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Sand, sunshine and spikes

THE 36TH ANNUAL SEASIDE BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT DELIVERS



Photos by Jeff Ter Har/For The Daily Astorian

The event is a major summer attraction for downtown Seaside.

By **KAELIA NEAL**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The 36th annual Seaside Beach Volleyball tournament was full of sand, sunshine and spikes.

After two extremely close sets, Chelsea Ching, Garrett Wilson, Kacey Losik and Wyatt Harrison won the final quads coed open on Sunday, the last championship game of the tournament.

"It was incredible," Ching said of her experience at the tournament. "You hang out and have a good time."

In the final match, every player was essential for the team win. Considering this was their first time playing together as a team, it was impressive to see their chemistry.

Wilson, Losik and Harrison fought hard on the net as blocking and hitting machines. Ching took care of the defense and was an asset for picking up tips.

After back and forth rallies, Ching, Wilson, Losik and Harrison won set one 24-22 and set two 21-19.

The team travels with a crew from Santa Cruz of about 35 people.

"It's kind of a tradition," said Ching, who has been to the tournament three times.

"It was an epic year," Wilson said. "We had a really good group of people."

What Wilson appreciates about the Seaside tournament is that "everyone that comes here stays and watches." He has attended nine times, and said this year was his favorite because of the rallies he had during the matches.

The winners receive cash prizes, totaling a combined \$76,000, according to Seaside Chamber of Commerce director Brian Owen.

He said that this is an event that has grown from what used to be about five courts to what are now 154.

"There's nothing like it," Owen said. "For a small town having one of the world's largest beach volleyball tournaments is a blessing."

Owen said he was happy with the flow of events, and the change that made it so youth were guaranteed at least two days of play.

The event, which began Thursday, was predicted to bring in more than a thousand teams. If not playing volleyball, people were lounging on their chairs and couches or dancing and cheering the players on.

"We are highly impressed that people come here and just love the experience," Owen said.



ABOVE: The amateur beach volleyball tournament is considered the largest of its kind in the world. BELOW: Volleyball players hit the beach in Seaside over the weekend. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com/sports



Goooooof! Footgolf blends soccer and golf



Kaelia Neal/The Daily Astorian
 Lewis and Clark Golf and RV Park has the first footgolf course on the Oregon Coast. The game mixes soccer and golf.

Lewis and Clark has first course on the coast

By **KAELIA NEAL**
The Daily Astorian

The Lewis and Clark Golf and RV Park has opened the first footgolf course on the Oregon Coast, one of nine American FootGolf League courses in Oregon.

"Everybody we tell about it is excited about it," said Richard Lee, who owns the park.

A mix of soccer and golf, Lee said footgolf is a very social sport. "We have families where parents play golf and kids play footgolf at the same time," he said.

A family traveling from Seattle decided to try a game and liked it so much that they played a second one that evening. "They thought it was

fantastic," Lee said.

The goal of the game is to kick a soccer ball into a hole with the least number of kicks — or strokes — possible. There are 18 footgolf holes on a regulation golf course at the Lewis and Clark Golf and RV Park.

The main differences between footgolf and golf are that footgolf's holes are 21 inches in diameter, the distances to the holes are shorter, and there is no equipment that is needed to be carried around besides the ball.

Footgolf is a game for people of all skill levels "because it doesn't require any training," Lee said. "Anyone can kick a ball."

There are two different sets of tees at the Lewis and Clark course. One set is for people comfortable with a soccer ball. Those who are not regular soccer players can kick from tees closer to the holes.

Lee said a good soccer player can get through the course in about an hour, whereas a group of people who

have not played much soccer will take around two hours.

Footgolf teaches accuracy and control of a soccer ball, Lee said. "I think it'll appeal to the people who play soccer."

It takes less time to play compared to golf so the games will not overlap that much, which makes the sports compatible, Lee said.

Each game costs \$15 for adults and \$12 for youth 12 and younger. Players can play in pairs, in threes or in fours.

Soccer balls are available for rent for \$3, but players can play with their own ball.

Lee had extra room on his golf course and wanted to provide another venue of something to do for his RV guests and for the community. He saw footgolf in a golf magazine, and it sparked his interest to try the new sport.

"I think it'll make a good fit," he said.