

Gulls run wild in win over Valiants at Homecoming

EO Media Group

Seaside had a successful Homecoming last Friday night at Broadway Field — Alex Barker made sure of that.

The Gulls' senior running back rushed for 317 yards and four touchdowns to help Seaside to an easy 46-23 win over Valley Catholic, in a Cowapa League opener.

Seaside had three scoring plays of 50 or more yards, beginning with Otto Hoekstre's 75-yard pass to Jaxon Smith in the first quarter.

Barker scored his first touchdown — a 77-yard run — later in the first half, helping the Gulls to a 26-7 halftime lead.

Barker added scoring runs of 59 and 36 yards in the third quarter.

Seaside rolled up 21 first downs and 554 yards in total offense. The Gulls (3-1 overall) play at Tillamook (1-3) Friday.



JEFF TER HAR/ FOR THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Seaside's Alex Barker turns the corner and heads up field for another gain in last Friday's win over Valley Catholic.

Warrenton 20, Nestucca 0

CLOVERDALE — The Warrenton Warriors posted another shutout win over the Nestucca Bobcats Friday, 20-0, in nonleague football action in Cloverdale.

Justice Watson rushed 19 times for two touchdowns and 242 yards, the ninth-best single-game rushing total in school history. Senior David Foster recovered three fumbles, a school record; and Gavon McFadden intercepted three passes to tie a school record for a single game, the last time being Thomas McFadden in 2010.

Warrenton opened the scoring on a 1-yard pass from Preston Miller to Hunter Wilson for a 7-0 halftime lead.

Watson ran for 154 of his yards in the second half, which included a 72-yard run to start the fourth quarter.

The Warriors — who defeated Nestucca 33-0 last year — held the Bobcats to 72 yards total offense.

Knappa 34, Waldport 14

WALDPART — Knappa scored its first victory of the season Friday

night at Waldport, a 34-14 nonleague win over the Irish.

Andrew Goozee "ran the ball really well, our line did a great job of blocking, and defensively we tightened things up," said Knappa coach Aaron Barendse. "Our kids just responded really well. We still have some injuries, and you never know how your kids will get off the bus and play after a long road trip."

Knappa is still without starting quarterback Dale Takalo, with Mason Hoover running the offense in his place.

"Mason is actually playing really well," Barendse said. "He's a tough kid and he had a couple big completions. Goozee also had some big runs."

The win snapped a three-game losing skid for Knappa, which avoided its first 0-4 start since 2012.

Waldport was coming off a 41-22 win over Portland Christian last

week, which snapped a 13-game losing streak for the Irish, who were 0-9 last year.

The Loggers now gear up for their annual Clatsop Clash with Warrenton. The Warriors defeated Knappa 6-0 last season at Warrenton.

Ilwaco 60, Chief Leschi 20

PUYALLUP, Wash. — Ilwaco racked up 352 yards rushing in a 60-20 win over winless Chief Leschi Friday night in Puyallup, Wash.

Jack Kaino led the Fishermen with 237 yards on just 11 carries (over 21 yards per carry), with two touchdowns in the Pacific 2B League win.

Riki Thompson caught a 49-yard TD toss from Jack Odneal, and James Schenk returned an interception 50 yards for a score.

Westerholm: 'kind of cool' to be crowned

Queen from Page 1A

Following high school tradition, female members of the homecoming court rode golf carts onto the field to discover who was selected queen, a process accomplished by each opening a personal bag of balloons — red for the queen and blue for the princesses.

Westerholm opened a bag of red balloons, thinking they were meant for a princess. She looked around to see who received the balloons of a different color, only to find out, "Oh, everybody has the blue ones," she said. "It took me by surprise."

While it wasn't a life dream for her to be crowned homecoming queen, "it was kind of cool," she said.

"To be honest, any one of our girls could have gotten it," she added.

For Westerholm — a stand-out athlete who plays softball, basketball and soccer — playing on the football team was not done on a whim. It's something she wanted for numerous years, and that dream finally came true her senior year.

Since she started in August, Westerholm has undergone the same training as her male counterparts. She takes the sport and her participation seriously.

"I don't want it to be a novelty act," she said. "I'm not doing it because I'm making a statement. I'm doing it because I can, and I want to, and they needed me when I started."

So far, Westerholm is responsible for kicking point after touchdown attempts or PATs, and her teammate and



fellow kicker Taylor Barnes handles field-goal attempts and the starting kick-offs.

The PATs are "pretty easy," Westerholm said. "It's 20 yards, and it's not exactly hard, coming from my soccer background."

She hasn't missed one in a game yet.

The night before her first practice, she was not so confident, though. Expecting the worse, she stayed up watching videos of professionals giving tips for kicking PATs, she said.

"You have to be precise and do the same thing every time," she said.

Because football season coincides with soccer season, Westerholm spends about 45 minutes at football practice before heading to the soccer field. She considers soccer her primary sport. She boasts a 4.0 grade point average and hopes to study viticulture at the University of California at Davis. While she may not try out for a team sport, she would like to compete in intramurals.

Since joining the football team, Westerholm has not faced resistance from her teammates.

"The boys were actually really accepting of me to start off," she said, adding they offered her support and instruction.

She and Barnes, friends off and on the field, feel a little removed from the football family, or that "we're just the kickers," Westerholm said. However, that doesn't stop them from approaching their role with determination and a desire to do their best.

"The other boys put so much work in to succeed," she said. "We just make the load a little lighter when we do our job and make our PATs and make field goals."

Whitney Westerholm kicks an extra point.

JEFF TER HAR/ FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL



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