

Gulls like the taste of success

By Gary Henley
EO Media Group

If you've got a free night and nothing better to do, buy a ticket and check out a Seaside boys basketball game. The Gulls know how to put on a show, and you won't be disappointed.

The Seaside boys lost most of their height off a team that played for a state championship last season, but the Gulls are still loaded with talent — both returning and incoming — and if you're a fan of run 'n' gun, high-scoring basketball — this will be a team you don't want to miss.

A majority of their playmakers will be under six-foot, so expect a fast-paced game, with lots of long-range shooting.

"There might be times when we have four or five guards on the floor at the same time," said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm. "It might

SEASIDE BOYS BASKETBALL

Coach: Bill Westerholm, 19th year
2015-16: 23-4 (8-2 Cowapa)
Playoffs: Defeated Astoria (54-27) and Scappoose (56-48) in state tournament, lost to Philomath (45-55) in state championship.
All-League Losses: Austin Eagon, Zach Marston, Jaxson Smith
All-League Returners: Jackson Januik, Sr. (co-MVP), Hunter Thompson, Sr.

turn into a track meet. That's what it's going to be. We have kids who are in really good shape. If we get into a half-court, defensive game, we might struggle. But we feel our guards are better than most guards we'll face."

In fact, "I think I might go the opposite way on our roster this year. Instead of raising them an inch, I'll make them all 5-7 or 5-8. We're going to be a short team that presses the heck out of teams, and gets up and down the floor. That's our goal."

Seaside advanced to the state

championship game for the first time in school history last year, only to come up short in the title game against Philomath.

With two returning all-league players — including the Player of the Year for the entire state — the Seaside boys will be seen as one of the top contenders at the 4A level.

The Cowapa

With the exception of losses to Valley Catholic and Astoria in a four-day span last season, the Cowapa League belonged to the Gulls, who won by an average of 14.5 points in their eight league wins.

Pretty impressive, considering that three Cowapa teams were playing on the final day of the season at the state tournament. The Gulls finished second, Astoria took fourth and Scappoose placed fifth. Of the six 20-win teams at the 4A level last year, three were from the Cowapa.



JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Hunter Thompson drives to the basket.

If it's possible, the state's toughest 4A league could be even tougher in 2016-17.

"Banks has most everybody back, and they've got some height; and Valley Catholic only lost two seniors and they will be tough to beat,"

Westerholm said. "It's going to be a toss-up. Tillamook has a lot of good kids coming back, with some height and some outside shooters.

"Astoria lost their big guys from

See Basketball, Page 5B



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but of power and love and discipline.**

2 Timothy 1:7

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