



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Astoria's Joey Voeller hits his second shot of the 13th hole during the Fish Invitational at the Astoria Golf and Country Club Monday. See more photos at www.dailyastorian.com

Fish Invitational belongs to Gulls, again

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — How much better can the defending state champions get? Check back in about a month, because lately, the Seaside Gulls are lowering their scores every time they step on the course.

By now, the state's top contenders in Class 4A boys golf are beginning to realize — the defending state champs from Seaside aren't just leveling off, they're getting better.

The Gulls are putting up some team scores that will be hard for anyone to top, now or in May.

Seaside also picked up its latest first-place trophy Monday afternoon, as the Gulls continued their "tradition like no other" by winning the annual Fish Invitational, hosted by Astoria at the Astoria Golf & Country Club.

With all six Cowapa League schools (plus St. Helens) competing, the Gulls collected 123 points to finish ahead of Valley Catholic (112), St. Helens (96), Scappoose (83), Tillamook (82), Banks (79) and Astoria (72).

The invite was played in a modified Stableford format, with each team fielding three pairs of golfers, with best-ball scoring.

Seaside's top duo (Sam Hinton and Aaron Richardson) combined to post a 65, with Valley Catholic's No. 1 team finishing second with a 59. Seaside teammates Shane Fritter and Kevin LaCoste took third at 58.

More importantly, Seaside's top four golfers combined for a 312 team score, less than a week after posting a 313 in a dual match win over Valley Catholic.

The 313 represented the best score by a Seaside team in nearly a decade, and the Gulls topped last week's score with a 312.

By comparison — taking into account different scores for different courses — Seaside's two-round scores in last year's state tournament were 328 and 321.

"We shot a 312 under regular scoring conditions, so we were one better than we shot last week," said Seaside coach Jim Poetsch. "That's the way we want to go. If we can just keep taking one off here and there, we'll be in good shape."

As always, Astoria coach Dan Foss came up with some creative scoring rules for the Fish Invite — 11 points for a 'halibut' (double eagle or hole-in-one); eight points for a 'cod' (eagle); and five points for a 'salmon' (birdie).

"The pars, bogeys and double-bogeys are typical, but when you get aggressive it jumps to more points with birdies and eagles," Foss said. "It's always nice to play a different format. It gives a little variety to the game. Today it was pairs, best-ball, with points added to it."

Valley Catholic's Ryan Schmidlin had birdies on the first three holes.

For Seaside, "Shane Fritter chipped in on No. 13," Poetsch said. "And Aaron and Sam both got on a little birdie run. They birdied the last three on the front, and birdied three or four more on the back."

Hinton shot a 73 under regular scoring, while Fritter and Richardson finished with 77s.

For Astoria, Foss said, "I was real happy for Sydney Morris and Arthur Clark (who combined for a 37). Our team goal was 50 to 60, and we surpassed that by 12 points. That was nice, and I think the guys



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Astoria's William Keeran watches his drive off the tee of the 15th hole.

will feel good about where they're at, at this point."

Seaside's third team of Trenten Meyer and Josef Barbic scored 58 points, while Astoria's other scorers were Will Keeran and Joey Voeller (35), and Kirk Fausett and Ron Schumacher (33).

Astoria visits Gearhart Golf Links for a dual match with the Gulls Thursday.

Astoria wins baseball league opener, 6-0

The Daily Astorian

Valley Catholic received its official baseball welcome to the Cowapa League Monday night at Columbia Memorial Field, where the Fishermen hosted the Valiants in a league opening contest.

Astoria pitcher Kai Brown threw a masterpiece on the mound, allowing just two hits and a walk with nine strikeouts, leading the Fishermen to a 6-0 win.

"Seventy-nine pitches, and the game was over," said Astoria coach Dave Gasser. "And their kid threw well, too. That's a legitimate team."

The Fishermen just happened to have more timely hits.

Astoria's Carter Wallace opened the game with a triple, and Kyle Strange drove in a run moments later to give the Fishermen a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

Astoria scored two more in the fourth, as Sam-boy Tuimato had a two-run single with the bases loaded.

With the bases loaded again in the sixth, Astoria's Nick Scott drove in two runs with a double.

Wallace and Ryker Helmersen had two hits apiece for the Fishermen, who play at Valley Catholic today.

SOFTBALL

Seaside 8, Clatskanie 3

SEASIDE — Jetta Ideue struck out four batters and held the Clatskanie bats in the check, and the Gulls racked up 10 runs at the plate, in a 10-2 win over Clatskanie Monday.

Poor field conditions in Clatskanie forced the non-league softball game to Broadway Field.

Seaside was coming off a doubleheader loss at home to Cascade Saturday, 10-4 and 17-6.

Jetta Ideue and Brittany West each had two hits in Game 1, while Paige Ideue, Whitney Westerholm and Allison Bussert all had two hits apiece in Game 2.

The Gulls trailed 12-0, before scoring six runs in the bottom of the second inning.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — Astoria at Valley Catholic, 5 p.m.; Tillamook at Seaside, 5 p.m.; Warrenton at Taft, 3:30 p.m.; Knappa at Faith Bible, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Rainier at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.; Warrenton at Taft, 3:30 p.m.; Naselle at Knappa, 4 p.m.

Track — Portland Christian at Warrenton, 3:30 p.m.

Girls Golf — Astoria/Seaside at Valley Catholic, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY

Baseball — Seaside at Tillamook, 5 p.m.

Softball — Astoria at Clatskanie, 4:30 p.m.; Warrenton at Portland Adventist, 4:30 p.m.

Track — Knappa at Life Invitational, TBA

Boys Golf — Astoria at Seaside, 2 p.m.





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