

# On to state for No. 1-ranked Loggers

The Astorian

The Knappa baseball team finished off a school year of complete dominance in the Northwest League, with a 5-1, 15-3 double-header sweep over Neah-Kah-Nie, on May 13 at Broadway Field.

In football, boys basketball and baseball, Knappa was a combined

37-0 in league play in 2021-22.

Knappa baseball finished 18-0 in league, well ahead of second place St. Paul (14-4). Winners of 66 straight league games, the No. 1-ranked Loggers have a league record of 145-3 since 2013.

## Ilwaco heads to regionals

The Ilwaco baseball team

clinched a spot in the upcoming state playoffs, winning one game and losing three in the District 4 2B tournament.

Toledo defeated Ilwaco 9-6 in a second round game, and the Fishermen bounced back with a 6-4 victory over Onalaska.

Forks topped Ilwaco 7-0, and Toledo beat Ilwaco 10-0, as the

Fishermen advance to regionals.

In District 4 1B baseball, Naselle needed just two games to lock up the No. 1 seed to the state playoffs, defeating Oakville (15-0) and Mossyrock (10-0).

## Astoria softball closes out league season

The Astoria softball team

cruised to the Cowapa League championship — now the Lady Fish can focus on a state title, as they finished off the league season with another easy win on May 14, 13-2 over Valley Catholic.

Fourth-ranked Astoria improves to 19-2 overall, 12-0 in league. The second place Valiants dropped to 6-4.



Brittany Israel

**Local Oregon High School Equestrian Team coach Brittany Israel, front, with her state qualifying riders and horses. From left, Kaylie Poe, Signe Rickenbach, Alivia Rickenbach, Oshi Ward and McKenna Roberts.**

## Rider wins gold at state

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Clatsop County's own Oregon High School Equestrian Team recently completed the first part of its postseason schedule, and returned from central Oregon with three medals.

"What a great season for all my athletes," said coach Brittany Israel, whose team included riders from Astoria, Seaside and Warrenton.

"We were one team with three schools," she said. "We are saying goodbye to three awesome seniors, Alicia Cano and McKenna Roberts from Seaside and Alivia Rickenbach from Astoria."

After a regular season that included three events, the Clatsop County team had two riders qualify for state competition, held last week in Redmond.

Roberts and her horse "Jackson," and Oshi Ward, with "Flash," both Seaside athletes, had qualified for state, where Ward won one gold and two bronze medals.

Ward and Flash won the two bronze medals on the second day, for taking third out of 35 in Barrels, and another for a third place showing out of 31 in Pole Bending.

The two won a gold medal, taking first out of 13 riders in Breakaway Roping.

Roberts and Jackson took eighth out of 20 riders in Saddle Seat.

And the season isn't officially over. As a

result of their three medals, Ward and Flash qualified to compete at the Pacific Northwest Invitational Championships, held June 17 to June 19 at Moses Lake, Washington, where the top five individuals from Oregon and Washington state will compete against each other.

"Oshi and Flash have had an amazing first year of OHSET, and I couldn't be prouder," Israel said. Roberts and Ward "both represented Seaside High School above and beyond."

In the overall season results, some of the highlight marks in various events included: A gold medal for Roberts and Jackson in Saddle Seat, and gold medals for Ward and Flash in both Barrels and Steer Daubing.

Also, silver medals for Roberts and Jackson in Showmanship and Ward and Flash in Breakaway Roping, and a bronze for Ward and Flash in Pole Bending.

Israel's final list of athletes for the 2022 season included Alivia Rickenbach (with horses "Athena" and "Sage") and Signe Rickenbach ("Timber") from Astoria. Eve Espelien was unable to compete because of an injury.

In addition to Roberts and Ward, Seaside participants included Alicia Cano ("Moon"), Matthew Cano ("Sailor"), Lindsey McCarthy ("Cosmo") and groomer Theia McCarthy.

The lone rider from Warrenton was Kaylie Poe, with horses "Emma" and "MoPoe."

## Seaside's Kawasoe third at state

The Astorian

Seaside's Carson Kawasoe nearly pulled off a big rally on Day 2 of the state golf tournament at Quail Valley Golf Course in Banks, where the senior Gull golfer eventually finished third out of 58 golfers on the 4A individual leaderboard.

Kawasoe shot a five-over par 77 in Monday's first round, and was in sixth place individually.

"As always at this level, it came down to putts inside 8 feet," said Kawasoe's coach at Seaside, Jim Poetsch, after Monday's round. "If he had made them all, he'd be sitting on a two-stroke lead right now. But he's still in the hunt so hopefully he has a great day (Tuesday) and all those putts fall."

Through nine holes of Tuesday's second round, Kawasoe was two-under par. He had birdies on four of the first five holes and moved into second place, one stroke behind Woodburn's Ty Beyer.

Two holes later, there was a four-way tie for first between Kawasoe, Tillamook's Elliot Lee, Beyer and Aaron Brown of Banks.

After chipping in for birdie on the 10th hole — Kawasoe's second chip-in for birdie of the day — he sat alone atop the leaderboard.

But Kawasoe double-bogeyed the 12th as Lee (who began the second round on the back nine) birdied the third hole to give Lee a

lead that he would never relinquish.

