



JEFF TER HAR — For the Daily Astorian

Chloe Hunt is the lone returner for Astoria girls golf.

Astoria golf: Young but experienced

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria boys golf team has an odd mix of experience and youth, as the Fishermen head into the 2015 season.

Astoria returns seven players with varsity experience — yet they're still young, as head coach Dan Foss has three seniors, six sophomores and a freshman in the lineup.

"We're coming back with all the experience — it will just be fun to see how much they've improved in the offseason and last summer," Foss said. "The kids are taller, stronger and a golf-motivated group."

There's no telling where that will put the Fishermen in the District 1/4A standings. They finished fifth out of five teams

last season, but they're also one of the few teams with most of their district competitors returning.

The three seniors are Tucker Johnson, Will Keeran and Joey Voeller; a promising sophomore class features returners Arthur Clark, Henry Meiners and Sydney Morris, with newcomers Trevor Altheide-Nielson, Kirk Fausett and Ron Schumacher; and the lone freshman is Tim Schumacher.

Foss said Keeran should help provide some of the senior leadership.

"He's a sound player and brings some poise and unity to the team," Foss said. "He's not afraid to speak up."

"Tucker Johnson is a good athlete, and is ready to transition into golf; it's the senior

year for Joey Voeller, and he's willing to keep working on his game. He's been real determined."

And look out for the freshman, Foss said.

"Tim Schumacher has a real sound swing and good fundamentals. He may surprise us," he said. "The other guys will get better as we get going."

Leaguewise — and statewide for that matter — everyone may be chasing Seaside, the defending 4A state champions who return all of their scoring golfers from last season's state tournament.

"You don't see this opportunity very often when you have a chance to go back-to-back state champions," Foss said of the Gulls. "They practice real-

ly hard and they're very, very good."

"I hope they repeat — that would be really nice."

Astoria Girls Golf

The Astoria girls golf team has just one returner with any experience (junior Chloe Hunt), with four others in their first year.

Karla Mandujano is the lone senior, and will be joined by Hunt and junior Lisa Würful; sophomore Kira Barela; and freshman Sadie Wooldrige.

"Except for Chloe, they are all beginners," said coach Chris Hunt. "So we are going through the learning process of swinging a golf club and all the rules and situations that may come up."



KYRA GRAFTON — For the Daily Astorian
Henry Meiners is looking to have a strong sophomore season for the Fishermen.

Lady Fishermen looking to move up in the standings

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria softball team is way ahead of where it was last year at this time — especially with five (maybe six) all-league players on the roster.

A year ago, the Lady Fishermen were headed into the league season with some injuries to key players, preparing to battle in the toughest league in the state.

This year, there are still some question marks around the health of the team, but at least the Cowapa League is a lot less competitive than it was, with the defending champion no longer in the league.

All of which should result in a long-awaited state playoff spot for the Lady Fishermen.

THE LADY FISH

There's still a lot of youth on the Astoria roster, but last year's experience and the return of two key players could make the difference this season.

Senior Bailey Haskell missed the 2014 season because of shoulder problems,



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Astoria's Libby DiBartolomeo, No. 12, pitches in the fourth inning of the softball game against Gladstone on March 16.

and junior Libby DiBartolomeo was out with a knee injury.

While Haskell continues her recovery, DiBartolomeo is back and seeing plenty of action. A third player — junior infielder Taylor Mickel — could miss the season because of repeated concussions in other sports.

"The potential is there," said Lou Marconeri, who will co-coach Astoria this year, along with Renee Wells. "We'll have to see how it comes together. If we had Taylor and Bailey both healthy, we'd be solid."

"We've got most of our starting lineup back. Miranda Dietrichs will anchor

the outfield for us in center, and the rest of the infield is back. If Bailey is healthy, that will be big."

Dietrichs and Haskell are the only seniors, while the junior class includes Myka Abrahams (all-league), DiBartolomeo and Kelsey Wullger (all-league).

Returning sophomores

SOFTBALL

Coaches: Lou Marconeri, (7th year), Renee Wells (1st year)

2014: 12-15 (6-9 Cowapa)
Playoffs: Lost Regional-Play-in at Elmira, 2-4

All-League Losses: Noelle Lund, Kennedy Rub

All-League Returners: Myka Abrahams, Jr.; Rylee DeMander, So.; Caitlyn Hougham, So.; Taylor Mickel, Jr.; Kelsey Wullger, Jr.

include Rylee DeMander (all-league), Abi Danen, Caitlyn Hougham (all-league) and Victoria Roberts.

Newcomers to the varsity are sophomore pitcher Jessica Preston, and freshman outfielders Sarah Lertora and Hailey Ranta.

DeMander and DiBartolomeo will handle the pitching, and both will play the infield when not in the circle. Hougham is the all-league catcher.

Wells is in her first year teaching health and physical education at Astoria High School, and previously coached girls basketball and

softball at Clatskanie.

She was named the Lewis & Clark League Coach of the Year (softball) for her efforts in 2011.

THE COWAPA

Longtime Cowapa League power Yamhill-Carlton has moved to the Oregon West Conference, and the Tigers take the league's Player of the Year (Emily Drevdahl) and Coach of the Year (John Kuehnel) with them.

Replacing the Tigers will be Valley Catholic, a team that went 3-18 at the 3A level last season.

Yamhill's absence alone should result in a state playoff appearance for Astoria, which finished fourth in the league standings last year, three games ahead of fifth-place Tillamook.

The Fishermen lost a close play-in game at Elmira.

"Banks and Scappoose will be tough, and the rest of us will be fighting for the third spot," Marconeri said. "For us, if our pitching comes through, we can be a decent team."

Also on the Astoria coaching staff will be Lisa Hankwitz and Melissa Martin.

Have a great season!
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McDONALDS, FULTANOS PIZZA, VAN DUSEN BEVERAGES,
& the Astoria community for their continued support of youth athletics.
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"Growing Community through Youth Athletics"