

Hood to Coast rebounds in Seaside



EDWARD STRATTON/EO MEDIA GROUP

Bryan Turner was the first runner to cross the Hood to Coast finish line in Seaside shortly after 8 a.m. Saturday. Following is his team, Med 18, a collection of premedical students from Oregon Health & Science University.

Thousands enjoy annual relay event

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The first runners made their way through the early morning mist across the finish line at the Seaside beachfront Saturday morning, arriving a little past 8. The team consisted of runners from Oregon Health & Science University — many premed students — led by team captain Beth Waites.

The runners were Portland-based, starting at 6 p.m. Friday in Portland, running through the night and crossing the next morning.

Waites said they appreciated the cool-down weather, in the high-50s Saturday morning. “It feels really good — especially because in Portland it was brutally hot.”

The run was “awesome,” she added, the rugged outdoor path illuminated by headlight lanterns.

Celebrities on the 198-mile trek to Seaside included comedian and actor Kevin Hart running on the Nike team and American decathlon gold medalist Ashton Eaton, his wife and Canadian Olympian Brienne Theisen-Eaton, Olympians Josh Cox and Lopez Lomong, all running for Team World Vision.

Along with the big names and superstar athletes, more than 17,000 participants on teams of up to 12 people landed in Seaside, running and walking. With most teams sending three volunteers, there were another 3,600 people working the event.

“It’s about showcasing 200 miles of Oregon, culminating here,” said Dan Floyd, chief operating officer for the Hood to Coast Race Series.

The 2015 run came to a rocky conclusion — 85-mph winds shut down the beer garden and vendors, and runners were diverted onto already busy streets. Merchants complained about the chaos and confusion.

Saturday was different. From the tents on the beach to the number of sponsors and spectators, every step showed a rebound for the event, which first came to Seaside in the 1980s.

“It’s 200 miles of improvements,” Floyd said. “It starts with our staff, our focus on customer service. That means neighbors, businesses and everybody else in the community. It’s about treating people well and being respectful of where we operate.”

“I’m just happy to be back on the beach,” Hood to Coast Chief Operating Officer Jude Hubber said Saturday morning. “Everyone just came together last year and talked about what we wanted to see in the future. How we wanted a partnership. Now it’s a partnership beyond all partnerships. It’s exciting.”

The difference this year, according to Floyd, came in communications. Seaside

City Council hearings in October considered options including a change of date for the event or even a change of final destination.

Hood to Coast made it clear they could not accommodate a date change. Not wishing to see the event completely depart from Seaside, city councilors were unanimous in their support of the race for at least 2016 and 2017, with the provision of enhanced communication between race organizers, Seaside businesses and city officials.

Conversations were “absolutely” productive, Floyd said. “It really played out over the last 10 months, because they led to openness and discussions about what we need to do to make this a successful event not only for Hood to Coast participants, for the city, as well.”

“One of the reasons for the change is Brian Owen from the chamber and Jon Rahl of the (Seaside) Visitors Bureau, and the city in general,” Floyd said. “Our relationship’s been excellent.”

“So far everything I’ve seen looks great,” Rahl said Saturday afternoon. “I’ve seen nothing but happy people so far.”



Hood and PDX to Coast Relay teams got colorful with their names, van decorations and costumes.

EDWARD STRATTON/EO MEDIA GROUP



Blindness doesn't hinder Team Eye Rock

Walkers and their guides make good time

By Edward Stratton
EO Media Group

After crossing the finish line for the Portland to Coast walking relay in Seaside, members of Team Eye Rock gathered on the beach to receive their medals.

There were twice as many relay medals to give out for the group, made up of 12 blind and visually impaired walkers and 12 guides who traversed 129 miles over more than 32 hours together.

