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Gulls make a point: They're the best

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — While most of Oregon struggles through a bit of a cold snap, the Seaside Seagulls are playing basketball like they're on a Southern California playground, on a nice, sunny, 80-degree day.

Make that 84.7 degrees. That's exactly how many points the Gulls averaged in their three games last week, in the Seaside Holiday Classic.

Moments after their 87-56 win over Newport, the Gulls were posing for their annual first-place team photo, after winning the championship game of the tournament.

The way they're winning, it's safe to say the Gulls are currently playing better than most teams at the Class 4A level. And they could very well be standing at midcourt in Hillsboro March 11, posing for another team photo with a much bigger trophy, in a much bigger tournament.

Seaside will be tested this week, with road games at North Bend and Marshfield.

After opening the tournament with a 97-40 win over Elma last Thursday, the Gulls won a "nail-biter" with Madras Friday, 70-58, and the Gulls scorched the Cubs over the final three quarters in Saturday's title game.

Seaside had five players in double figures, and outscored a very good Newport team 45-25 over the decisive second and third quarters.

The Cubs held a 17-13 lead late in the first quarter, before the Gulls went on a 21-2 run, ending any Newport hopes.

"I wasn't expecting us to be scoring this much," said coach Bill Westerholm. "But we're playing with a lot of energy, we're seeing guys score in double figures, and it's different players leading us each night. Our battle cry has been 'Energy' all along. Play with energy. And we had that (Saturday). All 13 of us."

In a one-minute span early in the second quarter, Jackson Januik drained a 3-pointer, Attikin Babb knocked down two more, Otto Hoekstre hit a mid-range jump shot, and Chase Januik scored off a turnover for a 34-19 lead.



Damian Mulinix/For The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Jackson Januik dribbles through a Newport triple team during Saturday's championship game of the Seaside Holiday Classic. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com.

And defensively, the Gulls continue to force lots of turnovers — 19 against Newport.

"Our constant pressure is beginning to wear teams down," Westerholm said. "So far we haven't played anybody who can match our guard play. The smaller guys are doing their job, and Attikin (Babb) played his best game of the year. He's stepping up and asserting himself. Otto (Hoekstre) also had his best game."

The Holiday Classic's All-Tournament team included a few players off the other teams, but the all-tournament team could easily have been Seaside's starting five, plus one or two others off the Gulls' bench. (As it was, Seaside still had four players on the all-tournament team).

Jackson Januik earned the Most Valuable Player award for the second year in a row.

With his 24 points the previous night against Madras, Januik became the all-time points leader in school history, breaking the previous record (976) held by Matt Clark. With over half a season remaining, Januik (cur-

rently with 1,000 points) could finish with an unbreakable record (until Chase breaks it two years from now).

"Jackson has led us with his competitiveness," Westerholm said. "It's tough because teams are putting their best defenders on him. We're lucky because we have other guys who can shoot the ball and score in bunches."

Astoria 63, Madras 49

Astoria bounced back from a tough 52-36 loss to Newport Friday with a 63-49 win over Madras Saturday, in the third-place game of the Holiday Classic.

All-tournament player Olaf Englund scored 25 points, as the Fishermen starting lineup scored 58 of the 63 points.

Astoria's 13-2 run in the first quarter led to a 28-16 halftime lead, and the Fishermen were 14-of-24 from the field in the second half to pull away for the win.

Englund made two 3-pointers in the third period, and a layup by Alex Burchfield gave Astoria its largest lead at 46-29.

Gulls 70, Madras 58

SEASIDE — The Madras White Buffaloes had the toughest task of the Seaside Holiday Classic Friday.

After missing out on Thursday's action because of poor road conditions, Madras showed up on Day 2, and had to play two games — the second against a Seaside team that had scored 97 points the night before.

And as expected, the Buffaloes had very little chance against the Gulls in the second round game late Friday, won by Seaside, 70-58.

Still, a 3-pointer by Madras senior Damean Frank had the White Buffaloes in front after one quarter, 16-15.

Madras held its largest lead at 18-15, before the Gulls took control in the middle part of the second quarter.

Payton Westerholm and Hunter Thompson had points in transition to give Seaside a 25-20 lead, and the Gulls led 33-23 by halftime.

Thompson drained two 3-pointers in the third quarter to lock up the victory, as the lead reached 50-32.

Lady Gulls win another Holiday Classic

By **GARY HENLEY**
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SEASIDE — Much like the Seaside boys were in their half of the tournament, the Seaside girls were untouchable in the girls' bracket of the Seaside Holiday Classic.

