

Seaside boys could be most improved team

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

The record in league play last year may not have been impressive (one win, three losses, four ties).

But in soccer, it was good enough for third place in the league standings and a trip to the playoffs for the Seaside boys soccer team.

And with five all-league returners, the Gulls, for one, believe they could be on the verge of a league title. Why not them?

"We finished third last year with mainly sophomores and freshmen," said head coach John Chapman. "So we're a year older and we haven't really lost anything. We expect to compete with anybody."

The Gulls played Henley in the recent Astoria summer tournament, and lost to the 4A semifinalist Hornets, 2-1.

"And (the Hornets) had their full squad there," Chapman said. "We're optimistic, for sure. We get to play the state champions again in the preseason, North Marion, so that's going to be a good marker for where we're at."

THE SEAGULLS

The lineup is pretty much set, Chapman said. Here's how most of it shakes out:

Colton Carter (So.), Hunter Thompson (Jr.) and Taylor Barnes (Sr.) in the middle, with Will Garvin (Jr.), Raidon Bowles (Sr.), Juneau Meyer (Jr.) and Rafi Sibony (So.) on the back line and likely Jarrett Coughlin (Sr.) in goal.

In addition, Brent Walsh (Jr.), Henry Chapman (So.), Irving Contreras (Fr.) and Dylan Wallis (Jr.) will be on the field, as well.

Barnes, Bowles, Carter, Garvin and Thompson were all selected all-league last season.

"Once we get everybody there, we're looking at a good squad of 14 or 15 guys," Chapman said. "Where is our strength? We're pretty strong, all over. We've built and developed more into our attacking play. We're a running and passing team."

THE COWAPA

"You never know what



Valley Catholic's going to bring aboard," Chapman said. "Tillamook I think we can handle, Astoria we're going to handle ... but nobody is being taken lightly. You can't take Scappoose lightly, but they lost some good players, too. They lost their goalkeeper and three of their main guys in the middle of the field."

The Cowapa itself, meanwhile, is down to five teams, as Banks dropped its varsity schedule for 2015.

Seaside has picked up replacement nonleague games with Gladstone and Molalla.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Colton Carter practices a free kick during soccer practice.

SEASIDE BOYS SOCCER

Coach: John Chapman, 3rd year

2014: 4-7-7 (1-3-4 Cowapa)

Playoffs: Lost Regional Play-in at Phoenix (1-3)

All-League Loss: Marshall Ferre

All-League Returners: Taylor Barnes, Sr.; Raidon Bowles, Sr.; Colton Carter, So.; William Garvin, Jr.; Hunter Thompson, Jr.

Even with nine seniors, Lady Gulls rebuilding

By GARY HENLEY
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Girls soccer was just one of several sports that ended with a Cowapa League school winning a state championship last season.

The "Conference of Champions" dominated 4A girls soccer, with three teams advancing to the quarterfinals (Banks, Scappoose and Valley Catholic), with the Valiants winning the state title.

The same three teams will likely battle for a state title this season, making it difficult for the rest (Astoria, Seaside, Tillamook) to have much success in league play.

Despite the unexpected loss of a couple all-league players, Seaside — which was one penalty kick away from making the state playoffs a year ago — will still be a challenger for a top three spot in the Cowapa League.

"We've got a ways to go," said Matt Johnson, in his second year as coach. "We have some big problems to solve. We lost a lot of seniors, and they were good leaders, too."

THE GULLS

The Gulls currently have nine seniors on the varsity roster, to go with two juniors, two sophomores and four freshmen.

Seaside lost three all-league players to graduation: Brianna Babbitt, Alli Utti and goalkeeper Allison Bussert.

All-leaguers Maddi Utti and Sydney Villegas would have been returning juniors, but Utti is playing volleyball, and Villegas is running cross country.

"I'll miss 'em, whether they graduated or they're trying another sport," Johnson said.

The more immediate concern: "We have to solve the keeper problem," he said. "When you have someone



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

With teammate Tania Martinez trailing, Seaside's Corrie Falleur delivers a shot during soccer practice.

SEASIDE GIRLS SOCCER

Coach: Matt Johnson, 2nd year

2014: 5-6-4 (3-4-3 Cowapa)

Playoffs: Lost Regional Play-in at North Bend, 1-2 (3-4 PK's)

All-League Losses: Brianna Babbitt, Allison Bussert (GK), Alli Utti; Maddi Utti, Jr. (volleyball); Sydney Villegas, Jr. (cross country).

All-League Returner: Whitney Westerholm, Sr.

like Allison, it was fun to have coaches come up to you after a game and say "Wow, what a keeper!"

