

SPORTS

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Seaside finishes second to Marist in state tourney

Gulls’ best
finish since 2015

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

The defending state champions from the 5A level, playing on their home course in the 4A state tournament, was a tough combination to beat this week, as the Seaside Gulls discovered Monday and Tuesday.

The Gulls gave it their best shot, but the Marist Spartans — who dropped down from Class 5A to the 4A level following the 2017-18 school year — won their second straight state title with a solid two-round effort in the 4A boys golf state championship at Emerald Valley Golf Club in Creswell.

Marist held an 18-stroke lead over second-place Seaside after Monday’s first round, and the mighty Spartans pushed their final margin to 32 strokes following Tuesday’s final round.

Marist carded a 314 team score to finish with a two-round total 627, while the Gulls finished at



The Seaside boys golf team, from left to right: Head coach Jim Poetsch, Chris Bodner, Curtis Kunde, Connor Merrell, Carson Kawasoe, Samson Sibony.

659, following their 331 on Day 1 and 328 Tuesday.

Defending 4A state champion Valley Catholic placed a distant third with a 707 team score.

Seaside’s second-place finish under coach Jim Poetsch was its best since winning back-to-back state titles in 2014 and 2015. The Gulls also won state championships in 1971 and 1975 under coach Ed Rippet.

Meanwhile, it was the third tournament this season (all at

Emerald Valley) that Seaside and Marist met on the course, and the third time the Gulls finished second behind the Spartans.

In April, Marist won a four-team tournament with a 312 to Seaside’s 332, with 5A Churchill and 6A Sheldon finishing third and fourth, respectively.

Then in a 13-team state preview tournament May 1, the Spartans scored another 20-stroke win over the Gulls (328-348).

The third time was not the

charm for Seaside in Tuesday’s second round.

Marist followed five birdies in Monday’s round with 10 on Tuesday, six birdies on the front nine.

Three of Seaside’s five golfers improved their scores from Monday, but not enough to cut into the Marist lead.

And just to give the state a sneak preview of what they’ll be seeing for the next two or three years, Marist’s top four golfers include two juniors and two sophomores,

while the Gulls have a freshman and a sophomore as their top two players. Seaside loses seniors Connor Merrell and Samson Sibony to graduation.

Marist sophomore Nick Watts held on to his first-round lead and finished as the tournament medalist with a one-over par 145 (74-71).

Spartan teammate Arnav Reddy carded a 153 for his two-day total, one stroke ahead of Stayton’s Evan Massena (154), while Woodburn sophomore Cole Beyer finished fourth at 155.

Mazama junior Nate Beck and Seaside freshman Carson Kawasoe tied for sixth at 156.

Kawasoe was two strokes off his pace from Monday’s 77, with a 79 in the second round.

The next three Seaside golfers all improved their scores from Day 1 to Day 2.

Sophomore Curtis Kunde finished 10th overall with a 165 (83-82), followed by Merrell (84-83—167) and Sibony (87-84—171).

Chris Bodner served as Seaside’s fifth golfer, and finished with a 94-105—199.

GRETCHEN HOEKSTRE AIMING TO WIN

Seaside senior has great shot
at two state titles this week

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

It’s one of the great mysteries on the North Coast.

How do the local high school track teams produce so many great throwers? As in discus tossers, shot putters and javelin throwers.

Year after year, athletes from Astoria, Seaside, Warrenton and Knappa win district and state championships, setting records and moving on to the college level.

Of course, Astoria has throws coach Bob Ellsberg, who turns out great athletes by the numbers. And Seaside has that whole strength and conditioning thing, with the husband-wife coaching team of Dan and Margie Leary.

Some of the great local throwers from the recent past include Astoria’s Laura Bobek, Emmi Collier of Warrenton, Knappa’s John Benthin and anybody named McCord from Seaside.

The list includes multiple state champions, record holders and college stars.

More names were added this past weekend, as the county set a personal best with five different athletes from two different schools, winning a combined nine championships in two district meets. All in throwing events.

And the stars of today — Seaside’s Gretchen Hoekstre and Warrenton’s Mark Warren — will no doubt be the college stars of tomorrow.

Warren is only a junior and has countless records to break and medals to win at the high school level.

But it’s Hoekstre who fans will have their eyes on this week in the 4A portion of the state meet, Friday and Saturday at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham.

The Seaside senior already has records, titles and a very impressive list of accomplishments at the high school level, and her Division I college destination is already set.

She’s the No. 1 high school female shot putter in the nation (we haven’t had many of *those*), and she hopes to finish up her prep career this weekend with a couple more state titles.

For those who know her, it couldn’t happen to a better person or a harder worker.

“She’s doing great. She looks like she’s ready to go in and do great at the NCAA level,” said local legend Bobek. “I’m real proud of her and glad I got to meet her.”

It’s fair to say that Bobek knows what she’s talking about.

Astoria’s record-setting thrower from 2006 to 2009 is a six-time state champion, winning the discus and shot put titles as a sophomore, junior and senior. She placed second in both events as a freshman in 2006.

