



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Seaside football head coach Chad Smith talks with his team in a huddle at Broadway Field.

Seagulls football under new management now

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

A 46-23 win over Valley Catholic on Sept. 25 of last year had Seaside football fans excited, as the Gulls were looking to recapture the magic of the 2013 season.

After the victory over the Valiants, the Gulls were 3-1 overall, 1-0 in league, and only had to win one of their next four to secure a spot in the playoffs.

Unfortunately, it didn't happen. Seaside suffered a 26-6 setback at Tillamook the next week, then lost three straight to Banks, Astoria and Scappoose to finish the season. Their 1-4 record left the Gulls out in the cold for the post-season, after two straight winning seasons in league play in 2013 and '14.

A few months later, head coach Jeff Roberts stepped down to focus on his duties as principal at Seaside High.

Former Roberts' assistant Chad Smith has taken the reins, and hopes to lead Seaside back to glory in 2016.

The Cowapa

The 2016 version of Cowapa League football is up for grabs, as the top three finishers from a year ago — Scappoose, Banks and Astoria — all lost a number of key players to graduation.

Scappoose's all-star quarterback-receiver combo — Robert Lohman to Brennen McNabb — is gone, along with running back and Co-Offensive Player of the Year Braden Clark.

The Braves were certainly hit hard, with the graduation of Co-Offensive Player of the Year Donny McClean, Defensive Player of the Year Twister McComas, and first-team all-league receiver Jaron Malcom.

Co-Coach of the Year Ben Buchanan has stepped down, and former Astoria assistant Cole Linehan has taken over as head coach.

The Fishermen lost their all-star backfield of Carter Wallace and Clay Englund, but return three all-leaguers.

"Banks will still be pretty tough, and then Scappoose is always tough," Smith said. "Valley Catholic hired a new



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Seaside freshman Gavin Rich warms up during practice.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Otto Hoekstre completes a catch as the Seaside Seagulls practice in August at Broadway Field in Seaside. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com

coach, but he was in the program as well."

The Seagulls

Seaside lost five all-league players of its own to graduation. The backfield trio of Alex Barker, Jaxson Smith and Nathanael Ward (all three made the all-league squad) are gone, and both football and basketball will definitely feel the loss of Austin Eagon and Zach Marston.

On the plus side, the Gulls had several young skill position players on the roster last season, including sophomore quarterback Payton (named after Walter) Westerholm, junior running backs

Astor Landwehr and Duncan Thompson, and junior tight end Dawson Blanchard.

Quarterback Otto Hoekstre returns for his senior season.

The Seaside line is in great shape, with several returners. Two-way lineman Michael Bailey was all-league last year as a sophomore.

Without giving away too much, Smith said, "Our offense will be different, but a lot of the other things will be the same.

"We're learning a new offense ... we have more skill guys than we do linemen," he said. "So on offense, we will spread it out with a lot

SEASIDE FOOTBALL

Coach: Chad Smith, 1st year

2015: 3-5 (1-4 Cowapa)

All-League Losses: Alex Barker, Austin Eagon, Zach Marston, Jaxson Smith, Nathanael Ward

All-League Returners: Michael Bailey, Jr.

of open formations, we'll throw a lot of quick, sprint-out passes, screen plays and things like that, to move our quarterback around so he's not sitting back there. We want to get the ball to some of our skill guys, who can do well one-on-one with the defensive players."

And on defense, the Gulls will be tested early.

"Our opener is with North Marion, a bigger school with well-coached kids," he said. "They run the Wing-T, so it will be interesting for us to go against that. Our kids know the Wing-T, but you still have to stop them."

Personnel-wise, "We lost 12 or 13 seniors, and we're light on seniors this year," Smith said. "We have five total, two who didn't play last year, and one that moved from Clatskanie (Phoenix Johnson, who figures on being a big part of the Seaside offense, judging from last week's jamboree).

