982), in which she was first team all-league as a junior and senior. Made first team all-state tournament in 1981, second team in 1982, and was the first in school history to score over 1,000 points (1,013). At Pacific University, Tarabochia still holds school records for most points in a game, with 40 in 1985 (tied in 2004 by Arnall), most free throws in a single game (16, 1986) and most rebounds in a game (24, 1986).

Inducted into the Pacific Hall of Fame in 1995, Tarabochia ranks second on the Pacific career scoring list with 1,512 points, second in career rebounding (822), and currently holds eight individual or season records. An NAIA All-American in 1985 to 1986 and all-Northwest Conference three straight years, she was the first Pacific women's player to have her number retired.

All-time Seaside "Maddi Utti is clearly in my mind the best women's player in our history," said former Gulls coach Mike Hawes. "Erika Hamer ... unfortunately she was injured her senior year, but she would've been right up there. And Marla Olstedt was a great all around player, athletic and smart."

As was Kaitlin Lewis, who was "very good throughout her career, though injured her junior year," Hawes said. "Certainly she with Maddi made a formidable duo. That first team of Wally's last run was very good. We ended up fifth, but the state was loaded that year."

Maddi Utti: At or near the top of every list in Seaside girls basketball, Utti may also be the county's first player to reach the WNBA.

Entering her senior year at Fresno State, Utti was the 2020 Mountain West Player of the Year, the only player in Fresno State's history to win the award outright.

She started all 32 games (played

every minute in seven games) and led the conference in field goals made and steals, and ranked third in scoring average.

Utti led the Lady Gulls to their highest finish ever just four years ago, capping a career in which she was selected all-state all four years. She holds the all-time Seaside records for points (1,794), assists (504) and steals (503).

Erika Hamer: All-league (including league MVP as a junior) her first three years with the Gulls, before a pre-season knee injury ended her senior season. She is Seaside's career leader in assists and made 3-pointers. Recovered to play college ball at the University of Redlands and Clark College.

"I'm a little biased, but of the best pure players to come through Seaside as a point guard, Erika was probably the best one," Hamer, her dad and coach, said. "I don't like tooting my own kid's horn, but Erika was a great leader, worked her butt off, and lost her senior year unfortunately. (In a pre-season jamboree at Astoria) she had just made six three's in a row, came down on a fast break, and got caught up on someone's foot, and her season was over."

Janie Hogan: Inducted into the Clark College Hall of Fame in 2019. At Clark, she was part of the first team in school history to go undefeated (33-0). Hogan was first team all-league, led league in scoring and rebounding, and had 33 rebounds in one game. For Seaside, she was second team all-state tournament in 1987. She transferred to Prairie High School in Washington state for her senior year.

"Maddi, of course, is the No. 1 player out of Seaside," Hamer said. "Janie Hogan, who played for me, was Maddi Utti of the '80's. In just pure talent, Janie was a phenomenal player."

Kaitlin Lewis: Second team all-state in 2014, as well as Cowapa League MVP and second team all-state tournament. Battled a knee injury while at Lower Columbia College, and now serves as an assistant coach at Bushnell University in Eugene.

Marla Olstedt: Entering her first year as the Gulls' coach, Olstedt is one of the best all-around athletes in Seaside history with numerous all-league or all-state awards in soccer, basketball and track. She also played at Lower Columbia College.

Said Hamer, "Janie Hogan was our best player in the '80s; in the '90s it was Erika and Alix (Daggatt), and Maddi in the 2010s. Kaitlin was a good player, too. She blew her knee out, but made it through her senior year, and by the end of the season she was doing really well."

Others in the mix for the all-time Lady Gulls would be Diane Elliott (Class of '86) and Julie Hought, all-state tournament in 1978.

OBITUARIES

Larry LeRoy Gardner Sr.

Astoria

April 8, 1947 — Nov. 4, 2020

Larry LeRoy Gardner Sr. moved to heaven Nov. 4, 2020, in the early morning hours, at Providence Seaside Hospital, with his daughter, Michelle Sparks, by his side. He was 73 years old.

Larry had been living with many health issues, but melanoma cancer was the straw that finally broke the camel's back.



Larry Gardner



Larry was born April 8, 1947, in Bellingham, Washington, to Roy and Jacqueline Gardner, both of Bellingham, and deceased. He was the oldest of his five siblings.

After graduating from Lake Quinalt High School in 1965, he joined the U.S. Air Force. He served our country during the Vietnam War, and was honorably discharged from Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi after completing his training for radio relay equipment repairman in 1980.

Upon returning home, he worked as a lead man at Crown Zellerbach until they closed down, and then retired from Boise Cascade in St. Helens, working in the environmental department.

Larry had two sons, Larry Gardner Jr., deceased, of McMinnville, and Steven Gardner,

of Scappoose, with his first wife, Donna Nelson.

In 1975, while working at Crown Zellerbach, he met and fell in love with Renee Broderick, the love of his life. Together, they had two daughters, Jamie Madden, of Florida, and Michelle Sparks, of Scappoose. They remained married until Renee's death in 2010.