To help find and develop a goalkeeper, Johnson has brought two coaches on staff to help, including former coach Dave Rouse and former Seaside keeper Becca Lent. Former Gull Josh Garhofer is also assisting Johnson.

One definite bright spot is senior Whitney Westerholm, who "can play anywhere," Johnson said. "She's a hard-working kid. Brenda Lopez (Sr.) is vocal and willing to take on challenges and lead by example; Alie Zagata (Sr.) has had a strong camp; Sophie Trevino (Sr.) will be a good player for us; and Morgan Brown is a returning junior."

Elsewhere, "Lizzy Barnes (Jr.) is experienced. She will have to be more vocal and

get the younger kids where they need to be."

Sophomore Bryre Babbitt started as a freshman, and is "having a great camp," Johnson said. "We have some freshmen who look like they're going to step right in. I'm just getting to know the names and faces."

THE COWAPA

Johnson expects Scappoose and Valley Catholic to be strong — so strong that the rest of the Cowapa League benefits in the RPI rankings by playing the Indians and the Valiants, who have both won state championships over the last two years.

"They both have a good tradition," he said. "The Astoria girls have been working hard and they look good. They'll have a good team and I expect them to be tough."

Seaside cross country fully loaded for 2015

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

They were young last year, and Seaside cross country is back with more youth this season, as the Gulls line up at the starting line of the 2015 season.

The Seaside boys, at least, have a little experience on the roster, with eight seniors, but only three with prior experience.

Seaside's top runners last year were sophomore Jackson Januik (sixth place in the Cowapa League Championship meet), freshman Rafi Sibony (eighth) and sophomore Bradley Rzewnicki (ninth).

The trio helped the Gulls to a fourth place finish in the team standings.

All three return, along with seniors Colin Van-Nortwick and Jack Whittle.

"Jack Whittle will give us everything he has," said Seaside coach Neil Branson. "We have great leadership with Jack and Colin."

"As far as the boys, there's some horsepower there, with Hunter, Colin, Rafi and Jackson."

For the 2015 Seaside girls: Six seniors, but none with prior varsity experience.

Branson isn't worried.

"Josie (Smith) and Katie Zagata will get after

THE RUNNERS

Girls

Lizzy Barnes, Jr.
Gabby Bergman, Fr.
Brittany Carino, So.
Caydn Carr, Jr.
Clarisse Coventry, Sr.
Paige Forrest, Jr.
Kimber Hill, So.
Kara Ipson, Jr.
Sarah Jacobs, Jr.,
Faythe Koontz, So.
Caroline Kotson, Jr.
Bridgette Malone, Sr.
Morgan Matthews, Sr.
Mikayla Montez, Sr.
Claire Ogilvie, Sr.
Alison Rodriguez, Fr.
Ana Maria Rojas-Mora, Fr.
Haley Rollins, Fr.
Myranda Schultz, So.
Anesha Smart, So.
Josie Smith, Jr.
Ryenne Sunnell, So.
Lucy Swenson, Sr.
xSam Thornton, So.
Sydney Villegas, Jr.
Ariana Watson, Jr.
Maggie Wilski, Jr.

Katie Zagata, Fr.

Boys

Attkin Babb, Jr.
Jacob Bassett, Sr.
Matthew Carpenter, Fr.
Colton Carter, So.
Bay Cartier, Sr.
Isaiah Collins, So.
Sam Henderson, Fr.
Mizack Jantes, Fr.
Jackson Januik, Jr.
Will Kautz, So.
Brannon Kenne, Jr.
Ben Koch, Sr.
Danny Kuszmaul, Sr.
Conner Merrell, Fr.
Juneau Meyer, Jr.
Adam Morse, Jr.
Giovanni Ortega, Fr.
Scott Plampin, Jr.
Bradley Rzewnicki, Jr.
David Schwinof, So.
Rafi Sibony, So.
Josh Strozzi, Sr.
Samuel Sunnell, Sr.
Hunter Thompson, Jr.
Colin Van Nortwick, Sr.
Jack Whittle, Sr.
Dakota Young, Fr.

it, and Sydney Villegas (played soccer last season) is a worker," he said. "The beauty of having Katie there is that she will make Josie a better runner and competitor. Lucy Swenson can also have an impact."

A large turnout could also make a difference, come October.

"We're gunning for 40 runners," Branson said in the preseason. "We've got numbers, talent, and the

kids are willing to work."

League-wise, the Valley Catholic boys are the defending state champions, after just one year at the 4A level.

"They're really well-coached, and they have that winning atmosphere," Branson said of the Valiants.

For the girls, Scappoose returns sophomore Linnaea Kavulich, last year's individual league champion.



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Members of the Seaside cross country team cool down with some tasty donuts following a preseason workout in Cannon Beach.



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