"We have Otto Hoekstre back, Michael Bailey, Astor Landwehr ... for the most part we'll be a real young team, with mostly sophomores and juniors and our five seniors."

Some other names to get familiar with: Duncan Thompson, ("a great skill player"); Westerholm (a bright future for the three-sport athlete, although he suffered a broken ankle in Seaside's recent jamboree); Johnson ("a great addition"); "and another kid from Wyoming, Garret Kiser, a pretty athletic kid," Smith said. Junior Cameron King also saw plenty of touches in Seaside's jamboree.

And for the future, "We have about 16 incoming freshmen, and that's a pretty good class for a school our size."

BOYS SOCCER

Gulls hopeful for one more Cowapa title

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE BOYS SOCCER

Coach: John Chapman, 4th year

2015: 11-4 (7-1 Cowapa)

State Playoffs: Lost first round to Junction City, 1-2

All-League Losses: Taylor Barnes; Raiden Bowles

All-League Returners: Colton Carter, Jr. (Co-MVP); Jackson Januik, Sr.; Rafi Sibony, Jr.; Hunter Thompson, Sr.; Dylan Wallis, Sr.; Brent Walsh, Sr.

Defending league champions, only three starters lost to graduation, with six returning all-league players and the Coach of the Year? The 2016 boys' soccer season has "Seaside" written all over it.

The Gulls are the favorites to repeat as the Cowapa League champs, and they're hoping to make a better post-season showing than last year's first-round exit.

After winning nine of its final 10 regular season games, Seaside lost a 2-1 overtime decision at home to Junction City in the state playoffs.

The loss left a bitter taste, and provides a strong motivation for the 2016 Gulls.

The Cowapa

Given all of Seaside's returners, there doesn't appear to be any serious challengers standing in the way of the Gulls and another league title.

In their eight league games in 2015, the Gulls allowed just six goals and finished 7-1. Their only loss in league play came to Scappoose, which posted a 1-0 win at Broadway Field Oct. 1, a game in which the Indians had just one shot on goal.

The Gulls got even with a 1-0 win at Scappoose Oct. 22, part of their five-game win streak to end the league season.

"We open with Scappoose at home this year," coach John Chapman said. "That was our only loss last year, so we need to break that nemesis. They seem to come here and have our number.

"You never know what you're going to get with Valley Catholic until the season starts. I'm optimistic that we can win the league again."

And the targets are squarely on the backs of the Gulls.

"I would expect our league to be coming at us," he said. "Which is OK. It's amazing — when you win once, they all think you're the Dallas Cowboys."

The Gulls

Seaside dominated the Cowapa All-League selections in 2015, just as they

dominated the action on the field.

Coach of the Year Chapman had eight players on the all-leaguer squad, and only two (Taylor Barnes and Raiden Bowles) were seniors. The other key loss to graduation was goalkeeper Jarrett Coughlin.

Among the returners, seniors Jackson Januik, Hunter Thompson and Brent Walsh were all first-team selections as juniors, as was Colton Carter — the Cowapa's Co-Player of the Year and the only sophomore on the 4A all-state team.

Dylan Wallis (Sr.) and Rafi Sibony (Jr.) were honorable mention.

Additional returners include Will Garvin and Juneau Meyer — both senior cross country runners, along with Carter, Januik and Thompson.

"We only lost two guys off the field, and we've gained a couple more," Chapman said.

"In goal, we have Jesus ("Chewy") Perez. Behind him we'll have (sophomores) Ashton Boyd and James Petty. Chewy has been the 'Steve Young' waiting in the wings. He gets his chance now. This is his Super Bowl as a senior."

Other contributors this season will include junior Henry Chapman and sophomore Irving Contreras.

"Irving is more experienced and playing at a higher level; and Henry Chapman is making some great strides, moving up from a solid JV player to a solid varsity player," said coach (and dad) Chapman.



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Four-sport athlete Jackson Januik is ready to chase down another successful year, starting with soccer and cross country this fall.



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