The teams split up 36 legs ranging from 4 to 8 miles, each taking on at least two. Blind walker Adrienne Lattin and her guide Rachel Buschelman started Friday walking 7.8 miles north on U.S. Highway 30 north from Scappoose Middle School. By 3:45 a.m. Saturday, the two were walking uphill toward the crest of Oregon Highway 203 and into Clatsop County’s woody hinterlands, a total of 6 miles and more than 550 feet of elevation gain in pitch black. Lattin said the experience can be like an emotional roller coaster.

“You go from being exhausted, delirious, and there’s so much laughter, and sometimes people get emotional,” she said. “And then you’re walking, and it’s like this crazy, magical moment when you’re walking

in the middle of the night and it’s so peaceful.”

Buschelman said the conversations often turned more personal, as the two tried to keep each other upbeat while walking down a dark, windy highway in the Clatsop State Forest. The two, who had been training the last month and a half, walked tethered by an elastic band the guides used to help keep the walkers safe from passing cars, branches and other obstacles. Together, they covered nearly 14 miles.

“I don’t see my disability as being a barrier,” said Lattin, who has competed in three Portland to Coast relays.

Colleen Madigan, a visually impaired walker for Team Eye Rock, met her partner Jeff Anderson, a blind walker for the team, at a hiking event on Mount Tabor organized by the Northwest Association for Blind Athletes, also a sponsor of the relay team. The couple see themselves as strong racers, separate of any disability.

“It doesn’t define us, the blindness,” Anderson said.

Madigan bragged of her 19 road kills, a colloquial term for passing other walkers by, on one leg alone.

“I don’t want to be known as just a blind fast racer,” she said. “I want it to be known that I’m a fast racer, that I’m out here doing it. I have an accommodation in the form of a human guide, you know. I get a buddy.”

Seaside boys post soccer win in nonleague play

Gull varsity kickers soar past Aardvarks

EO Media Group

Seaside’s relentless attack looked to be in midseason form Tuesday night at Broadway Field, where the Gulls hosted Oregon Episcopal in a nonleague boys’ soccer game.

It was the season-opener for the Gulls, who dominated for 80 minutes and won 3-0. Seaside outshot the vis-

itors 13-8 and scored twice in the first half, while goalkeeper Jesus Perez scored the shutout in goal.

It took the Gulls a few minutes to establish their attack. An early shot on goal by Juneau Meyer banged off the left post for a miss.

But 9:39 into the contest, Seaside scored its first goal of the season when Jackson Januik centered a pass to Colton Carter, who pounded the ball into the net from 17 yards out.

Ensuing shots on goal by Carter and Henry Chapman were saved by OES keeper Thomas Hochman, before the Gulls made it 2-nil in the 20th minute.

A crossing pass from Chapman caromed off teammate Hunter Thompson, and the ball ended up at the feet of Will Garvin, who scored easily from close range.

Another line drive attempt by Carter with 6:10 left in the first half was saved by Hochman.

The Aardvarks managed to outshoot the Gulls over the final 40 minutes, but Perez made two saves, while five other attempts missed the mark.

Meanwhile, Seaside tacked on goal No. 3 just 8:25 into the second half, when Januik dribbled into the goal box and dropped a short pass to Thompson, who scored his first goal of the season.

Junior Varsity

Seaside 5, OES 0.

Tee off for a good cause

EO Media Group

Seaside Golf Club, presents the first Sunset Park and Recreation Golf Tournament, Saturday, Sept. 24. The event will benefit the organization’s foundation’s scholarships that support “access to positive life activities for children, youth and adults” in the South County. There will be prizes and contests throughout the tournament, with food and beverages available for purchase. Family and friends are welcome.

The golf tournament will

be a four-person, 18-hole shotgun-style tournament. Tee-off time is 9 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Seaside Golf Course, 451 Avenue U.

Tickets are \$100 per person. Carts are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

E-mail sunsetparksandrecfoundation@gmail.com to sign up and select a tee time. Cash and checks are both accepted. Checks can be made out to Sunset Park and Recreation Foundation. Respond by Aug. 31.

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