

SPORTS

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HOMETOWN REPORT



Boise State

Seaside's Alex Teubner, who had an outstanding senior season with the Gulls in 2018, hopes to carry the ball for Boise State in the near future.

Teubner on way to Boise State

The Astorian

Seaside senior Alex Teubner has accepted a walk-on opportunity to play football for the Boise State Broncos.

Teubner was the Cowapa League's Offensive Player of the Year last season, and was one of four Seaside players on the first team all-state offense after rushing for 2,420 yards and scoring 44 touchdowns in the 2018 season.

Astoria athletic director Howard Rub announced that five Astoria seniors will compete at the college level in 2019-20.

The list includes Ian Hunt, who will play basketball and compete in track at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

Josiah Hirsch plans to play football at Occidental College in Los Angeles, while teammate Henry Samuelson will play football at George Fox University.

Seniors Kes Sandstrom and Nara Van De Grift plan to compete in track at Linfield College.

Seaside's Smith earns award

The Astorian

More than 360 coaches were honored May 18 at the 2019 Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) awards banquet.

And the list of honorees included Seaside's Nikita "Nick" Smith, in his fifth year as an assistant coach for the Seaside boys basketball team.

Smith and six others were given special awards in the category of "Assistant Coaches of the Year."

Seaside head coach Bill Westerholm, who has taken the Gulls to the last four state championship games, posted to the Seaside basketball Facebook page, "Behind every program that has success you will find quality assistants. Our program is lucky to have three (Smith, Jim Poetsch, Charles Neal)."

The six other assistants honored by the OACA were Tyler Davis (Phoenix), Tommy Haaga (Wilsonville), Terry Newsom (Sunset), Tom Shaw (Hosanna Christian), Marty Stallard (Marshfield) and Patrick Tuia (Westview).

WARRENTON'S LONG, STRANGE ROAD TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



Gary Henley/The Astorian

Warrenton players shake hands with members of the Knappa Loggers, following Knappa's win over the Warriors in the 2019 season opener at Warrenton, where the Warriors have only played four times this month.

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Astorian

The road to any championship game usually has some strange twists and turns along the way, with key turning points and adversities to overcome.

Of course, there are occasional programs like the Knappa Loggers, who had to make very few turns on their way to state titles in 2015 and 2018. The Loggers just jumped on the interstate and cruised to championships with records of 27-0 and 24-0, respectively.

Clatsop County's latest contestant in a state championship baseball game (the ninth in the last 13 years), the 2019 Warrenton Warriors took the back roads to reach their destination.

Qualifying for their first championship game in 21 years, the Warriors took a unique route to reach Volcanoes Stadium.

When Astoria, Warrenton and Knappa went into the May 28 semifinals at three different levels — 4A, 3A and 2A — the one team probably least expected to advance was Warrenton.

With a combined 10 championship game appearances since 2006, it would have been no surprise to see both the Fishermen and Loggers win and make return trips to Keizer.

But Astoria and Knappa came up short in their bids to play at Volcanoes Stadium, while the Warriors scored their second straight victory over a top-three team to qualify for their first championship game since 1998.

It's usually a key victory or a big upset that qualifies as the so-called

EDITOR'S NOTE

Friday's state championship game finished up after The Astorian went to press. Go online to DailyAstorian.com for the results, which will be printed in Tuesday's newspaper.

"turning point." While the 2019 Warriors had a few of each, it was two losses that served as a turning point.

"Our doubleheader loss at home (May 7) to Rainier really did something for us," said Warrenton coach Lennie Wolfe. In addition to hearing some of the usual taunts from the Columbians after the game, the experience sparked the Warriors into getting better.

Warrenton swept a twinbill from Catlin Gabel two days later, which was followed one day after that by a loss at Monroe.

Three losses in a five-day span gave the Warriors a lot to work on.

"And (after the loss at Monroe) we had an 11-day break before we even played our next game," Wolfe said. "That really gave us time to focus on the things we needed to do to get better."

Mission accomplished, apparently, since after their loss May 11, the Warriors scored wins over teams that finished second, third and 10th in the final regular-season rankings.

"The kids feel good about their achievements," Wolfe said. "And again, such a big part, they know they've earned it. I know I'm kind of

hammering away at that, but they've earned it."

And sometimes it isn't just the figurative road to the finals that teams must overcome. Sometimes the literal road is just as tough.

"To go down and beat Brookings — not only the length of the trip — but it was the nature of some of those miles to get there," Wolfe said.

Two days before Warrenton made the trip, the Amity Warriors had to play a first-round game at Brookings, and lost 8-1.

Referring to Highway 199, Wolfe said, "the Amity kids were physically ill going over that same road (which dips down into California before reaching Highway 101, then north to Brookings). It's not an easy trek. What an incredible home field advantage.

"And we handled it," he said. "I never heard a single kid complain about the length of the trip, or about the nature of the driving. And then, 'OK guys, we're going to go home, and then turn around (three days later) and go to Santiam Christian.'"

The Warriors had been to Santiam Christian earlier in the year — and lost, 8-1 — but "we're not the same team," Wolfe said. "The boys have known it, and they looked forward to another chance to play Santiam Christian."

After collecting just five hits and striking out 10 times in their loss to the Eagles back on March 29, the Warriors had nine hits and scored seven earned runs off starting pitcher Sean Riley in the rematch, setting up Warrenton's trip to the 2019 state championship.

Area runners finish season

The Astorian

A pair of runners with ties to the North Coast recently ended their 2019 collegiate seasons.

Kaylee Mitchell, who attended Astoria High School but graduated from Sprague High School, competes as a freshman in track at Seattle Pacific University.

Mitchell qualified for the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Division II national championship meet, May 23-25 in Kingsville, Texas, but a leg injury forced her to drop out of the final.

In the GNAC championships,

May 10-11 at Western Oregon University, Mitchell was seeded second in the conference in the steeplechase, and that's where she finished in the final, placing second in 10:39.74, earning eight team points for SPU.

In the women's 1,500-meter final, Mitchell finished seventh in 4:32.81, a provisional qualifying time.

After her return from nationals, Mitchell posted, "Wouldn't want to end my freshman year of athletics with anyone else. And although this weekend went exactly how I did not want this

weekend to go, I couldn't be more grateful for my teammates, my coaches and everything this year has taught me."

Seaside's Allison Kilday, wrapping up her college career as a senior at Occidental College in Los Angeles, finished third in the 400-meter hurdles in a time of 62.78 seconds.

Her run helped the Occidental women's team finish third overall in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athlete Conference (SCIAC) championship meet, held April 27-28 in Claremont, California.



Allison Kilday,
 Occidental
 College



Kaylee Mitchell,
 Seattle
 Pacific

Kilday also ran in the May 11 Oxy Invitational, and had the 12th-fastest time in the same event (1:03.11).

Kilday earned All-West region honors in the 400 hurdles, with the top five marks in each event in the SCIAC making the all-region team.