

Seaside boys look for a golf three-peat

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

With two of their top golfers from a year ago now competing at the collegiate level, a three-peat will be a tall task for the Seaside boys golf team.

The Gulls have won back-to-back state titles, but will be fighting the odds to win a third straight, which has never been done at the Class 4A level. La Grande won two straight (2011 and 2012).

Things will be tough enough in their own league, but don't count the Gulls out when it comes to a three-peat.

THE COWAPA

"The league should also be wide open this year," said Seaside coach Jim Poetsch. "Of the top players from last year, only (Seaside's) Aaron Richardson, Carter Lee from Tillamook and Nathan Mapes from Scappoose will be back. Tillamook and Scappoose, and Astoria had some younger guys who played varsity last year, and we had some JV players that were pretty good."

Richardson "will be one of the top players in the state, so that should help the team be competitive," Poetsch said of the Gulls. "He should be up on the leaderboard of every tournament we enter. If we can



The Seaside boys golf team, following their win in the Fish Invitational. From left to right: Chase Januik, Berkley Posalski, Aaron Richardson, Josef Barbic, Jackson Kunde, Connor Merrell.

Submitted Photo

get the other three to score in the 80s, we will be able to compete against most teams this year."

Statewide, Poetsch said, "the state should be wide open this year. Scappoose will come in as the favorites, having finished fourth last year and only losing one player."

But, "they are far from an overwhelming favorite, as they only shot around 350 last season. Marshfield

returns a couple of players off their third place team and should also be among the top teams.

"Cottage Grove is the only team I know of that returns all their players from last year's state tournament team, and we will see them at the Seaside Invitational this year."

THE GULLS

If there's one strong point for the

Gulls, it's in the numbers. The Seaside boys currently have 16 players on the roster:

- Josef Barbic, Sr.
- Wesley Corliss, Fr.
- Mason Crawford, Fr.
- Parker Davis, Fr.
- Skye Higdon, Fr.
- Chase Januik, Fr.
- Jackson Kunde, So.
- Colby Lupfer, Jr.

- Connor Merrell, Fr.
- Berkley Posalski, Sr.
- Aaron Richardson, Sr.
- Mason Shamian, Fr.
- Samson Sibony, Fr.
- Dalton Smith, Fr.
- Christian Solberg, Jr.
- John Whittle, Fr.

"We are very young and inexperienced this year," Poetsch said. "Right now we have Aaron, Jackson, Josef and Berkley playing varsity with the other positions up for grabs."

"We plan on working hard and trying to complete the goals we have for the year."

THE LADY GULLS

The Seaside girls have just four golfers, and "we've got a long ways to go," said coach Zdravko Barbic. "It's just a matter of putting the time in. We'll be fine."

Samantha Wozniak is the only senior, and is joined by juniors Caroline Kotsen and Diana Tinoco, and freshman Madi Brown.

League-wise, Scappoose had the top three golfers (Syrina Revis, Baylee Maloney, Morgan Hall) in the district tournament, followed by Astoria's Chloe Hunt and Kotsen, tied at 106.

Seaside's next golfer was Wozniak (13th at 120), and Tinoco placed 18th (153).

Seagull batters are young but experienced

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

There was promise early on, in 2015. The Seaside baseball team won two of its first three games in April, and had a 1-1 record in league play.

Unfortunately, Seaside's 5-3 win at Tillamook April 9 would be the Gulls' final league victory of 2015. Seaside added a nonleague win at Warrenton, but the Gulls finished the season with a 3-21 record, 1-14 in league play.

The only way to go is up for Seaside, which recently returned from a spring break tournament in Arizona. If the Gulls are to improve in 2016, at least they'll have fun trying.

THE COWAPA

"There's three Cowapa League teams in the top 10 already," said Seaside coach Joel Dierickx, of the annual battle in arguably the state's toughest league. "Scappoose (currently ranked No. 2), Astoria (17th, but certain to rise in the polls) and Banks (No. 7) are all right there. Valley Catholic (No. 6) is a strong baseball program in our league now, as is Tillamook. All we can do is go out and hope to compete. That's our goal."

The most improved may be the Braves — who were good last year.

"Everybody is back from Banks, and they've got a good freshman class coming in," Dierickx said. "And how many seniors did Astoria have last year? Not many. And Scappoose, with three teams, they can replace players. It's just always going to be tough."

THE GULLS

Seaside lost catcher (and the Gulls' only all-league player) Zach Quicke to graduation, but Seaside returns a load of experience.

Losing Quicke was a tough loss, Dierickx said, "but at the same time, you can't replace experience," which Seaside has plenty of in 2016. "It's just a bonus."

The Gulls only have two



Seaside's Scott Plampin makes a catch during the baseball game Saturday at Broadway Field.

Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE BASEBALL

Coach: Joel Dierickx, 19th year
2015: 3-21 (1-14 Cowapa)
All-League Loss: Zach Quicke

seniors on the current roster, but most of their players have varsity experience — the result of playing when Seaside didn't have experience.

The seniors are pitcher/outfielder Jake Bassett and infielder Michael Lewis.

The juniors — who all played varsity as sophomores — include Otto Hoekstre (P/

OF), Scotty Plampin (P/Inf), Carson Schulte (OF), Dylan Wallis (P/OF) and Brent Walsh (P/Inf).

Seaside has three sophomores (Dawson Blanchard, Ashton Boyd and Astor Landwehr — also all varsity returners), with five freshmen: Gage McFadden, Dylan Meyer, Alex Teubner, Dun-

can Thompson and Payton Westerholm.

"Some of those guys have earned some playing time at the varsity level," Dierickx said. "We're just playing games and getting better, that's our goal — to just keep getting better and keep improving."

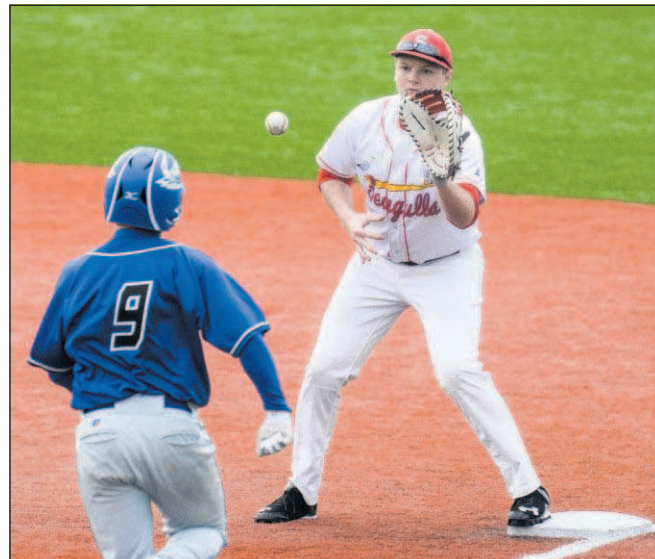
On the mound, Dierickx said, "we're going to count a lot on Jake Bassett. He's got the most experience, and he's improved a lot. Brent Walsh will also throw a lot of innings; Dylan Wallis will throw, Scott Plampin ... all four threw a lot of quality innings last year."



Seaside's Jacob Bassett, No. 11, watches a fly ball which scored a run against Elma during their baseball game.



Seaside's Brent Walsh pitches against Elma during a game.



Seaside's Michael Lewis makes a catch at first to get out an Elma player during a game at Broadway Field.

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