

Seaside boys running to win with strong group

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

Coach Jeff Kilday and the Seaside track team has a good mix of athletes in the starting blocks for the 2016 season.

On the boys' side, the Gulls have a strong group of runners, with several talented jumpers and throwers; while the Seaside girls are faced with replacing some major points lost to graduation in 2015.

"We have a very strong men's team and a very young women's team," said Kilday, whose teams both placed second in the Cowapa League team standings last year.

"We have a lot of freshmen coming in for the girls, and for the boys, we have that junior class that won the cross country state championship — they're a great group. We have other seniors who came out, who we weren't expecting."

And like every track coach, Kilday is hoping that it all comes together in May.

THE COWAPA

But, "to win a district title, you can't just win everything — you have to have some seconds and thirds. Astoria has some great guys and gal throwers, so they will be super hard competition.

"Sprinter-wise, judging by what I saw in our first meet, clearly Tillamook has THE sprinter in the league (junior Rory Coon). Scappoose always has a contingent of sprinters, so it will be a fight to see how we do there. In our relays, we'll do well."

THE GULLS

A lengthy basketball season led to a late start for most of his team, but "now we have everybody, and they're all healthy," Kilday said this week.

"For the boys, our distance



ABOVE: Jackson Januik won the 800 meter event at the OSAA 2015 Track and Field State Championships. RIGHT: Seaside's Josephine Smith competed in the 3000-meter race at the OSAA 2015 Track and Field State Championships.



'We have a very strong men's team and a very young women's team.'

Coach Jeff Kilday

team is stacked," with members of the 2015 state champion cross country team leading the way, including juniors Jackson Januik, Bradley Rzewnicki, Rafi Sibony and Hunter Thompson, and senior Jack Whittle. District hurdles champion, junior Will Garvin, also returns.

In addition to his talent on

the track, Kilday said, "I have a couple jumpers who have come forward, like Jaxson Smith. He will certainly do big things for us; Raiden Bowles (state qualifier in the pole vault) looked strong in his first meet; and Sam Beauoin is throwing the shot, discus and javelin, and doing great."

Kilday is confident enough

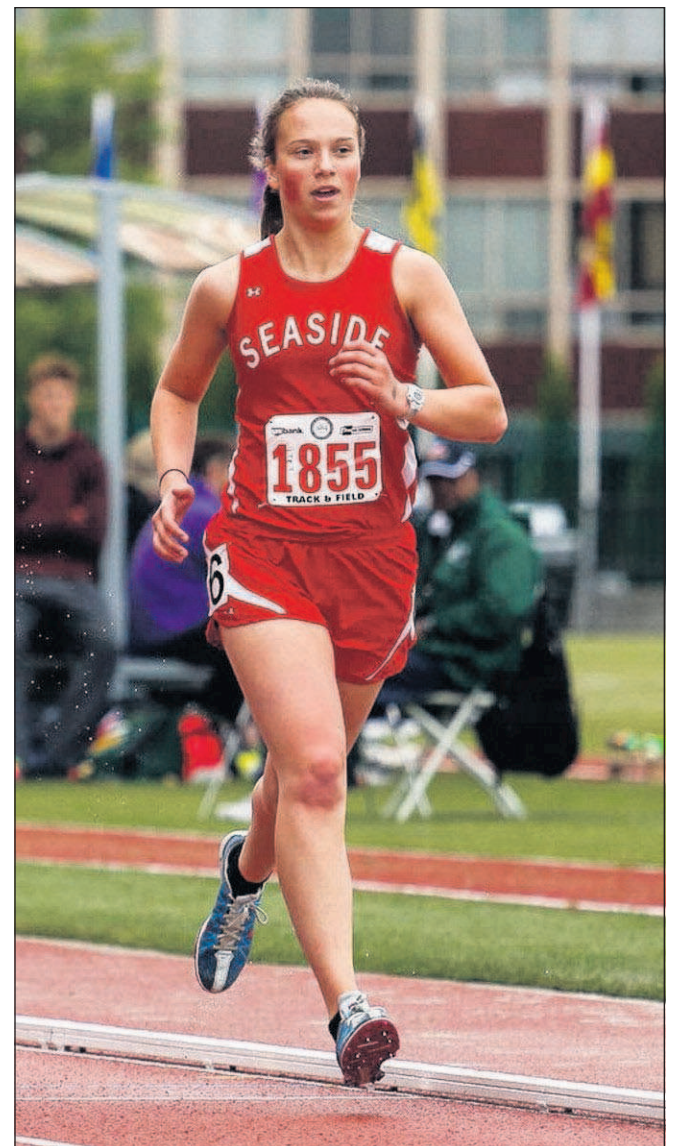
to say, "The boys will contend for the district title. With Jackson, Hunter, Bradley and Rafi in the distances, we have Juneau Meyer running the 200 and the 400 (district champion); Taylor Barnes and Jaxson Smith jumping ..." there's plenty of points to be scored for the Seaside boys.

