

GIRLS SOCCER

Garhofer hopes to see that 'fire in the belly'



FILE PHOTO/EO MEDIA GROUP

Lizzy Barnes, right, going against Astoria's Jenna Rudolph in last year's Clatsop Clash, hopes to lead Seaside to a winning season in her senior year.

By Gary Henley
EO Media Group

The 2016 season marks the first year of the "Josh Garhofer Era," as the former Gull soccer player takes over as head coach of the Seaside varsity girls soccer program.

Garhofer replaces Matt Johnson, who led the Lady Gulls for two years, following the retirement of Dave Rouse after the 2013 season. Johnson remains on the coaching staff, as does Rouse.

And Garhofer will have his hands full, as Seaside must replace three all-leaguers, and nine total seniors lost to graduation. The Gulls lost five of their last seven games in 2015 ... and as always, the Cowapa League promises to be one of the best in the state at the 4A level.

SEASIDE GIRLS SOCCER

Coach: Josh Garhofer, 1st year

2015: 4-8-2 (4-6 Cowapa)

All-League Losses: Sophie Trevino; Whitney Westerholm; Alie Zagata

All-League Returners: Bryre Babbitt, Jr.; Lizzy Barnes, Sr.

"Our goal is the same every year: Get to the finals," Garhofer said. "But first and foremost I want the group to really come together and be a team. Winning is important, but the most important aspect is to have a love and appreciation for the game.

"I want to see them have that 'fire in their bellies.' An old coach of mine would repeat that. I believe they have it."

The Cowapa

The "Conference of Champions" performs well in just about every sport — none more so than girls soccer.

Scappoose is the defending state champion at the 4A level, as the Indians beat Valley Catholic in the semifinals and finished the season a perfect 18-0.

Scappoose was brutal on the North Coast teams last year, outscoring Astoria and Seaside by a combined 35-0 in four games.

Scappoose will still be forced to reload, following the graduation of 10 seniors. Valley Catholic lost nine seniors, making 2016 a good year to rebuild and possibly challenge the upper half of the league.

The Cowapa had three teams in the 2014 quarter-finals, with Valley Catholic winning the state title; and Scappoose won it all in 2013, as the Cowapa (whichever team it may be) will be attempting to win its fourth straight state championship.

The Valiants actually won the state title at the 3A/2A/1A level in 2013, making it four state titles won by Cowapa League teams in the last

three years. Let's see another league do that.

The Lady Gulls

Last year's varsity team had a lot of seniors, four freshmen ... and not much in between.

Now, however, the Gulls have seven seniors on the current roster, as they gained some first-year varsity seniors.

Seaside will look to Lizzy Barnes and Morgan Brown as the two senior leaders this season. Barnes is a returning all-league midfielder.

"Both (Barnes and Brown) have a strong sense of the game and I look forward to seeing what they will do this season," Garhofer said. "Getting Sydney Villegas back from a hiatus on soccer last year will also boost our team."

Elsewhere, having solid juniors such as Bryre Babbitt and Corrie Falleur "is always helpful," he said. "Being able to slot into any spot as well as giving our back line a strong presence is very important.

"Kirstin Lent (Sr.) and GeriAnn Klaffke (Jr.) will be our goalkeepers," he said. "Being unafraid of the ball is a rare thing to find in some keepers, and I am very excited to see their growth."

Adding youthful depth to the roster, Garhofer said, "sophomores Chloe Bartel, Katie Zagata, Audrey Kunde and Maddie Brown will also be very important to our success.

"Having one year of varsity soccer under their belt, I expect them to be more confident with the ball."

New additions to the team include Patricia Granillo, Paola Campuzano, Dania Nolzco and Jessica Angulo-Joli.

"All four came into practice fighting for a spot," said the coach. "They have earned it."

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GULLS

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