

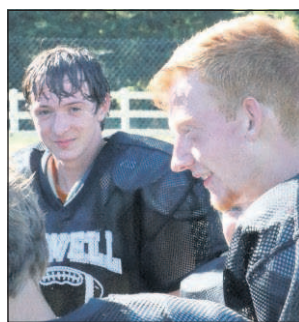


Photos by Don Johnson/For The Daily Astorian
Jewell freshman Ahstin Culp takes a handoff from head coach Joel Johnston and runs down the field during a Monday afternoon practice.

Jewell football is back with a young, fast team

After not having a 2015 team, players are raring to go

By DON ANDERSON
For The Daily Astorian



Jewell senior Sean Hinson and junior Ben Stahly take a water break during football practice Monday. Both Stahly and Hinson went to state in track and their speed will help the Blue Jay's running game.

Despite having 20 percent of its team sidelined with injuries, the committed Jewell football squad is determined to come back strong from a year without football in 2015, to play a full season this year.

Senior Zack Hart is having to play multiple roles for the young Jewell team, as there are few players to go around. "Sometimes I play guard, sometimes end and sometimes running back," Hart said. He and fellow senior Sean Hinson are the only two seniors on this youthful team.

"It's a much younger team than we have had before. But even though we are young we are very quick to learn," Hart said. "We are also tough and driven and are very committed to have a good season and win as many games as possible."

"We have nine players that are currently eligible, but 11 total," Hart said.

Two of the team's members, were injured and may be out for the season. Injuries on such a small team magnify the importance of the other players. Fortunately, Jewell has state track stars in 6-foot-2 running back Ben Stahly, and

6-foot-3 quarterback Hinson. With their size and quickness, they should be able to put points on the scoreboard.

"I think that the Seaside JV team will be our toughest opponent this season because they come from a much larger school than us," said Hart.

In this comeback year for the Jays, they will not be playing Casco League ball, but will be playing mostly JV teams from area schools.

The Blue Jays have a new coach this year in former Jewell student and football player Joel Johnston. Johnston hopes to lead the team back into regular play, which is a perennial problem at small schools. Even with eight-person football, each player has to fill multiple roles on offense and defense.

Jewell's opening game is at Alsea High School on Thursday.



Junior Corey Lyons brings size and strength to the Blue Jay's offensive and defensive line. In eight person football, players like Lyons have to play both sides of the ball.



Photos by Don Johnson/For The Daily Astorian
Alyscia Littlepage, senior at Jewell School, goes airborne to swat a ball during volleyball practice. Littlepage is Jewell's most experienced player and is the team captain.

Jewell volleyball girls have strength in character

... If not in numbers

By DON ANDERSON
For The Daily Astorian

JEWELL — With just seven members on their varsity volleyball team, the Jewell Blue Jays have little room for substitution, injuries, or grade problems.

"We have a great team of girls who are good both on the court and in class," said Niqui Blodgett, a junior at Jewell. Blodgett is a hitter for the Jays and will use her athletic ability to make "kills" that the opposing team can't return.

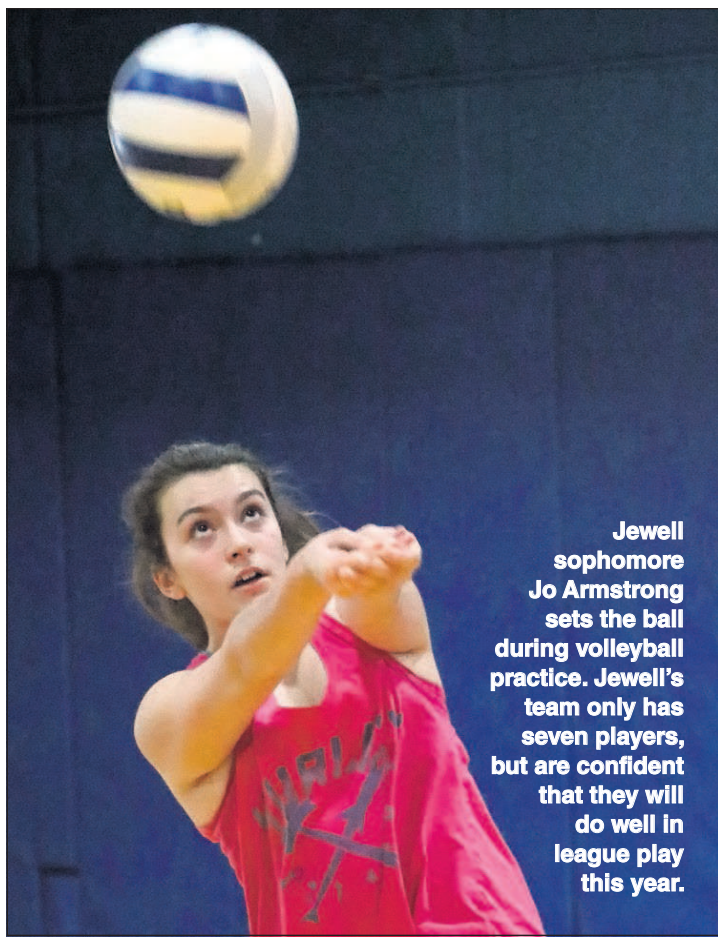
Setting her up is teammate Alyscia Littlepage, a senior at Jewell School and the only senior on the volleyball team. As a setter, Littlepage specializes in receiving the initial pass from a team member and setting it perfectly for one of the hitters to slam across the net.

"We get along really well and have great energy on the court," said Littlepage, "but communication is always our biggest challenge."

Besides their one senior, the Jewell team has two juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen. In order to compete in the Casco League with such teams as St. Paul, the older players are going to have to help mentor the younger players, giving them support both on and off the court.

"I love getting to know my team mates better," said Blodgett. "In school, in the halls, you don't get to really know them, but here on the court you get to know them a lot better."

"Yes, knowing that your teammates have your back is really important," added Littlepage.



Jewell sophomore Jo Armstrong sets the ball during volleyball practice. Jewell's team only has seven players, but are confident that they will do well in league play this year.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
TODAY Volleyball — Astoria at Cattlin Gabel, 6 p.m.; Seaside at North Marion, 4:30 p.m. Boys Soccer — Astoria at Cattlin Gabel, 4:15 p.m.; Oregon Episcopal at Seaside, 7 p.m.	Football — Alsea at Jewell, 7 p.m. Volleyball — Rainier at Seaside, 5 p.m.; Rainier vs. Astoria, at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Clatskanie at Knappa, 6:30 p.m. Girls Soccer — Rainier at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Seaside at North Marion, 4 p.m. Boys Soccer — Astoria at Corbett, 6 p.m.; North Marion at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.	Football — North Bend at Astoria, 7 p.m.; North Marion at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Knappa at Warrenton, 7 p.m.; Ilwaco at Nestucca, 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Volleyball — Warrenton at Knappa, 6 p.m.	SATURDAY Volleyball — Astoria at Southridge Tournament, TBA; Knappa at NKN Tournament, 7 a.m.	Cross Country — Ultimook Invitational, 8:15 a.m.



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