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FRIDAY

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SeasideSignal.com

SEASIDE Sports



Winter Sports

BOYS BASKETBALL

FOR GULLS, LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Gulls No. 1 in the Cowapa

EO Media Group

TILLAMOOK — Goal No. 1 is officially out of the way for the Seaside boys basketball team.

In a possible state championship preview, the Gulls defeated Valley Catholic, 71-59, Tuesday night in Tillamook to officially lock up bragging rights atop the Cowapa League.

The teams actually shared the official league title, with the Gulls winning Tuesday's tune-up for the state playoffs.

Not much else was on the line in the game, the third meeting of the season between the Gulls and Valiants. Both teams had locked up their free passes to the Sweet 16, win or lose.

Seaside is No. 1 and the Valiants No. 2 in the latest OSAA rankings, and the rankings were going to remain the same, no matter the outcome of Tuesday's game.

The Gulls will host an opponent (to be determined) March 5, followed by a trip to the state tournament, March 9-11.

After losing to Valley Catholic in their previous meeting Feb. 10, the Gulls overcame an early six-point deficit and sprinted past the bigger Valiants with ease in the second half, in a game that featured 11 lead changes.

Valley Catholic held a 35-34 halftime lead, before the Gulls went on a 3-pointer rampage in the third and fourth quarters.

The Valiants held a 43-42 advantage midway through the third, when Payton Westerholm scored on a layup, giving Seaside the lead for good.

Chase Januik followed with a 3-pointer, as he and Hunter Thompson combined for six 3-pointers over the final 16 minutes. The Gulls played their run-and-gun, steal-and-score game after that, running circles around the Valiants.

Januik capped his night with a four-point play in the closing minutes, as the Gulls ran away with the win.

Seaside had four players in double figures, led by Jackson Januik with 22, and followed by Attikin Babb (13), Chase Januik (12) and Thompson (11).

Boys defeat Braves

BANKS — It was gut-check time for the Seaside boys basketball team Thursday night at Banks.

With a league title on the line and their two seniors having fouled out of the game,



JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Jackson Januik scored a game-high 22 points for the Gulls, who will have more than a week off before their next game.

the Gulls responded when they needed it most — in overtime — for a 70-68 win over the Braves.

Sophomore Chase Januik's jump shot in the closing seconds proved to be the winning point.

"It was nice to see our kids battle a little adversity, playing without the seniors when the game was on the line," said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm. "You don't see that very often, with sophomores carrying you in overtime. They were a little frantic at first (in the OT), but we settled down and made some big plays."

Coupled with Valley Catholic's win over Tillamook, the Gulls and Valiants (ranked first and second in the state, respectively) finish in a tie atop the Cowapa League standings at 9-1, and will play a tie-breaker/seeding game in a doubleheader Tuesday at Tillamook, 7:45 p.m. (Seaside girls play for the No. 1 seed vs. Banks at 6 p.m.).

Seaside controlled most of the first half, as the Gulls turned a 12-10 deficit into a 21-12 lead early in the second quarter.

Hunter Thompson's seven first-half points helped Seaside to a 27-21 lead at the break.

But the Braves — coming off a big victory at Astoria Tuesday — rallied behind 3-pointers from Dalton Renne and Ian Hutchins to

tie the game at 32-32, before Payton Westerholm and Thompson answered with 3-pointers of their own for a 44-41 lead going into the fourth quarter.

The Braves rallied again, as Jake Evans knocked down a trey midway through the quarter, and Hutchins and Kylan Taylor added long-range bombs to give Banks a 54-49 lead.

Before fouling out late in regulation, Jackson Januik made four key free throws (and finished 10-for-10 from the line), and the Gulls were able to grab a 61-57 lead.

But in a wild fourth quarter, Taylor hit four straight free throws for Banks in the final minute to send the game to overtime.

Thompson fouled out early in the overtime session, but Seaside's young players answered the call.

