



Shane McMahan of Knappa, left, drives the ball up court against Seaside's Ever Sibony. Misty Kawasoe

# Knappa tops Seaside in Clatsop Clash

By GARY HENLEY  
The Astorian

The road to the 2A boys basketball state championship ends in Pendleton. But at some point, the challengers will likely have to go through the Knappa Loggers to get the blue trophy.

That's because the Loggers took a big step over the weekend toward making themselves the official "Team to Beat" in 2A basketball, with a 58-52 win over the Seaside, the No. 5-ranked team at the 4A level.

The ultimate Saturday afternoon Clatsop Clash at Knappa featured two teams that could very easily be playing for a state championship in March. Just not against each other.

The Loggers — who could probably make a good run at the 3A and 4A state titles if they had to — had to overcome an eight-point deficit midway through the third quarter to clip the Gulls for the first time in the recent rivalry, which, until Saturday, was owned by Seaside.

The Gulls won the previous three meetings by large margins in 2017 (78-54), 2019 (79-49) and 2021 (62-25).

Saturday's game wasn't perfect: the contest included a combined 30 missed 3-point attempts, plus a multitude of fouls and turnovers.

Logan Morrill's layup

with 43 seconds left in the game was Knappa's only field goal in the final 10 minutes of action, as the Loggers picked up most of their points at the free throw line, where they finished 19-for-25, to Seaside's 4-of-7.

The "free throw line was big," Knappa coach Paul Isom said. "That discrepancy was obviously huge. But our guys do a really nice job of defending without fouling. It's an emphasis, and the guys did a great job executing that today."

A hot first half from Seaside's Ever Sibony and Carson Kawasoe carried into the third quarter, where Kawasoe hit a pair of 3-pointers in the opening minutes. An offensive rebound basket by Cash Corder and a steal and layup for Sibony had the Gulls in front 35-27 early in the second half.

But Knappa's Brandon Gale canned a 3-pointer to spark a 12-2 Logger run, highlighted by a steal and score from Shane McMahan, and a trey from Nicolai Ogier that gave Knappa a 41-39 lead at the 2:40 mark of the third quarter.

Corder answered with a 3-pointer to give Seaside what turned out to be its last lead at 42-41. A short jump shot by Morrill put the Loggers back in front, their only field goal over the next 10 minutes.

A basket from Kawasoe with 4:07 left tied the game

at 49-49, but the Gulls went cold — from inside and outside — after that, with Seaside's only made field goal of the final four minutes being a layup by Conner Langmo with 59 seconds left.

Knappa scored 13 of its final 15 points from the free throw line, which included a 6-for-6 effort from McMahan.

The game included a few defensive highlights as well. In one exchange, Sibony blocked a shot by the 6-foot-9 Morrill, and at the other end, Morrill swatted a shot by Seaside's Izzy Jantes.

After a scoreless first quarter, Morrill led Knappa with 15 points, followed by Jackson and McMahan with 12 apiece. Seaside also had three players in double figures: Sibony with 15 (13 in the first half), Kawasoe (14) and Corder (13).

It was "just a very high level game that we were lucky enough to come out on top of," Isom said. "Seaside is one heck of a team and will challenge for the 4A title. It was a good statement win for the guys, but still a lot of work to do."

The last time two Clatsop County basketball teams won state titles in the same season was 1997-98, when Mike Goin's Astoria team won the 3A championship, and Craig Cokley's Loggers took the first of two straight 2A titles.

# Astoria boys score first league win, 77-48

The Astorian

It was a season-high in points, the first league win of the season, and a great way to start a three-game home stand for the Astoria boys basketball team, Friday night at the Brick House.

A layup by Judd Field and a 3-pointer from Thomas Faulkner gave the Fisher-

men a 5-0 lead in the first minute, and Astoria led from start to finish in a dominant 77-48 win over Tillamook.

It was the third time this season Astoria has topped 70 points, as the Fishermen drained five 3-pointers in the first half (two from Merrick Benesch) on their way to a 31-23 halftime lead.

The first two points of

the second half went to the Cheesemakers, but Astoria scored 14 of the next 16 points, which included a pair of treys from Owen Williams and a third by Colton McMaster for a 45-27 lead.

The Fishermen went on to score 46 points in the second half, with the lead reaching 30 points on two occasions.

# Lady Fishermen pound Tillamook, 60-15

The Astorian

Tillamook held an early 4-3 lead, but all it took was a little defensive pressure by Astoria that led to a 25-0 run, and the Fishermen easily closed out

another win under a running clock Friday night, 60-15 over the Cheesemakers in Cowapa League girls basketball.

The Lady Fish finished the first half with a 33-2 run, and outscored Tillamook 15-4 in

the third quarter as the lead reached 53-10. Astoria's relentless defense forced 33 Tillamook turnovers.

Since 2012-13, the Lady Fishermen have won 20 in a row vs. Tillamook.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### TUESDAY

**Boys Basketball** — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 6 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 7 p.m.

**Girls Basketball** — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 7:45 p.m.; Seaside at Tillamook, 7:45 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.; Falls City at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY

**Swimming** — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 4 p.m.

### WEEKEND SCORES

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Astoria 77, Tillamook 48  
Knappa 58, Seaside 52  
Warrenton 52, Taft 41  
St. Paul 51, Jewell 31

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Astoria 60, Tillamook 15  
Taft 45, Warrenton 32  
St. Paul 55, Jewell 9

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Astoria 77, Tillamook 48  
TIL (48): Marshall Allen 16, Seals 9, Johnson 8, Torres 5, Gitchell 5, Hoskins 3,

#### Motsinger 2.

AST (77): Colton McMaster 20, Field 17, Williams 9, Boudreau 9, Benesch 8, Woodrich 6, Faulkner 5, Olson 3, Moore, Wintersteen.

#### Tillamook 7 16 14 11-48

Astoria 17 14 22 24-77  
Knappa 58, Seaside 52

#### SEA (52): Ever Sibony 15, Kawasoe 14,

Corder 13, Langmo 8, White 2.  
KNA (58): Logan Morrill 15, Jackson 12, McMahan 12, Gale 7, Miller 5, Ogier 5, C. Morrill 2.

#### Seaside 15 14 15 8-52

Knappa 12 13 21 12-58

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