The Gulls cruised to the championship, finishing 3-0 following their 51-32 win over South Whidbey Saturday, following wins over Elma (70-48) and Cottage Grove (50-30) Thursday and Friday.

Maddi Utti was the tournament MVP, averaging almost a quadruple-double over the three games. In the championship win over the Falcons, she had 22 points, eight rebounds, five steals and five assists.

The Gulls forced 27 turnovers, as they continue to win games (four in a row) with solid defensive efforts.

"A nice solid victory tonight, capping the three-game tournament with a Holiday championship," said Seaside coach Mike Hawes. "Another strong night from Utti and (Sydney) Villegas (10 points, eight rebounds), filling the stat sheet with rebounds, steals, points and assists."

"But solid contributions from all-tourney team member Jetta Ideue and some timely 3-pointers from Annaka Garhofer helped, too," he said, as the sophomore made three treys in the second half, to go with two from Utti, as the Gulls hit five of their 15 3-point attempts.

Seaside opened with a 10-0 lead, another 8-0 run midway through the first half had the Gulls well in front by halftime, 23-9.



Submitted Photo

It was another Holiday Classic championship for the Seaside girls basketball team.

"It was nice to get some games in after the 10-day layoff, and keep improving on the court," Hawes said. "Everyone contributed. Feels like we're starting to figure some things out and find our identity."

Elma 54, Astoria 43

SEASIDE — Elma outscored Astoria 28-4 in a decisive third quarter Saturday afternoon, in a 54-43 win over the Lady Fishermen in the third-place game of the Holiday Classic.

The Eagles missed 33 free throws (17-for-50, to Astoria's 14-of-24), but Elma still managed to overcome a 30-21 halftime deficit.

The Lady Fishermen "Played a really good first half," said Astoria coach Mike Jacobson. "Our problem has been communication and enthusiasm on the floor. And we had both the first half. Second half was a different story. None of what we have been talking about happened. We as coaches and as a team need to keep

grinding and get better everyday in practice."

Freshman Kali Rambo scored 14 points for Elma, with 10 points apiece for Peyton Elliott and Molly Johnston.

Freshman Brooklyn Hankwitz had 17 points for Astoria, followed by Alexis Wallace with nine.

Astoria has a 10-day layoff before the Vince Dulcich Tournament.

Gulls 50, Lions 30

SEASIDE — Cottage Grove was within four points of Seaside midway through the second quarter, but a 17-0 run by the Lady Gulls led to a 50-30 win for Seaside Friday night, on Day 2 of the Holiday Classic.

The Lions put up a tough challenge in the first half, rallying from a 19-10 deficit to within 19-15, before the Gulls closed out the second quarter on a 6-0 run, highlighted by two baskets from Sydney Villegas and a score by Maddi Utti as time expired.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Boys Basketball — Portland Adventist at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Jewell at Vernonia JV, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball — Portland Adventist at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.; Jewell at Vernonia JV, 3 p.m.

SEASIDE HOLIDAY CLASSIC

BOYS

Seaside 87, Newport 56

NEW (56): Will Beaudry 17, K.Blaser 9, Plechaty 8, Tapia 5, C.Blaser 3, Krueger 2, Ja.Gonzales 1.

SEA (87): Hunter Thompson 22, Babb 16, J.Januik 15, Westerholm 13, C.Januik 11, D.Thompson 6, Hoekstre 4, Sibony.

Newport 17 14 11 14—56
Seaside 21 27 18 21—87

Field goals: Newport 19-44; Seaside 31-60. **3-Point goals:** Newport 3-11 (Fisher, K.Blaser, Tapia); Seaside 7-19 (H.Thompson 3, Babb 2, Westerholm, J.Januik). **Free throws:** Newport 15-24; Seaside 18-22. **Fouls:** Newport 19, Seaside 20. **Turnovers:** Newport 19, Seaside 7.

Astoria 63, Madras 49

AST (63): Olaf Englund 25, Palek 10, Burchfield 9, Fremstad 9, Gohl 5, Johnson 3, Olson 2, O'Brien, Sharp.

MDR (49): Frank 14, Smith 14, Lockey 8, Fine 4, Thurby 3, Winishut 2, Patt 2, Wallulatum 2.

Astoria 13 15 18 17—63
Madras 6 10 15 18—49

Seaside 70, Madras 58

MDR (58): Kanim Smith 20, Frank 16, Patt 11, Lockey 9, Thurby 2.

