

Gulls hopeful for a shot at league title



JOSHUA BESSEX/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Seaside's Colton Carter practices a free kick during soccer practice.

Seaside boys could be most improved team

By Gary Henley
EO Media Group

The record in league play last year may not have been impressive (one win, three losses, four ties).

But in soccer, it was good enough for third place in the league standings and a trip to the playoffs for the Seaside boys soccer team.

And with five all-league returners, the Gulls, for one, believe they could be

on the verge of a league title. Why not them?

"We finished third last year with mainly sophomores and freshmen," said head coach John Chapman. "So we're a year older and we haven't really lost anything. We expect to compete with anybody."

The Gulls played Henley in the recent Astoria summer tournament, and lost to the 4A semifinalist Hornets, 2-1.

"And (the Hornets) had their full squad there," Chapman said. "We're optimistic, for sure. We get to play the state champions again in the preseason, North Marion, so that's going to be a good marker for where we're at."

The Seagulls

The lineup is pretty much set, Chapman said. Here's how most of it shakes out:

Colton Carter (So.), Hunter Thompson (Jr.) and Taylor Barnes (Sr.) in the middle, with Will Garvin (Jr.), Raidon Bowles (Sr.), Juneau Meyer (Jr.) and Rafi Sibony (So.) on the back line and likely Jarrett Coughlin (Sr.) in goal.

In addition, Brent Walsh (Jr.), Henry Chapman (So.), Irving Contreras (Fr.) and Dylan Wallis (Jr.) will be on the field, as well.

Barnes, Bowles, Carter, Garvin and Thompson were all selected all-league last season.

"Once we get everybody there, we're looking at a good squad of 14 or 15 guys," Chapman said. "Where is our strength? We're pretty strong, all

SEASIDE BOYS SOCCER

COACH: John Chapman, 3rd year

2014 SEASON: 4-7-7 (1-3-4 Cowapa)

PLAYOFFS: Lost Regional Play-in at Phoenix (1-3)

ALL-LEAGUE LOSS: Marshall Ferre

ALL-LEAGUE RETURNERS: Taylor Barnes, Sr.; Raidon Bowles, Sr.; Colton Carter, So.; William Garvin, Jr.; Hunter Thompson, Jr.

over. We've built and developed more into our attacking play. We're a running and passing team."

The Cowapa

"You never know what Valley Catholic's going to bring aboard," Chapman said. "Tillamook I think we can handle, Astoria we're going to handle ... but nobody is being taken lightly. You can't take Scappoose lightly, but they lost some good players, too. They lost their goalkeeper and three of their main guys in the middle of the field."

The Cowapa itself, meanwhile, is down to five teams, as Banks dropped its varsity schedule for 2015.

Seaside has picked up replacement nonleague games with Gladstone and Molalla.




GO GULLS!

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