

SPORTS

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Sherman signs 3-year deal with the 49ers

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Richard Sherman officially has gone to the other side.

The four-time All-Pro cornerback signed a three-year deal with the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, two days after being released by the rival Seattle Seahawks.

The deal reportedly is worth up to \$39.15 million.

“Richard is one of the premier competitors Kyle and I have ever encountered,” 49ers general manager John Lynch said, referring to coach Kyle Shanahan. “We look forward to him sharing his wealth of experience and his passion for the game of football with our team.”

“Richard has long been looked at as the prototypical corner in our scheme and the opportunity to have him mentor our players was one we needed to attack. Most importantly, we are excited to have a championship-caliber corner on the field for the 49ers.”

Sherman played an integral role in the fierce NFC West rivalry between Seattle and San Francisco earlier this decade. With the Seahawks retooling their defense, he became expendable. His deflection on a potential winning touchdown pass in the 2013 NFC championship game against the 49ers led to an interception that sent the Seahawks to the Super Bowl, which they won.



Jeff TerHar/For The Daily Astorian

Chase Januik drives to the hoop against Valley Catholic.

SUPER SEAGULLS ARE CHAMPS AGAIN

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — Nestucca at Warrenton, 4 p.m.; Knappa at Clatskanie, 4:30 p.m.
Softball — Warrenton at Dayton, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Baseball — Astoria at North Marion, 4 p.m.; Molalla at Seaside, 5 p.m.; Country Christian at Warrenton, 4 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaside 48, Valley Catholic 44
Valley Catholic 7 16 12 9—44
Seaside 10 9 19 10—48

Valley Catholic (44): Jack Grasberger 16, Andrew Plambeck 13, Daniel Pruitt 8, Ben Robbins 4, Davis Johnson 3, Trey Eberhart, Peter Boileau, Jack Tetzloff.

Seaside (48): Chase Januik 17, Payton Westerholm 10, Duncan Thompson 8, Brayden Johnson 5, Ryan Hague 5, Beau Johnson 3, Colton Carter.

Field goals: Valley 16-39; Seaside 17-32. **3-point FG:** Valley 2-14 (Johnson, Plambeck); Seaside 7-17 (Januik 2, Westerholm 2, Hague, Be.Johnson, Br.Johnson). **Free throws:** Valley 10-15; Seaside 7-13. **Fouls:** Valley 15, Seaside 16. **Turnovers:** Valley 7, Seaside 8. **Rebounds:** Valley 26 (Grasberger 7); Seaside 20 (Hague 5).

Players of the Game: Valley Catholic-Jack Grasberger; Seaside-Chase Januik.

Seaside 56, Newport 52
Newport 11 22 9 10—52
Seaside 15 12 14 15—56

Newport (52): Kyle Blaser 16, Jose Ponciano 16, Justin Plechaty 9, Jack Fisher 5, Bryan Tapia 3, Matt Beaudry 3, Carson Martinson, Drew Sain.

Seaside (56): Ryan Hague 23, Payton Westerholm 9, Beau Johnson 9, Chase Januik 6, Duncan Thompson 6, Brayden Johnson 2, Colton Carter 1, Rafi Sibony.

Field goals: Newport 19-41; Seaside 21-54. **3-point FG:** Newport 9-22 (Ponciano 5, Plechaty 2, Fisher, Tapia); Seaside 5-25 (Hague 2, Be.Johnson 2, Westerholm). **Free throws:** Newport 5-10; Seaside 9-17. **Fouls:** Newport 16, Seaside 13. **Turnovers:** Newport 23, Seaside 9. **Rebounds:** Newport 36 (Blaser 16); Seaside 29 (Westerholm 7).

Players of the Game: Newport-Kyle Blaser; Seaside-Ryan Hague.

All-Tournament Team

First Team
 Grant Webster, Jr., Marshfield
 Kyle Blaser, Sr., Newport
Ryan Hague, So., Seaside
 Blake Gobel, Jr., Banks
 Daniel Pruitt, So., Valley C.
Second Team
 Andrew Plambeck, Sr., Valley C.
 Nojah Chamberlain, Sr., La Grande
Chase Januik, Jr., Seaside
 Ty Horner, Sr., Sisters
 Dalton Renne, Sr., Banks
 Sportsmanship: Newport

4A STATE TOURNAMENT

4A Boys
Championship
 Seaside 48, Valley Catholic 44
Third/fifth place
 Newport 68, Banks 51
Fourth/sixth place
 Marshfield 69, La Grande 64
4A Girls
Championship
 Marshfield 48, Cascade 41
Third/fifth place
 North Marion 65, Banks 57
Fourth/sixth place
 Valley Catholic 37, Stayton 35

By GARY HENLEY
 The Daily Astorian

FOREST GROVE — Ten or 20 years from now, when we’re looking back at the great Seaside boys basketball dynasty of 2017, 2018 and 2019 (pending) ... maybe we’ll realize how impressive it was to see such an under-sized team win so many over-sized games.

Heart, desire, speed, quickness, coaching ... and practice, practice, practice. No doubt a lot of each.

It was all on display again Saturday night at Forest Grove High School, where the Gulls completed year No. 2 of the dynasty with a 48-44 win over Valley Catholic, in the Class 4A state championship game (also known as the “Cowapa League championship”).

It was an almost unexpected title for the Gulls, who didn’t even finish first in their own league.

“We thought next year was our year,” said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm. “We talked in the locker room, and said ‘just embrace what you have right now. You never know what can happen.’ So we’re excited to get the trophy.”

“The kids care for each other, and when it came down to it, we battled and battled, we fought for each other, and came out on top.”