"Hunter will also be long jumping," Kilday said. "We haven't seen those marks yet, but I think everyone will be shocked when they him."

SHS GIRLS

"We have a couple international students," Kilday said. "Klara Bedrnova (from the Czech Republic) is a great 100- and 200-meter runner, but really she's a 400-meter runner. She's never done track, and doesn't even have spikes."

Freshman Kathryn Zagata will add to the distance depth, led by junior Josie Smith, top



four in districts in both the 1,500 and 3,000 meters.

Senior Bridgett Malone returns in the hurdles, and the Lady Gulls still have juniors Lizzy Barnes and Cadyn Carr, "and a lot of freshmen," Kilday said.

"Trinity Turner (hurdles), Audrey Kunde (middle distances), Anna Huddleston in the shot put, discus and javelin — she leads all three on our team as a freshman, and she's still learning how to throw."

League-wise, "Astoria has a

really good group of seven ladies. I can never say a state title is certain. First you have to get people through district. But certainly Astoria has some outstanding athletes, and if they're going to win another state title, this is probably the year for Astoria to do so."

Astoria is "going to do great, girls-wise, and we'll do great boys-wise," he said. "Maybe we can both sweep the district this year."

The district meet this season will be held at St. Helens, hosted by Scappoose.

Lady Gulls softball team still learning, improving

By GARY HENLEY
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Seaside softball took a major step forward in 2015.

True, the 6-9 league record wasn't earth-shattering. But it was better than the 0-15 records the Gulls finished with in 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2014.

Co-coaches Jon Hotchkiss and Bill Westerholm took Seaside into the post-season in 2015, and they're hoping to take it a little further in '16.

"I expect us to compete," Hotchkiss said. "We're going to battle. I would be surprised if we didn't at least get to where we got last year."

THE LADY GULLS

Seaside has six varsity returners, and Hotchkiss spent the preseason trying to fill a few gaps in the defensive lineup.

Despite the loss of catcher Allison Bussert, the Gulls are still fairly strong up the middle, with sophomore pitcher Jetta Ideue, senior shortstop Whitney Westerholm and senior center fielder Paige Ideue, a letter-of-intent signee to Centralia College.

Seaside had key losses with the graduation of Brianna Babbitt, Shelby Miller and Bussert, while junior Lucy Bodner suffered a knee injury in basketball and will miss the season.

"We're trying to see how we can fill the gaps," Hotchkiss said the third week. "Not having Lucy here is going to hurt us a little, but we have some other girls ready to step up and take on that role."

"We've still got Paige



Seaside's Jetta Ideue, right, meets with teammates on the mound.

SEASIDE SOFTBALL

Coaches: Jon Hotchkiss, Bill Westerholm, 2nd year
2015: 9-16 (6-9 Cowapa)
Playoff: Lost at Douglas, 1-14
All-League Loss: Allison Bussert
Key Returners: Jetta Ideue, Paige Ideue, Brittany West, Whitney Westerholm

in center, Whitney at short, Brittany (West, Sr.) at first for the most part, with Jetta pitching."

Junior Emma Dutcher will take over the catching duties, and sophomore outfielder Sequoia Shand is the sixth varsity returner.

Freshman pitcher Tori Tomlin saw action in the circle in the Seaside Tournament, while other possibilities in the infield will be junior Mica Paranal at second, and sophomore Geri-Ann Klafke at third.

"We'll see," Hotchkiss said. "We have a couple we'll try

there, and then fill the hole in right field. We had five girls playing (in the season opener) who had never played before."

"With Jetta back in the circle, Whitney and Brittany both returning, Paige in center ... I expect us to be competitive, just like last year."



Whitney Westerholm throws out a runner during a softball game against Naselle at Broadway Field.



Seaside's Jetta Ideue pitches during a softball game against Naselle.

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