

# Valiants crush Seaside's championship hopes

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

HILLSBORO — The league with the most may also be the league with the best, in this year's Class 4A girls basketball state tournament.

Entering the tournament with three of the final eight teams, the Cowapa League is well-represented this week in Hillsboro, where the Valley Catholic Valiants — the second-place team in the Cowapa — could make a serious bid to prove that they're the best in the state.

After finishing a game behind Seaside in the league standings, the Valiants had the hot hand in a Class 4A quarterfinal at Liberty High School, scoring an impressive 61-30 win over the Gulls.

Valley Catholic — the runner-up at the Class 3A level last season — moves on the 4A semifinals, where the Valiants will face Henley Friday.

Seaside is bounced into the consolation round, where the Gulls will play Banks in another Cowapa League matchup at 10:45 a.m. today, at Century High School.

The Gulls found themselves in a deep hole early in Thursday's game.

Three baskets by Molly Danielson helped Valley Catholic grab a 10-0 lead, and the Valiants led 12-2 after one period.

Two 3-pointers by Valley's Kaylynn Bush in the second period led to a 19-point halftime lead for the Valiants.

Meanwhile, the Gulls went to the break in foul trouble, as Maddi Utti had four fouls and Whitney Westerholm was whistled for three in the first half.

A 9-0 run by Valley Catholic to start the third quarter gave the Valiants a 37-9 lead and all the points they would need.

Held scoreless in the first half, Seaside's Maddi Utti had 14 in the second half, highlighted by six points in an 11-2 run by the Gulls midway through the fourth quarter.

Utti also had a team-high



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Maddi Utti drives through the Valley Catholic defense for two.

eight rebounds and four steals.

Valley Catholic had four players in double figures, led by Danielson's 18 points. Emily McLeod scored 11, with Maddie Vinson and Noelle Mannen adding 10 points apiece.

Seaside finished 12-of-46 from the field (2-for-17 from the 3-point line), while the Valiants held a 37-23 edge in rebounding and forced 24 Seaside turnovers.



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Whitney Westerholm takes an off-balance jumper as Valley Catholic defenders clog the paint.

## SCOREBOARD

**BASKETBALL**  
**HIGH SCHOOLS**  
Class 4A Girls Quarterfinal  
Valley Catholic 61, Seaside 30

**SEASIDE (20-6):** Maddi Utti 6-12 1-3 14; Sydney Villegas 2-8 2-3 6; Haylee Dundas 2-7 0-0 5; Whitney Westerholm 1-10 1-1 3; Jetta Ideue 1-1 0-0 2; Allie Zagata 0-0 0-0 0; Annuka Brown 0-0 0-0 0; Brittany West 0-0 0-0 0; Allison Bussert 0-4 0-0 0; Jesse Trott 0-0 0-0 0; Paige Ideue 0-3 0-0 0; Shelby Miller 0-1 0-0 0.  
**Totals:** 12-46 4-7 30.

**VALLEY CATHOLIC (21-5):** Molly Danielson 5-7 8-8 18; Emily McLeod 2-4 5-7 11; Noelle Mannen 2-4 6-6 10; Maddie Vinson 5-7 0-0 10; Kaylynn Bush 2-9 2-4 8; Petra Flemmer

0-2 2-4 2; Rachel Jones 1-1 0-0 2; Bailey McDevitt 0-2 0-0 0; Sannah Braun 0-1 0-0 0; Mattie Thurman 0-0 0-0 0; Kate Nguyen 0-0 0-0 0; Mady Moore 0-0 0-0 0.  
**Totals:** 17-37 23-29 61.

**Seaside** 2 7 10 11—30  
**Valley Catholic** 12 16 18 15—61  
**3-Point Goals:** Seaside 2-17 (Utti, Dundas); Valley Catholic 4-15 (McLeod 2, Bush 2). **Fouled out:** Seaside-Westerholm. **Rebounds:** Seaside 23 (Utti 8); Valley Catholic 37 (Vinson 11). **Assists:** Seaside 4 (Utti 2); Valley Catholic 8 (Mannen 3). **Fouls:** Seaside 22, Valley Catholic 13.

**Players of the Game:** Maddi Utti, Seaside; Molly Danielson, Valley Catholic



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian  
Forlorn Seagull fans Aubrie Taylor, left, 8, and Tristyn McFadden, 12, watch helplessly as Seaside stumbles in their Cowapa League rematch with Valley Catholic in the quarterfinals.



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian  
Seaside coach Wally Hamer ponders his team's next move as Valley Catholic continues to build their second-half lead.



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian  
Seaside's Haylee Dundas attempts to put some pressure on Valley Catholic's Kaylynn Bush. Though the Seagulls defense was able to force turnovers, it was also called for a sizable number of personal fouls.



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian  
Seaside's Allison Bussert sprinngs off the bench to the cheers of her Seagull teammates during player introductions prior to tip off of Thursday's game against Valley Catholic.



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian  
Seaside's Sydney Villegas battles a pair of Valiants for the ball, eventually drawing a foul on Valley Catholic.



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian  
Seaside's Sydney Villegas hoists up a long-range jumper as the Seagulls look to get back on track during the second half against Valley Catholic. The Seagulls were unable to overcome a slow start Thursday, losing 61-30 during the 4A quarterfinal matchup at Liberty High School in Hillsboro.

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