In front of a packed house and with their home fans cheering nonstop, the Gulls had to overcome a small halftime deficit, then made four free throws in the final 47 seconds for the winning points.

The Valiants were unable to answer, and Seaside walked off with the big blue trophy for the second year in a row.

The names were much the same for the Gulls this year — they just had some new leaders, and the younger brothers of last year’s stars now in the leading roles.

“It feels a lot different,” said Payton Westerholm, a junior captain this season, who took more of a back seat role to Jackson Januik and Hunter Thompson last year.

This year, it was Westerholm, Chase Januik and Duncan Thompson carrying the load. The trio combined for 35 points in Saturday’s win. Januik led the way with 17 points and five assists.

“It’s a new team,” Westerholm said. “We were role players on the team last year, now we’re the captains, and we have to take on bigger roles. It feels like more of an accomplishment for us.”

Chase Januik, whose brother Jackson was state Player of the Year the last two seasons, had to fill the role left by big bro.

“Last year we were expected to win all season as the No. 1 seed,” Chase said. “This year, at the start of the season, we didn’t even think we were that good, and didn’t realize it until the end of league. We were surprised to be here.”

Still, Seaside was the heavily favored team Saturday, as the No. 2 seed Gulls were playing in their third straight state championship contest and seeking their fifth consecutive win over the No. 5 seed Valiants.

Seaside tops Newport in semifinals

The Daily Astorian

FOREST GROVE — Seaside secured its spot in the championship game with a 56-52 win over Newport late Friday night.

The Gulls had to rally from a 33-27 halftime deficit, and did so by outscoring Newport 14-9 in the third quarter, followed by a 9-1 run to start the fourth.

Payton Westerholm scored his first points of the night early in the fourth period to give Seaside a 43-42 lead. Moments later, Chase Januik scored his first basket of the game for a 45-42 advantage, and the Gulls never trailed again.

Westerholm added a 3-pointer, and Seaside turned a 39-36 third quarter deficit into 52-43 lead midway through the

fourth with a 16-4 run.

The Cubs made a late rally and pulled to within 53-52 on a short jumper by Kyle Blaser with 27 seconds left, but Januik drained a pair of free throws with 17 seconds remaining, and teammate Beau Johnson made 1-of-2 for the final point.

Seaside’s Ryan Hague scored 11 points in the first quarter, on his way to a 23-point night, to earn Player of the Game honors for the second night in a row.

After they were both held scoreless through three quarters, Januik and Westerholm combined for 15 points in the fourth.

Newport out-shot Seaside (46 percent to 39 percent) and the Cubs out-rebounded the Gulls 36-29, but Newport had 23 turnovers to Seaside’s nine.

Going back to last year, the Gulls had won four straight over their league rivals, with two wins (51-35 and 57-50) during this year’s league season.

The Valiants didn’t make it easy, however.

Valley Catholic was coming off a win over No. 1 Banks the night before, a game in which the Braves lost Dalton Renne to an injury, when the Cowapa League’s Player of the Year slammed to the floor following a dunk attempt early in Friday’s semifinal.

“I think Banks would have beat Valley Catholic had (Renne) been there, and it would have been a different challenge for us,” Januik said. “But we beat (the Braves) at home, and we know what it takes to beat them. It would have been a great game.”

As it was, the Valiants still had hopes of an upset in Saturday’s final, as they rallied from a 17-12 deficit with a 3-pointer by Davis Johnson, and scores from Ben Robbins and Jack Grasberger for a 23-19 halftime lead.

But for a team that’s rallied from halftime deficits this year of 17 and 12 points, a four-point deficit was a drop in the bucket for the Gulls. Seaside went 3-point crazy in the third quarter, with Beau Johnson, Januik, Ryan Hague and Westerholm knocking down triples. By the end of the period, the Gulls had doubled their first-half points and held a 38-35 lead.

“Their 1-3-1 zone was bothering us, and we slowed the game down so much — it had to be a boring game for our fans to watch,” coach Westerholm said of the first half. “So our adjustment was to flatten the zone out a little, push the ball up the floor and not let them get set. We were going to force this thing into a full-court game. It worked.”

And the fans got their money’s worth in the fourth quarter, which featured three ties and four lead changes.

Valley Catholic’s Andrew Plambeck

made two free throws for a 42-40 lead at the 5:00 mark, and Seaside answered with an offensive rebound score by Westerholm and Januik’s jumper along the baseline for a 44-43 lead.

The Valiants made 2-of-4 free throws to pull even at 44-44 with 1:32 remaining.

The first two games of the tournament, the Gulls were a combined 20-for-39 from the free throw line. But they finally passed the free throw test in the final 47 seconds, as Hague and Westerholm each went 2-for-2 from the line to secure the victory.

Trailing by two, Valley Catholic missed a 3-point attempt before fouling Westerholm with five seconds left, leading to Westerholm’s two clinching points.

Seaside did not set any scoring records this postseason, but their defense came to the rescue, allowing an average of just 43 points in four playoff games.

“At the start of the year, I thought we were more of an offensive team,” Januik said. “But towards the end and the start of the playoffs, it felt like we turned into the best defensive team in the state. Everyone just stepped up their game, and as a defense, we just became unstoppable.”

With four of their five starters returning next season, the Gulls will be heavily favored to win it all next year as well. Only time will tell how many more state titles this group will win. Keep in mind that Seaside has one of the strongest youth programs in the state, so there’s more talent on the way.

“We’ve built the program from the ground up, the kids know how to win, and we’re going to be good for a while,” coach Westerholm said.

Januik delivered a strong message to rest of the 4A world after the game: “We’re going to be better than ever next year. We’ll be looking for a three-peat.”

For now, sit back and enjoy the ride, Seaside. These are your glory years.