

Lady Gulls fall to Vikings in quarterfinals

Seaside never hit its stride

By MIKE WEBER
For The Daily Astorian

FOREST GROVE — Appearing in the Class 4A girls basketball state tournament a third straight year, the Seaside High Lady Gulls had hopes of reaching the semifinals with an opening round win in the prestigious eight-team, three-day event.

Playing the Mazama Vikings in the quarterfinals, both teams had exactly the same record at 20-5, but other than that, there weren't many similarities between the squads.

Seaside, guided by coach Wally Hamer, has the No. 3 ranked defense (34.6 points per game average allowed) in Class 4A, but had a tough time stopping a solid sixth-ranked Mazama offense (52.6 points per game average).

Mazama jumped in front 10-0 and the Seagulls were unable to overcome the early double digit deficit and lost 44-31 to the No. 3 ranked Vikings (21-5) in the 4A quarterfinals Thursday evening at Forest Grove High School.

Seaside faced the Banks Braves (22-4) in a Friday morning consolation round contest (results unavailable at press time) in which the winner would move on to play in Saturday's fourth-place trophy matchup, while the loser would conclude its season.

"Our goal obviously was to win, but I also wanted to see everyone play hard throughout the game," Hamer said. "We came out at the beginning and we just couldn't handle their (Mazama) offensive pressure. We had some good looks at the basket, but it was tough to get good shots against a good defensive team like Mazama. I was disappointed that we didn't handle their man-to-man defense and we didn't make a good transition into our offense."



Seaside's Whitney Westerholm stretches to reach around a Mazama defender and bounce a pass to an open teammate in the post. More photos online at www.dailyastorian.com

Mazama probably felt somewhat comfortable playing in a gym with their same mascot paraphernalia, since the Class 5A Forest Grove School is home of the Vikings, too. It might have given Mazama a psychological edge while making them feel right at home.

Mazama, the Skyline Conference Champions from Klamath Falls, connected on many perimeter jumpers and scored often in the post to gain its advantage. Seaside senior post Brittany West scored on a post move inside for the Seagulls' first basket, making it 10-2 with 3:33 left in the first quarter.

"I don't think we were expecting them (Mazama) to shoot as much as they did from the outside," West said. "We were trying to focus on stopping them on the inside and they were able to hit some



Seaside Coach Wally Hamer and his bench watch the action during the first half against Mazama.

outside jump shots. I think if we would've had a little more time, we might've been able to come back and win the game. ... We definitely didn't give up. We're looking forward to hopefully winning our next game because we want to come home with a trophy."

Mazama build a 19-4 lead

them get a lead. Mazama shot 13-for-23 (56.5 percent from the line, while Seaside shot just 2-for-4 (50 percent) at the line. Mazama outrebounded Seaside 38-23 to, which also proved to be a key factor to help them gain the advantage.

"We played with them tough and we made a strong effort the last couple of minutes in the second quarter," said Hamer. "We began playing more physical and aggressively and we started utilizing our strengths. We just didn't have a very good offensive game though. We hustled well on defense and the kids didn't quit at all, so I'm proud of the effort they made. We'll have to bounce back and play better on Friday (versus Banks)."

The Seagulls fought back with their own 10-0 rally on baskets by junior guard Maddi Utti (9 points, four assists), sophomore backup guard Jetta

Ideue (3 points) and a her sister, senior guard Paige Ideue (6 points, three steals), who fired in a three-pointer to make the score 29-14 at halftime.

"We just had a slow start and we couldn't really get into any kind of offensive rhythm early in the game," said Utti. "We definitely started working together better in the second half and then we kind of got things going pretty well with our offense. We just couldn't pull through though to get the win at the end. They (Mazama) were hitting a lot of their shots though to help them build a lead. I definitely think we'll bounce back and play better on Friday. We're just hoping to play for trophy on Saturday and that's our goal."

Seaside climbed back to get nearly within single digits in the third. A 6-2 Seagull run, fueled by baskets by Paige Ideue, junior forward Sydney Villegas (6 points, seven rebounds) and a three-pointer by senior post Brittany West, trimmed the margin to 31-20, forcing a Mazama timeout with 5:19 remaining in the third quarter. Mazama responded with a 7-0 run though to build a 38-20 advantage after three.

"We kept playing well and fighting hard on defense to help us stay in the game," said Paige Ideue. "For about one and half quarters, we just didn't play very good, but we fought back."

The resilient Seagulls never gave up though and played tough for the entire contest to try to overcome the large deficit. A 9-2 Seaside run, capped by Whitney Westerholm's three-point play, trimmed the margin to just 40-29 with 2:44 remaining in the game. At that point, the Seagulls definitely had a chance, but it just proved to be too much of an uphill battle for them to overcome. A jumper in the lane by Villegas, narrowed it to 42-31 late in the game as the Seagulls fought back to make it a respectable margin at the end.

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

America's
MATTRESS®

GRAND OPENING

SALES EVENT GOING ON NOW

MATTRESS PRICES
REDUCED 20-70% OFF

Serta perfect sleeper
HOT BUY
\$299 Queen Mattress
Limit 2 per customer

NEWEST LOCATION: COOS BAY

Twin Mattress
only **\$94**
Foxfield Euro Top
ea. pc.

BACK RELIEF ON SALE!
Serta Adjustable memory foam
queen set for only **\$999**
REG. \$1,799

36 MONTHS 0% FINANCING

Cotton • Bamboo • Microfiber
Buy 1 sheet and 2nd sheet is
1/2 OFF
LOWEST PRICE OF TWO SETS IS HALF OFF
FREE BOXSPRING
with purchase of any premium
mattress set of \$899 or more

THE SLEEP YOU NEED GUARANTEED
Located next to Big 5 and Fred Meyer
Warrenton
503-861-6085
HOURS: M-F 10-7; SAT 10-6; SUN 11-6
FREE DELIVERY FREE SET-UP
w/minimum purchase, local delivery
www.americasmattress.com

With 4 convenient locations NEWPORT | COOS BAY | LINCOLN CITY | WARRENTON



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CLATSOP COUNTY

Advocate Training starts
March 30th

Find out how you
can support the
Clatsop CASA Program
at www.clatsop-casa.org
or call (503) 338-6063
Donations are tax deductible

Lift Up
A Child's Voice
A Child's Life
Help an abused
or neglected
child

