

Signal Sports

Lady Gulls gain experience for league play



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ABOVE: Seaside's Paige Ideue, with ball, faces a tall order against Sutherland's 6-foot Kayce Mock, 32.

LEFT: Seaside's Maddi Utti, left, and Sydney Villegas, right, apply defensive pressure on Sutherland's Ricki Mock, 31.

By Gary Henley
EO Media Group

The Seaside Lady Gulls continued their tour through the top 10 teams in Class 4A basketball.

Having already faced No. 3 Henley, No. 5 Cascade and No. 7 La Grande, the Gulls hosted No. 1-ranked Sutherland Jan. 4, in a rematch of a state tournament semifinal from last season.

And the rematch turned into a near repeat of the

playoff game.

Sutherland — which won the Final Four game 44-28 — posted a 46-33 win over the Gulls in the Jan. 4 game, as senior guard Miranda Mendenhall scored 21 points for 11-0 Sutherland.

By the time they hit league play Jan. 20, the defending league champion Gulls should be well-prepared to make another run through the Cowapa.

"We've been running the gauntlet of good teams," said

Seaside coach Wally Hamer. "It was good scheduling. It was the opposite last year — we didn't play as many tough teams at the beginning. Hopefully this will toughen us up.

"The girls have really played hard overall, but haven't executed as good as we need to vs. great competition," he said. "In the last five days we played the No. 1 and 2 teams in the state. We need to play more consistently on offense to beat those teams

and it didn't happen."

Seaside held an early 4-2 lead on two baskets by Maddi Utti, and a three-point play by Utti had the score tied, 9-9.

Sutherland answered with a 12-2 run, highlighted by a pair of 3-pointers from Mendenhall, and the Gulls could never get closer than five points the remainder of the game.

Mendenhall had back-to-back 3-pointers midway through the second half for

a 37-23 lead, before Utti scored twice (including a trey), to cut the lead back to 37-28.

Kayce Mock converted a three-point play at the 3:21 mark for a 40-28 advantage, and the Bulldogs made 4-of-4 free throws in the final minutes to clinch the win.

The Bulldogs were playing their eighth straight road game, which included a win at Banks Jan. 2 (which Sutherland also won by 13, 40-27).

"They move the ball around, and they don't turn it over," Hamer said. "We need to do a better job of that. And Mendenhall got us — she made some nice shots. We chose to play a zone on them, and I'm not sure if that was the best move.

"They do so many good cutting things. We just went with a game plan, and it didn't work out so well."

Utti led the Gulls with 18 points, while Haylee Dundas had seven rebounds.



Timing is everything If stroke strikes, call 911.

Think **FAST**

- Face** Face look uneven?
Ask the person to smile.
- Arm** One arm numb or drifting down?
Ask the person to raise both arms.
- Speech** Slurred or jumbled speech?
Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence.
- Time** If any of these signs occur, even briefly:
Get help immediately. Call 911!

For more tips and resources, visit www.providence.org/stroke.

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