

Tigers, Gulls work OT to decide winner

Hard-fought
playoff game
goes to Tigers

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Battling in the chilly night air under the bright lights of Broadway Field, the Junction City and Seaside boys soccer teams had to put in a little overtime to come up with a winner Tuesday night, in a first round game of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Eighty minutes just wasn't enough, as a goal with a little under eight minutes left in a second overtime period — the 92nd minute — gave the Tigers a dramatic 2-1 victory.

Junction City senior Davide Zeminian scored the goal with 7:15 remaining, and the Tigers advance to the state quarterfinals, where they will face No. 1 seed Stayton.

The No. 9 seed Tigers were the only road team to win in Tuesday's eight first-round state playoff games.

While the Junction City players enjoyed the win and a long bus ride home, the Gulls also left the field feeling pretty good about their 2015 season.

A Cowapa League championship, with 11 overall wins and 13 players returning next year?

The Gulls will take their lumps now to build an even better team next year.

"Can't be more proud of what these young men did," Seaside coach John Chapman said of his team.

"(The Tigers) have 13 seniors on their bench. I noted several times where they had just one junior on the field," he



Seaside's Jackson Januik goes airborne while trying to keep control of the ball in overtime during the soccer match against Junction City Tuesday.

said. "The rest were all seniors. I'm losing two off the field and we're getting the majority of our kids back."

Tuesday's game was well-played on both sides.

"When you get to the play-offs, you're looking at teams that aren't going to make many mistakes," Chapman said. "It comes down to one team just having one more opportunity than the other team."

The Tigers actually had several more opportunities in the first half (12 shots on goal to just two for Seaside).

Junction City senior forward Josh Hutchinson had nine of the Tigers' 12 shots, including the only one that went in.

After missing previous attempts to the left, right and off the post, Hutchinson took

a through-ball up the middle from teammate Seth Bolton, then scored on a shot taken from the right hash marks, 25 yards out in the 25th minute.

Seaside goalkeeper Jarrett Coughlin kept the Gulls in it, making saves on additional attempts from Hutchinson in the final seven minutes of the first half.

Chapman called it "the best game of the season for Coughlin. Perfect way for a senior goalkeeper to finish. That was by far his best game in goal all year."

Seaside came out with a renewed energy in the second half.

And while it did not result in many more shots on goal (three), the Gulls and their state champion cross country run-

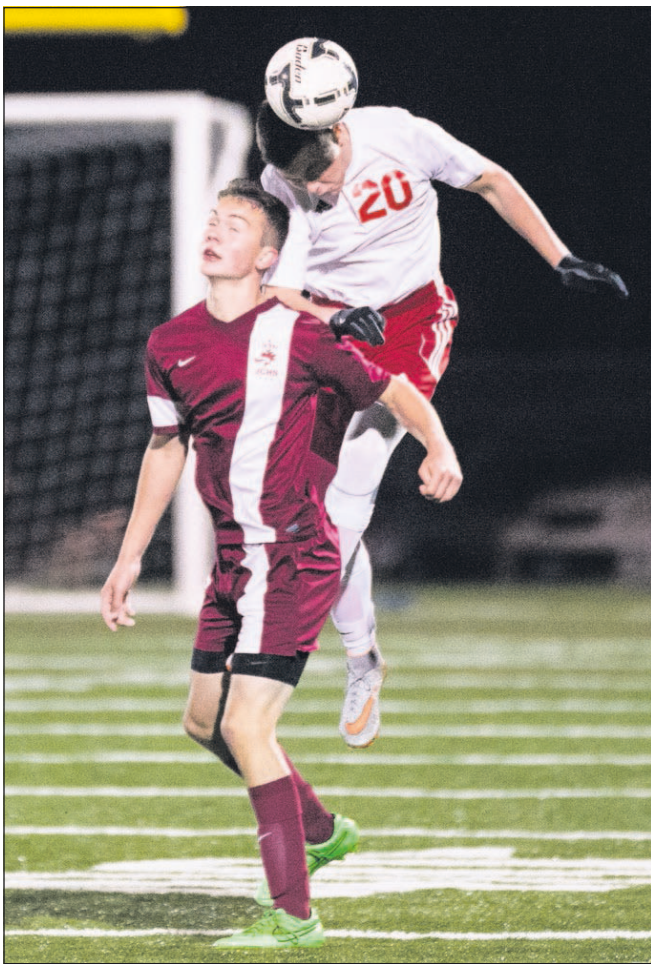
ners began to run circles around the Tigers.

"We made a couple of adjustments at halftime," Chapman said. "We wanted to put more pressure on them up front. We felt that we had one more step on them (in the second half), and I thought that was clear."