Larry worked hard and played hard. He always provided for his family. He also loved helping people, and would give anybody the shirt off his back. He loved sports and coached both girls and boys youth basketball for many years.

He loved to bowl at the lanes, go golfing and was a member of AA and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. And he absolutely loved to go fishing. Being a grandpa filled his final days.

Larry is survived by siblings, Terry Gardner, of Arkansas, Judy Talmadge, of Amity, Mike Gardner, of Portland, and Damen Gardner, of Scappoose; his three children, Steven, Jamie and Michelle; and eight grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date at Columbia Funeral Home in St. Helens. Please sign our online guest book at columbiafh.com

James Randolph Wilkins

Astoria

Jan. 7, 1943 — Nov. 3, 2020

James "Jim" Randolph Wilkins, son of Fred and Bonnie Wilkins, was born in Oakland, California, and passed away in Astoria.

Survivors include his wife, Regina; son, James Wilkins; daughters, Christine Wilkins, Marney Hefflin and Jessica Wilkins; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. His siblings, Ann Wilkins, Judith Wilkins and Thomas Wilkins also remain.

He founded a contracting business that employed many, while paying family-living wages and benefits. His intellect was reflected in his prodigious reading. He preferred to purchase books from his local, independent bookseller. He was ready to respond when causes needed him. His support for the Astoria Riverfront Trolley was enthusiastic and ongoing.

From jazz and upright bass to guitar and his vocal stylings, music was Jim's lifelong passion. He was a member of rock and string bands and other music later in life. In retirement, he taught himself to play the banjo.

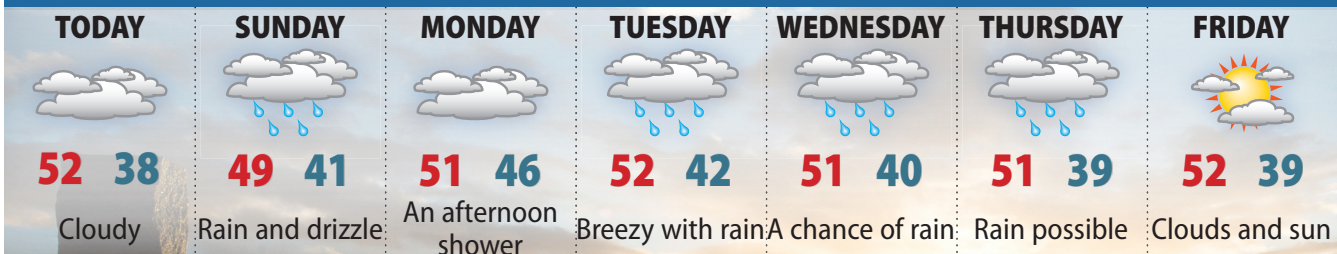
His ownership of a restaurant in Astoria enabled him to bring a wide variety of musical talent to the North Coast. He was an insightful writer, a football and rugby fan, a union supporter, and, in the end, usually right. He will be missed. A celebration of life will be planned for a later date.

Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria handled the arrangements. An online guest book may be signed at OceanViewAstoria.com



James Wilkins

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low 51/37
Normal high/low 53/40
Record high 64 in 1987
Record low 24 in 1977

Precipitation

Thursday 0.40"
Month to date 8.22"
Normal month to date 6.75"
Year to date 54.61"
Normal year to date 53.22"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

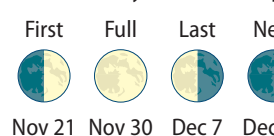
UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Conjunction of waxing crescent moon and Saturn.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:25 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:37 p.m.
Moonrise today 1:28 p.m.
Moonset today 11:22 p.m.



TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
6:30 a.m.	7.1	12:06 p.m.	3.6	
5:34 p.m.	7.0	none		
Cape Disappointment	6:15 a.m.	7.0	11:29 a.m.	4.1
5:13 p.m.	7.0	none		
Hammond	6:21 a.m.	7.2	11:46 a.m.	3.8
5:26 p.m.	7.2	none		
Warrenton	6:25 a.m.	7.5	11:50 a.m.	3.7
5:29 p.m.	7.4	none		
Knappa	7:07 a.m.	7.3	12:48 a.m.	0.3
6:11 p.m.	7.3	1:07 p.m.	3.1	
Depoe Bay	5:33 a.m.	7.2	10:59 a.m.	4.2
4:27 p.m.	7.2	11:30 p.m.	0.7	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sun.
Atlanta	70/51/pc	67/51/c
Boston	57/36/pc	44/41/c
Chicago	44/37/pc	46/31/r
Dallas	77/58/sh	63/48/sh
Denver	51/24/pc	50/31/s
Honolulu	86/76/r	85/75/s
Houston	79/59/pc	79/58/pc
Los Angeles	72/52/s	72/52/s
Miami	82/73/sh	82/70/sh
New York City	61/43/s	49/48/c
Phoenix	85/58/pc	84/60/pc
San Francisco	62/44/s	59/47/s
Wash., DC	65/47/pc	56/52/c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

