JAZZ

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"Some of these groups play very well, and they play very good jazz," Inouye said. "Especially in the finals, they're at the top of their game."

At about 9 p.m. Jan. 28, the top bands from A and AA high schools will receive their awards, and AAA and AAAA awards will be handed out at about 9:30 p.m. Jan. 29. Also given out Jan. 29 is the top prize of the festival, the 2011 Sweepstakes Award, which recognizes the most outstanding band across all school sizes.

Last year's Sweepstakes winner, the Garfield High School Jazz Band out of Seattle, will perform big-band tunes at 9 p.m. Jan. 29, right before the final awards are distributed.

In addition, the Clark College Jazz Ensemble will perform several times during the festival. Selections will include "North Shore Evening," a contemporary jazz composition by Matt Harris.

Inouye said he hopes that jazz fans who don't have a stake in the competition will still turn out to have a good time and maybe learn a few things.

"People will hear everything from Basie to salsa," he said. "We're keeping the flame of jazz alive."

Clark College women defeat Tacoma

The Columbian

Lacy Kruse had 12 points and 12 rebounds and was one of five Clark players to score in double figures as the Clark College women's basketball team beat Tacoma 77-70 on Wednesday.

Debbie Simmers and Haley Smith had 14 points each, and Kass Cloyd and Macy Muckenstuhl added 13 each for Clark (7-8, 5-2 NWAACC).

"Lacy just decided that was her focus," Clark coach Nancy Boone said. "She wasn't going to worry about points. She was just going to get rebounds. And she's been playing really well." Kruse left Wednesday's game early with an ankle injury.

Clark's defense forced 23 turnovers from Tacoma, which proved to be the difference. "We did not put forth our best effort," Boone said. "We had too many turnovers (14). We played as if were in a fog, and we need to get out of our fog and just play. "But a win's a win. A coach is never satisfied."

Clark plays next on Saturday at Pierce in Tacoma.

Tacoma 90, Clark 64 — Geoff McIntosh hit 6 of 8 3-point attempts to score 19 points and lead Tacoma to the road win.

They were extremely physical," Clark coach Mike Arnold said. "They have that reputation, and they really played hard... We didn't match up with them physically.

Austin Bragg had 21 points and seven rebounds for Clark. Dan Anderson scored 15 points.

Penguins swept at Pierce

Clark basketball

Swanson led the Penguins in scoring with 11 points each. Arman Kalan added 10.

Pierce women 62, Clark 59 — Kass Cloyd had 18 points and six rebounds, but the Penguins (7-9, 5-3) fell into a third-place tie in the NWAACC West standings with Pierce. Clara Russell added 12 points for Clark.