Kawasoe finished with a 74, the best score of the day, one stroke ahead of three other golfers.

Lee carded a 75 on Tuesday, good enough for a two-round total 148 and medalist honors.

Beyer had scores of 73 and 77 for a 150 total for second, followed by Kawasoe with a 151 (77-74). Freshman Isaiah Jones of Baker/Powder Valley and Brown each posted a 152 to tie for fourth.

In his only two full spring seasons at Seaside, Kawasoe was a freshman in 2019 and led the Gulls to a second-place finish. As a senior, he qualified for state as an individual and finished third.

In a swan song for the Cowapa League, Banks won the 2022 state title by three strokes, while Valley Catholic and Baker tied for second.

Lee will return next season for Tillamook, but Kawasoe graduates, while Banks and Valley Catholic drop to the 3A level.

"This was the closest state tournament, on both the individual and team sides, that I've seen," Poetsch said. "Carson made a great run at the title. I couldn't be more proud of him. With two holes left I thought he had a great chance to win it. But Elliot is also a great player and he did what he needed to do to win it. We will miss having Carson but I look forward to watching what he can do at Santa Clara (University) next year."



Carson Kawasoe



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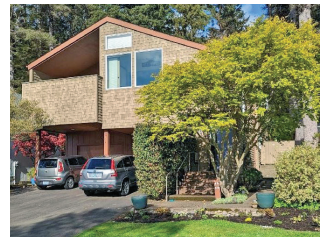
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## Coaching changes at Astoria, Warrenton

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The sidelines will look a little different for a few local high school sports teams beginning next fall.

Several coaches have announced their resignations, and replacements have already been made in a few cases.

This week, Astoria athletic director Howard Rub announced the hiring of three new coaches for the 2022-23 school year. Meanwhile, a couple familiar names at Warrenton are stepping down, and the Warriors are still in the hiring process.

In Astoria fall sports, Andrew Fick resigned as the cross-country coach, and volleyball coach Jessie Todd has also decided to step down.

Rub announced that both coaching positions have been filled.

Jeff Curtis will serve as the new volleyball coach, coming to Astoria after coaching volleyball at Juanita High School in Kirkland, Washington. He has also served as the head coach at Archbishop Murphy High School in Everett, Washington.

Curtis replaces Todd, who had coached the Lady Fish since 2015.

"Coach Todd provided great services to our student-athletes for the past seven years," Rub said. "Her dedication and commitment were second to none. We are very thankful for all that she provided to our school and community, serving as our head coach."

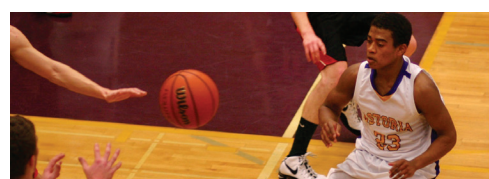
Curtis resides in Warrenton with his wife, Sherri (Turman) and their youngest daughter, Nevaeh.

Rub said Curtis "has a great plan for our program. He will work to bring in quality assistants that share his vision. I am excited for our volleyball program."

Replacing Fick as the cross-country coach is Jeremy Boutin, who has served as an assistant coach for Astoria since 2019.

"I want to thank coach Fick for his dedicated service to our student-athletes since the 2015 season," Rub said. "Coach Fick has and will always have a kid-first mentality. I know he will continue to help coach Boutin in any way he can moving forward, to help us continue to have a distance program that our school and community can be proud of."

Boutin currently works at Astoria High School as an instructional assistant, and



Gary Henley/The Astorian

**Former Astoria athlete Alex Eterno will now lead the Fishermen boys basketball team as head coach.**

resides in Hammond with wife, Kerri.

## Eterno takes over Astoria boys basketball

Astoria graduate Alex Eterno will serve as the new head coach of Astoria boys basketball.

Eterno has served as an assistant coach at all levels for Astoria football and girls basketball for the past eight years. A 2010 graduate, he lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track.

Eterno replaces Kevin Goin, who coached the Fishermen beginning in 2014-15, and took the Fishermen to a consolation final in the state tournament in his second year. For three straight years in the Goin era, the Cowapa League's top two teams met in the state championship.

"I want to thank coach Goin for his work with our basketball program the past eight seasons," Rub said. "No one bleeds purple and gold more than coach Goin. The time he has sacrificed to help Astoria boys basketball has been immeasurable. I appreciate his decision to spend more time with his family. I know he will be a great youth coach for the time being while his children compete at the youth level."

Eterno "has worked extremely hard to earn a head coaching opportunity at the high school level," Rub said. "He has shown his dedication to the youth of Astoria for the past eight years. I am genuinely excited for him. I know he will bring a love of competition to the court every day."

## Changes at Warrenton

At Warrenton High School, Stacie Mieth has resigned as volleyball coach, but will continue to coach softball; and Nate McBride has stepped down as boys basketball coach, after taking the Warriors from an 0-16 league season in 2017-18 to back-to-back winning seasons his last two years.

Warrenton graduate Kimberly Nichols has been hired as the new volleyball coach.

Gearhart Office

Cannon Beach Office

588 Pacific Way, Gearhart

255 N Hemlock, Cannon Beach

503-738-8522

503-436-1027