And all it took was one good attempt to even the score, which the Gulls did in the 54th minute.

After a throw-in near the Gulls' bench, Seaside junior Jackson Januik launched a shot from the left side, 30 yards away, that somehow went through a group of players standing between him and the goal, and found the back of the net for the score.

Seaside kept the pressure



Seaside's Brent Walsh heads the ball against Junction City Tuesday. See more photos at www.dailyastorian.com

on, but the Gulls were unable to find the go-ahead score, despite six corner kick opportunities.

"(The Tigers) defended very well," Chapman said. "Their goalkeeper (senior Michael Hamilton) made some good saves. We had a couple opportunities that we didn't take that we should have."

Still, the Seaside players "have been like that all year," he said. "I thought we were wearing them down. They started to tire, and our guys battled well."

The teams then moved to

two 10-minute over periods.

After a scoreless first 10 minutes, the Tigers scored with 7:15 left in the second OT session.

Moments after a throw-in, Zeminian turned and fired from about 25 yards out, past Coughlin into the left side of the net.

The physical contest included four yellow cards.

"Both teams played well, head-to-head," Chapman said. "There was nothing in between. It was just one of those games that could have gone either way."

Titan's Mularkey hopes to seize surprising 3rd chance

Move made in
part to protect
Marcus Mariota

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Titans surprised Mike Mularkey by choosing him to replace the friend who brought him to Tennessee. With a third chance to be a head coach in the NFL, Mularkey wants to prove he's the man for the job.

The interim coach's nine-game audition starts Sunday at New Orleans.

"I wasn't sure I'd ever get another one after what happened in Jacksonville, but I'd absolutely like to have that opportunity," Mularkey said Tuesday.

Mularkey went 2-14 in his lone season in Jacksonville in 2012. He takes over a 1-6 Tennessee squad that has lost six straight, the longest skid in the NFL, and 16 of its last 17 games.

terback it's drafted within the first eight picks in the last decade.

"I don't care how good the rest of your team is, if you don't have the right kind of quarterback it's hard to succeed long-term," Underwood said. "We now have another rookie quarterback who's very promising, and I think our future is bright. ... So much in our league begins and ends with the quarterback."

Whisenhunt helped draft Mariota at No. 2 overall last spring, but Underwood said Strunk had been thinking of making a coaching change for weeks.

Underwood and general manager Ruston Webster told Whisenhunt he was fired.

"When you're not winning and you can't win, that's when change happens in the NFL," Underwood said.

Whisenhunt's latest loss came Sunday in Houston, where this franchise was founded

coach based on his experience as an offensive coordinator. LeBeau is in charge of a defense currently fifth in the NFL in yards allowed.

Whisenhunt brought Mularkey to Tennessee as his tight ends coach last season and added assistant head coach to the title this offseason. Mularkey is 16-32 overall as a head coach. A nine-year player in the NFL with Minnesota and Pittsburgh, Mularkey also has been an offensive coordinator with Pittsburgh, Miami and Atlanta.

Tennessee currently ranks next to last in the NFL, aver-

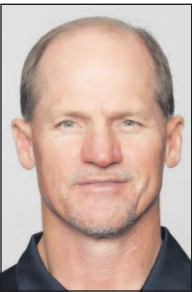
aging 17.9 points, and in total yards per game. Offensive coordinator Jason Michael will call plays, a job Whisenhunt previously handled.

This is the first in-season coaching change for the franchise since 1994, when Jeff Fisher replaced Jack Pardee.

Whisenhunt's .130 winning percentage with Tennessee ranks behind only Leeman Bennett with Tampa Bay and Rich Kotite with the New York Jets (4-28, .125) for the worst NFL coaching record since 1970, and tied Jim Ringo (3-20) of Buffalo, according to STATS.



Injured Tennessee Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota watches the scoreboard in the second half of an NFL football game against the Atlanta Falcons in Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 25.



Ken Whisenhunt



Mike Mularkey

and with Strunk in the stadium. That apparently was the last straw for Strunk, who was not at Tuesday's press conference. She took over as controlling owner in March, replacing Tommy Smith, who gave Whisenhunt a five-year contract in January 2014.

Titans cornerback Parrish Cox, who missed the last two games with an injured hamstring, said on Twitter that the move was frustrating.

"For anyone who wants to know, no I am NOT happy with what's gone, he was a good coach, he went the prob and we all know it!!," Cox wrote.

Mularkey said he talked with Mariota briefly Tuesday and told the rookie they'll do some things differently to keep him "upright." That may include lineup changes on the offensive line.

"Obviously, based on what's happened the past couple weeks with the protections, that's imperative," Mularkey said.

Mularkey was chosen over Dick LeBeau, another former NFL head coach, as interim

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