

New era for Astoria boys soccer

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The "Fastabend Era" of Astoria boys soccer is underway.

When coach Bill Patterson stepped down earlier this year to head up the new women's program at Portland Community College, Athletic Director Howard Rub went searching for a capable replacement to lead the Fishermen.

And Rub landed a winner, as Tim Fastabend was hired as the new Fishermen coach.

"We had a strong senior group that worked its way through the program, and of course they're gone," Fastabend said. "But we had a strong junior class, with a number of players who have been playing for three years."

Astoria has more depth in the sophomore class, "and there's a good group of freshmen coming in," Fastabend said. "The program is still on good footing. We'll be young at the varsity level, for sure. So there will be some growing pains. But as we progress, the future looks good."

THE FISHERMEN

Fastabend's immediate challenge: Replacing five all-league players.

Cowapa League Player of the Year Hector Chavez is among those not returning, along with Lalo Garcia, Jason Keating, Josh Long and Marcelino Ochoa.

Senior Rory Loughran is the only all-league returner.

The other seniors are Jacob Hulti, Ben Williams and Elijah Hirsch, who will be sharing goalkeeping duties with junior Kyle Birge.

An equally strong junior class includes Rafael Alcantar, Jasyn Gohl and brothers Jorge and Luis Herrejon.

Players (with familiar last names to Astoria fans) who saw action as freshmen were Cole Beeson, Tyler Gagnon and Gustavo Velazquez.

Others in the mix will be sophomores Tony Bermudez, Jose Gonzalez and Juan



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Astoria's Jacob Hulti, No. 12, tries to get the ball from Catlin Gabel's Hemming Juergens, No. 25.

ASTORIA BOYS SOCCER

Coach: Tim Fastabend, 1st year
2014: 7-6-0 (6-2-0 Cowapa)
Playoffs: Lost Regional Play-In to Gladstone (2-3)
All-League Losses: Hector Chavez, Lalo Garcia, Jason Keating, Josh Long, Marcelino Ochoa.
All-League Returner: Rory Loughran, Sr.

Jimenez, along with Trevor Byrd and Michael Kee.

THE COWAPA

The Scappoose Indians made off with last year's

league title, posting a 7-0-1 mark to top Astoria's 6-2-0.

The rest of the league (Seaside, Valley Catholic, Tillamook) was all tied up in knots, with a combined league record

of three wins, 14 losses, seven ties. The Gulls, Valiants and Cheesemakers all had just one win apiece.

What to look for in 2015? You can expect Scappoose, Astoria and Seaside to battle for the league title.

"I suspect it will be quite a bit stronger than last year, overall," Fastabend said. "Valley Catholic is there, Scappoose is stronger, and we scrimmaged Seaside earlier this summer, and their intensity and abilities are up. They will be stronger."

New coach hopes to keep tradition alive

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

It's Andrew Fick's turn to head up the Astoria cross country program.

A long list of names in recent years — including John Goodenberger, Julia Mabry, Chuck Adams, Gael Marin and Josh Fry — have had the opportunity to lead the Fishermen. And now Fick, another former Fisherman runner — will get his opportunity.

"I'm it," Fick said. "Gael is heading off to college, and I coached distance during track season, so I know quite a few of the kids."

Fick will need all the help he can get.

The Astoria boys finished fifth out of six teams in last year's Cowapa League Championship meet, while the Lady Fishermen were sixth in the girls' standings.

Astoria's standout runner was junior Bryce Nurdling, who placed third overall at districts, covering the course in 17 minutes, 42 seconds, then finished just 21 seconds behind the winner the following week at state, where Nurdling placed sixth in 16:25.

However, two weeks into fall practice, Nurdling was not on Astoria's roster.



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Members of the Astoria cross country team poses for a team picture during the school's Fall Sports Day at CMH Field.

THE RUNNERS

Girls
McKenzie Burnett, So.
Skadi Frey, Jr.
Daisy Gayral, Sr.
Kaylee Mitchell, So.
Libbie Nash, So.
Kathy Perez, So.
Kyoka Tanahashi, Jr.

Boys
Jackson Arnsdorf, Jr.
Lucas Caruana, Jr.
Rig Frey, Sr.

