

Team already stacked with experience

Gulls from Page 4

six weeks (broke ankle in state championship football game). But they have a lot of good athletes in their school, and Rahim (Tufts) is a good coach — they'll figure out a way to make it work. They just won't have a lot of height, so they will try to run an up-tempo game, which we will try to do as well."

He added, "The two teams that have most everybody coming back is us and Astoria."

The Fishermen "have some height and a lot of length. They are going to be a tough team to handle this year."

Fans may get an early-season Clatsop Clash preview in Seaside's Holiday Classic

tournament, Dec. 17-19.

"I have a feeling we'll see Astoria in the championship game of our tournament," Westerholm said.

The Gulls

Current members of the team have already won state titles last spring and this fall.

"We had a lot of success with our kids in the fall season, whether it was cross country or soccer, or both," Westerholm said. "We have 11 returners, and right now all 11 are playing pretty well."

All five starters return, and "we'll have eight or nine kids who see quite a bit of playing time," said the coach.

"Obviously Jackson (Januik, Jr.) will be our

point guard, and Hunter Thompson (Jr.) is a good complement with his athleticism and a motor that just keeps going. He shot the ball well this summer and was one of our leading scorers;

"Jaxson Smith (Sr.) has become more athletic after one year in our system. We're expecting him to have a good season;

"Saoul Cazarez (Sr.) has made vast improvements from last year;

"Attikin Babb (Jr.) seems to be in better shape, and doing a better job of getting inside instead of just relying on his 3-point shooting;

"Austin Eagon (Sr.) is going to be a pretty good load for a lot of teams to handle, and Zach Marston

(Sr.) is a nice compliment to him. He's unorthodox, but he seems to get the job done."

Elsewhere, "Aaron Richardson (Sr.) is getting better, and showing in practice that he can hit an open look;

"Jake Bassett played mostly JV last year, but he had a good summer, and the only thing we need from him is to be more aggressive and get rebounds. He seems to be doing that, and he's a pretty good shooter from 10 to 12 feet."

Michael Lewis (knee surgery in the fall) and Otto Hoekstre (shoulder injury in football) will add depth when healthy.

"We always have big goals," Westerholm said. "We'll be all right."



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Jackson Januik is returning to the Gulls as a point guard this season.

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