Chase Januik scored on a jumper to tie the game at 63-63, Westerholm hit a 3-pointer and sophomore Duncan Thompson added a basket at the 1:53 mark for a 68-63 lead.

"Chase made a nice jumper in the key, then Babb and Payton both had big three's for us," coach Westerholm said. "But it seemed like every time we made a run, they would come back with one. They're a good team. They made nine 3s, and Hutchins had four of them."

Athletes OF THE WEEK

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MADDI UTTI

Basketball

Utti finished up her home career with a 23-point, seven-rebound performance in a 57-33 win over Junction City Feb. 25.

The senior had 14 points in Seaside's unprecedented 32-0 run that led to a 39-7 halftime lead.

Recently named the Cowapa League's Player of the Year, Utti and the Gulls play Saturday at Molalla, for a chance to compete in the state tournament for the fourth straight year.



JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

JACKSON JANUIK

Basketball

The senior only played in one game last week — but was still a double-winner, as Januik was named the Cowapa League's Player of the Year.

A favorite to win his second straight 4A state Player of the Year award, Januik led Seaside with 22 points in a tie-breaker/seeding game win over Valley Catholic Feb. 21.

Januik and the No. 1-ranked Gulls begin their march towards a possible state title Friday, when they host Cascade in a Sweet 16 game.

SEAGULLS VARSITY SCOREBOARD

FINAL STANDINGS

	Cowapa League Boys	League Overall	Overall
Seaside	9-1	20-1	
Valley Catholic	9-1	17-5	
Banks	5-5	16-6	
Tillamook	4-6	10-16	
Scappoose	2-8	7-14	
Astoria	1-9	10-13	

	Cowapa League Girls	League Overall	Overall
Banks	9-1	19-2	
Seaside	9-1	17-4	
Valley Catholic	6-4	16-8	
Astoria	4-6	9-16	
Tillamook	1-9	5-18	
Scappoose	1-9	3-19	

	GIRLS BASKETBALL
Seaside 57, Junction City 33	

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JC (33): Madison Mehlbrech 13, Bruhn 6, Chappell 5, Ohman 4, Evans 2, Hernandez 2, Fox 1.
 SEA (57): Maddi Utti 23, Villegas 17, Hoekstre 5, Ideue 4, Kiser 3, Garhofer 3, Babbitt 2, Smart, Bodner, Falleur.

Junction City 7 0 7 19-33
 Seaside 22 17 16 2-57
 Banks 60, Seaside 46
 BAN (60): Sydney Gregg 21, Sifka 15, Nelson 7, Gerlinger 6, Ragsdale 5, Klein

4, Wren 2.
 SEA (46): Maddi Utti 24, Villegas 8, Babbitt 7, Kiser 3, Ideue 2, Garhofer 2, Smart, Bodner, Hoekstre.
 Banks 11 14 11 24-60
 Seaside 13 2 19 12-46

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaside 71, Valley Catholic 59
 VC (59): Daniel Hardy 20, Plambeck 12, Haggerty 7, Robbins 6, Grassberger 5, Welsh 5, Braun 2, Katin 2.
 SEA (71): Jackson Januik 22, Babb 13, C.Januik 12, H.Thompson 11, Westerholm 4, D.Thompson 4, Hoekstre 2.
 Valley Catholic 17 18 11 13-59
 Seaside 16 18 19 18-71

BASKETBALL

Januik scores MVP honors

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Last year's Cowapa League co-Player of the Year received this year's award all to himself, as Seaside senior Jackson Januik was selected as the boys basketball MVP for the 2016-17 season.

Januik — also a leading candidate for the 4A state Player of the Year award — was one of five Seaside players on the all-league

team, as the league co-champion Gulls had all five starters on the all-league squad, as did Valley Catholic.

Seaside's Bill Westerholm and Valley Catholic's Joel Sobotka shared the annual co-Coach of the Year honor.

Januik was joined on the first-team by senior teammates Attikin Babb and Hunter Thompson, and sophomore Chase Januik.

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