SEA (70): Jackson Januik 24, C. Januik 21, H.Thompson 11, Westerholm 4, Babb 4, Hoekstre 4, D.Thompson 2, Hague.

Madras 16 7 22 13—58
Seaside 15 18 19 18—70

GIRLS

Seaside 51, South Whidbey 32

SW (32): Kacie Hanson 13, Turpin 5, Eager 4, Forsyth 3, Collins 3, Starets-Foote 2, Heggenes 2.

SEA (51): Maddi Utti 22, Villegas 10, Garhofer 9, Babbitt 4, Ideue 2, Smart 2, Kiser 2, Huddleston, Bodner, Turner, Hoekstre.

S.Whidbey 4 5 10 13—32
Seaside 12 11 13 15—51

Field goals: South Whidbey 9-27; Seaside 21-51. **3-Point goals:** South Whidbey 4-10 (Hanson, Forsyth, Collins, Turpin); Seaside 5-15 (Garhofer 3, Utti 2). **Free throws:** South Whidbey 10-14; Seaside 7-11. **Fouls:** South Whidbey 9, Seaside 15. **Turnovers:** South Whidbey 27, Seaside 13.

Elma 54, Astoria 43

AST (43): Brooklyn Hankwitz 17, Wallace 9, Hemsley 7, Rogers 5, Gimre 2, DeMander 2, Cummings 1, Burnett, Nash, O'Brien, Dalton.

ELM (54): Kali Rambo 14, Elliott 10, Johnston 10, Heller 5, Sutherby 5, Sackrider 4, Neary 3, Mikel 2, Bieker 1.

Astoria 15 15 4 9—43
Elma 9 12 28 5—54

Seaside 50, Cottage Grove 30

CG (30): Reilly Kelly 13, Sand 3, Weybright 3, Gardner 3, Child 3, Pardee 3, Murphy 2.

SEA (50): Maddi Utti 22, Villegas 12, Ideue 6, Babbitt 4, Kiser 4, Garhofer 2, Smart, Falleur, Bodner, Hoekstre, Huddleston, Turner.

C.Grove 10 5 5 10—30
Seaside 15 10 15 10—50

South Whidbey 31, Astoria 14

AST (14): Alexis Wallace 8, Hankwitz 4, Gimre 2, Hemsley, Dalton, Cummings, DeMander, Rogers.

SW (31): Mackenzie Collins 8, Eager 7, Hanson 6, Drake 5, Forsyth 3, Starets-Foote 2.

Astoria 2 2 6 4—14
S.Whidbey 11 3 8 9—31

All-Tournament Teams

Girls

MVP-Maddi Utti, Seaside
 Rylee DeMander, Astoria
 Megan Drake, South Whidbey
 Kinsey Eager, South Whidbey
 Peyton Elliott, Elma
 Madison Hargett, Newport
 Jetta Ideue, Seaside
 Reilly Kelly, Cottage Grove
 Sydney Villegas, Seaside

Boys

MVP-Jackson Januik, Seaside
 Attikin Babb, Seaside
 Will Beaudry, Newport
 Kyle Blaser, Newport
 Olaf Englund, Astoria
 Damean Frank, Madras
 Chase Januik, Seaside
 Blake Sentman, Cottage Grove
 Hunter Thompson, Seaside

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Warrenton 56, Clatskanie 43

CLA (43): Sage Miller 15, Haas 9, Warren 8, 25 Baker 6, Simmons 3, Mitchell 1, Lindbloom 1.

WAR (56): Tyla Little 21, Dyer 12, Mieth 7, Alvarez 6, Bussert 5, K.Blodgett 2, Morrill 2, Diego 1.

Clatskanie 9 10 11 13—43
Warrenton 5 18 18 15—56

Warriors, Tigers split basketball doubleheader

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Tyla Little poured in 21 points and Rachel Dyer added 12, lifting Warrenton to a 56-43 win over Clatskanie Friday at Warrenton.

The game was originally scheduled for Thursday at Clatskanie, before weather forced the move to Warrenton.

Warrior coach Robert Hoepfl called it "our best game of the year," as Warrenton rallied from a

9-5 deficit after one quarter and outscored the Tigers 51-34 over the final three.

Dyer connected on three straight 3-pointers in a key second quarter run, while Claire Bussert and Katelynn Blodgett led a solid Warrenton

defensive effort.

The Warriors return to action today at home vs. Portland Adventist, and will face the Tigers again Jan. 19, at Clatskanie.

In the boys' game Friday, Clatskanie defeated Warrenton, 50-36.