Emmanuel Goicochea, Sr.
Tim Graves, Sr.
Andrei "Dex" Gregory, Fr.
Wyatt Holiday, Jr.
Parker Ivanoff, Jr.
Calvin Kaul, Fr.
Jan Kreibich, So.
Anthony Miller, Jr.
Samuel Nauha, Jr.
Grant Roe, Fr.
Jose Romero, So.
Kyle Uber, Fr.

Still, "we have 21 or 22 runners," Fick said. "I think we're going to have a good turnout and a good group of kids."

On the girls' side, Astoria's

top two runners in last year's league meet were both freshmen — Angel Harrison and McKenzie Burnett — who finished 12th and 19th, respectively.

The "X-Factor" this year could be sophomore Kaylee Mitchell, who played a big part in leading the Astoria girls to a state track championship last spring.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Astoria's Rachel Simmons pushes the ball up the pitch during a scrimmage at CMH field.

Astoria girls soccer team ready to battle in tough league

By GARY HENLEY
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"Growing pains" is about the only way to describe the 2014 season for the Astoria girls soccer program.

Low numbers on the roster and a low number of goals on the field resulted in a high number of losses for the Lady Fishermen, who finished 2-12-1 overall.

Playoffs? It's hard to miss the post-season in this day and age. Astoria had just two wins (both over winless Tillamook), and that was good enough for a trip to the Regional Play-in round, where the Lady Fishermen lost an 8-0 decision at Cascade.

So, while Astoria will be back in the playoffs this year, the Lady Fish will be looking for more goals and more wins on the field in 2015.

THE LADY FISH

Kaisa Johnson was the only senior on last year's roster, and the first bit of bad news for 2015 was a torn ACL for junior Victoria Holcom, putting her out for the season. She will serve as the team manager.

On the plus side, Astoria has added junior Anna Gimre to the lineup.

She will join a trio of returning all-league players, including sophomore goalkeeper Lexis Law; junior defender/midfielder Jenna Rudolf; and senior Megan Bergeron.

The rest of the senior crew includes Kelsey Hunter, Olivia Paul (transfer from California), Morgan Postlewait, Cammy Tetlow and Victoria Kee, who is making a volleyball-to-soccer transition, and "picking it up real quickly," said Astoria coach Sarah von Colditz.

Juniors Dani Garcia and

Rudolf could be two of the players doing most of the goal-scoring for Astoria, while Ashlee Dalton, Sariah Dieffenbach, Shrida Sharma and Rachel Simmons round out a large junior class.

Three sophomores who saw extensive action as freshmen last season return to the field: Law is back in goal, with Jasmin Mabry providing backup; and Hailey Ranta returns for her second season.

Sophomore Claire Albright is on the roster, and Andrea Harris is one of a few freshmen who may swing between junior varsity and varsity.

Lexis Law "has more fire than she did last year," von Colditz said. "She's really looking forward to the year. Both she and Jenna went to the University of Oregon summer soccer camp, and we had 10 girls go to the University of Portland camp."

"Jenna is definitely hungry for lots of goals this season," she added. "I'm playing around with the formation this year, to see what will be the best fit for our team. The 4-4-2 is the old school formation, but a lot of teams are switching to the 4-3-3. We might look at doing that."

Other coaches on the Astoria staff include Meche Brownlow, JV coach Lee Cain, and Megan Lampson.

THE COWAPA

"It's a really, really tough league," von Colditz said, after watching Valley Catholic win the state title last season, a year after Scappoose won it. "But the Astoria girls go out and give it their all. In our history we've had more losses than wins, but every time the girls go out, they play their hardest. That's all I can ask for as coach."

ASTORIA GIRLS SOCCER

Coach: Sarah von Colditz, 2nd year
2014: 2-12-1 (2-7-1 Cowapa)
Playoffs: Lost Regional Play-in at Cascade (0-8)
All-League Loss: Kaisa Johnson
All-League Returners: Megan Bergeron, Sr.; Lexis Law (GK), So.; Jenna Rudolf, Jr.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Astoria's Dani Garcia passes during a scrimmage at CMH field.

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