Bobek ended up at that track mecca in Eugene, the University of Oregon, where she finished her career with a school record in the discus on her final throw in the 2014 NCAA championships at Hayward Field.

In addition to big points for the Ducks, it resulted in All-American status for Bobek.



Gretchen Hoekstre will have her eyes on the prize (two state titles) this week at Mt. Hood Community College.



Two of the most powerful shot putters produced by Clatsop County — Seaside’s Gretchen Hoekstre and Astoria’s Laura Bobek.

And now Hoekstre is about to bring one chapter of her career to a close, with just as much promise as Bobek had 10 years ago. Or more. Not even Bobek had a 50-foot shot put in high school, like the one Hoekstre uncorked May 3 in the Nike/Jesuit Relays.

Hoekstre considers Bobek a hero, and met the former Astoria athlete at this year’s Daily Astorian Invitational — where Hoekstre broke Bobek’s meet record in the shot.

(Said Bobek, “It had to happen sometime, right?”)

Hoekstre says, “(Bobek) has like, all the records. She’s so good and so much fun to watch. It was really cool to have her

there. And even she was super-excited with my throw, even though I think I broke her record.”

Hoekstre also wanted to be a Duck. Financial concerns just didn’t allow it to happen.

“It is ‘TrackTown USA,’” she said of Eugene. “But I just couldn’t get the money to pay for it. The U of O is a pretty expensive school to begin with, and it would have been great to go to a school like that and throw. But I just couldn’t afford it.”

Instead, Hoekstre signed a letter-of-intent to attend Brigham Young University.

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Astoria softball team tops Yamhill

The Astorian

In the first of three nonleague games this week, the Astoria softball team tuned up for the state playoffs with an 8-3 win Tuesday at Yamhill-Carlton.

Astoria pitcher Julia Norris shut down the Tigers, scattering five hits with seven strikeouts and two walks.

The Fishermen only had five hits of their own, including a solo home run by Kayla Helligso and a two-run double for Halle Helmersen. Mollie Matthews also drove in two runs.

Astoria plays the second of two games Friday with Clatskanie.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE	
THURSDAY	
Baseball	— Gladstone at Astoria, 5 p.m.
FRIDAY	
Baseball	— Seaside at Ontario, 5 p.m.; Astoria at Banks, 5 p.m.
Softball	— Clatskanie at Astoria, 5 p.m.
BOYS GOLF	
OSAA 4A state tournament	
(at Emerald Valley Golf Club)	
Final round scores	
Team: Marist 627, Seaside 659, Valley Catholic 707, Woodburn 711, Mazama 717, Stayton 749, Baker/Powder Valley 768, Banks 776, La Grande 782, Henley 794.	
Player leaderboard	
Nick Watts, Marist, 145	
Arnav Reddy, Marist, 153	
Evan Massena, Stayton, 154	
Cole Beyer, Woodburn, 155	
Nate Beck, Mazama, 156	
Carson Kawasoe, Seaside, 156	
Seaside (659)	
Carson Kawasoe, 77-79—156	
Curtis Kunde, 83-82—165	
Connor Merrell, 84-83—167	
Samson Sibony, 87-84—171	
Chris Bodner, 94-105—199	
GIRLS GOLF	
OSAA 4A state tournament	
(at Eagle Crest Ridge Course)	
Final round scores	
Team: St. Mary’s 638, Valley Catholic 705, Heppner/Ione 741, Woodburn 787, La Grande 802, Astoria 828, Waldport 837, Cascade Christian 837, Seaside 854, Baker/Powder Valley 881, Sweet Home 1001.	
Player leaderboard	
Baylee Hammericksen, St. Mary’s, 139	
Yvonne Vinceri, Riverdale, 146	
Riley Hammericksen, St. Mary’s, 151	
Tori Suto, Wallowa/Joseph, 156	
Kaylee Wu, St. Mary’s, 156	
Astoria (828)	
Jenna Travers, 87-94—181	
Samantha Hemsley, 96-88—181	
Constance Rouda, 111-114—225	
Katie Boutin, 122-116—238	
Annalyse Steele/Madi Burchfield, 132-120—252	
Seaside (854)	
Tristyn McFadden, 98-92—190	
Sydney Rapp, 108-105—213	
Caitlin Hillman, 117-106—223	
Emma Arden, 117-111—228	
Elise Seppa, 132-140—272	
SOFTBALL	
Warrenton 16, Willamina 6	
Willamina 060 00—6 3 5	
Warrenton 31(11) 01—16 12 3	
W: Mia McFadden. L: Katrina Graham. RBI: War, Miethe 4, Freniere 3, Bussert 2, Kadera 2, Dyer, McFadden, Quashnick, Ramsey. 2B: War, Quashnick. 3B: War, Miethe. HBP: Wil, Tuck 2, Hunt 2, Burk, Shranell. LOB: Willamina 4, Warrenton 7. DP: Warrenton.	