

Signal Sports

Lady Gulls stopped, but boys move forward

By Gary Henley  
EO Media Group

**Valley Catholic 69, Seaside 56**

Their bid for another perfect league record came to an unexpected end Feb. 13 for the Seaside girls basketball team.

Valley Catholic stunned the Lady Gulls and their home fans by beating Seaside 69-56, the first loss for the Gulls in league play in over two years.

Maddi Utti scored 16 points, with seven rebounds, five assists and four steals for the Gulls, who held a 34-32 half-time lead.

Seaside took a 45-43 lead in the fourth quarter, where the Valiants out-scored the Gulls 24-11.

Seaside coach Wally Hamer wanted “to give Valley Catholic all the credit. They played a great game and just outplayed us. They shot well, and we didn’t play very good defense tonight.

“These things happen along the path where we didn’t reach our goal,” he said. “Playing good defense and rebounding are essential if you are going to be successful.”

Haylee Dundas and Whitney Westerholm scored 11 points apiece for Seaside.

**BOYS BASKETBALL Seaside 48, Valley Catholic 33**

The Seaside boys basketball team is one big step closer to making it a Seaside sweep in Cowapa League basketball.

With the Lady Gulls in charge of the Cowapa girls standings, the Seaside boys knocked off Valley Catholic 48-33 Feb. 13 to take over sole possession of first place with two games left.

Jackson Januik scored 18 points and Austin Eagon added 11, as Seaside opened up a big lead with a 16-7 run in the third quarter in Friday’s win.

Zach Marston added eight points for the Gulls.



Seaside’s Haylee Dundas, No. 15, puts up a shot while defended by Banks’ Megan Bunn, No. 22, in a basketball game at Seaside Feb. 12.

Lady Gulls top Banks on the way to Cowapa finals

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Seaside’s Maddi Utti, Sydney Villegas and Whitney Westerholm combined for 35 points, and that was more than enough as Seaside all but clinched another Cowapa League girls basketball title with a 54-25 win over Banks Feb. 10.

The Lady Gulls (7-0 in league play) had a safe two-game lead in the standings with three games remaining.

The Gulls topped Banks — the Cowapa’s second-place team — by 29 points.

Despite going 8-for-29 from the field in the first half, Seaside had things well in hand midway through the second quarter, leading 18-4 following a three-point play by Paige Ideue.

After a rough first half, Westerholm drained three 3-pointers in the third quarter, with a 12-0 run by Gulls resulting in a 50-19 lead.

Westerholm led the Gulls with 13 points (11 in the third quarter), while Utti had 12 points and eight assists, and Villegas finished with 10 points. Haylee Dundas added nine points, eight rebounds, four steals and four assists.

It was a “great defensive effort by our girls tonight,” said Seaside coach Wally Hamer. “The coaching staff felt great about what the girls accomplished.

“Whitney Westerholm lit it up in the third quarter,” he said. “The third quarter was a pivotal quarter. Unsung heroes tonight were Brittany West, Allison Bussert and Paige Ideue. They rebounded and chipped in points as well.”

**Seaside 63, Banks 53**

It was close through three quarters, but Seaside’s Jackson Januik turned a three-point lead into a late runaway win for the Gulls Feb. 10, 63-53 over Banks.

Januik scored 14 of his game-high 18 points in the final period, as Seaside reeled off a 13-2 run in the fourth to put away the Braves.

Banks was within 43-40 to start the fourth quarter,



Seaside’s Whitney Westerholm, No. 24, breaks away for a layup against Banks.

when Zach Marston converted a three-point play, which sparked the Gulls to a 20-point quarter.

Most of the scoring came from the free throw line, where Seaside was 10-of-15

in the fourth quarter, 18-of-28 for the game to 11-of-13 for the Braves.

Seaside’s Jaxson Smith hit three 3-pointers in the opening quarter, on his way to 17 points.

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Gulls come up short in race for team title

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The same two schools finished 1-2 in the team standings for the second straight year on the boys’ side of the District 1/4A swim meet Feb. 14

The Newport boys (with 304 points) scored another team championship, edging second-place Seaside (218) for the second year in a row.

And Valley Catholic definitely made a splash in its first year in its new district, as the Lady Valiants won the girls’ title with 252 points, over Tillamook (229).

Individually, Seaside is sending a handful of athletes to the state meet this weekend at Mt. Hood Community College.

Teamwise, Seaside coach Alex Reed knew it would be tough for his boys to catch a deep and talented Newport team.

“We had a pretty solid idea,” he said. “Newport was a little too deep for us on the boys’ side this year, and we’ve had a couple of team subtractions for the girls.”

Still, the Seaside boys will have entrants in eight of the 11 events at state.

“Our goal was to qualify three relays for state,” said Reed, which they did. “We’re definitely in the medley relay — we won by a good margin, and that one’s looking good going into state.”

Seaside’s other two relays qualified as wild cards.

The Gulls had one automatic state qualifier, as Will Garvin, Brad Rzewnicki,



Seaside’s Sam Beaudoin competes during the boys 200-yard medley relay at the District 1/4A swim meet at the Astoria Aquatic Center Feb. 14. Seaside’s team placed first in the event and earned an automatic bid to state.

Sam Beaudoin and Dylan Townsend teamed up to win the first event of the day, the 200-yard medley relay.

Seaside won in 1 minute, 48.43 seconds, which puts the Gulls as the No. 4 seed in the state meet.

Other wild card qualifiers included Rzewnicki (second, 200-yard freestyle, and third, 100-yard breaststroke); Beaudoin (second, 50-yard freestyle, and third, 100-yard freestyle); Luke Liljenwall (fourth, 100 freestyle); and Garvin (fourth, 100-yard backstroke).

“Brad Rzewnicki did an awesome job, dropping four full seconds off his 200 free to get second place,” Reed said.

And Seaside’s 200-yard freestyle relay placed second in 1:37.90 to qualify for state, as did their 400-yard freestyle relay, taking second in 3:42.41.

Astoria’s lone automatic qualifier was junior Bryce Nurdning, who won the 500-

yard freestyle in 5:36.58. Nurdning was second last year behind teammate Nick Janda.

On the girls’ side, Valley Catholic, Tillamook and Newport dominated most of the events.

Astoria had one automatic state qualifier, with junior Megan Sparks swimming a 1:07.44 to win the 100 backstroke. She will be a No. 7 seed at the state meet.

“Bryce is going in the 500, and Megan in the backstroke,” said Astoria coach Amy Emmett. “And we only have one senior, so I’m looking forward to next year.”

Meanwhile, Emmett’s former team was celebrating its second straight boys’ championship.

“I coached at Newport for nine years, so I know what their program is,” Emmett said. “Angie (Sremba) was my assistant coach, and she’s taken the ball and run with it. It’s exciting to watch.”

ANNUAL JAZZ FEST

Thank You!

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> the **Lighthouse Jazz Society** will present the **32<sup>nd</sup> Year of Jazz in Seaside** featuring twelve quality bands and one guest artist, performing twenty seven hours of live entertainment at three different venues in Seaside. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors and volunteers that made this weekend a huge success. We are very grateful to the following Businesses and Individuals for their continuing support - you make it happen.

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