

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

## GULLS DEFENSE STRONG IN WIN

Champs from Page 1A

role to Jackson Januik and Hunter Thompson last year.

This year, it was Westerholm, Chase Januik and Duncan Thompson carrying the load. The trio combined for 35 points in Saturday's win. Januik led the way with 17 points and five assists.

"It's a new team," Westerholm said. "We were role players on the team last year, now we're the captains, and we have to take on bigger roles. It feels like more of an accomplishment for us."

Chase Januik, whose brother Jackson was state Player of the Year the last two seasons, had to fill the role left by big bro.

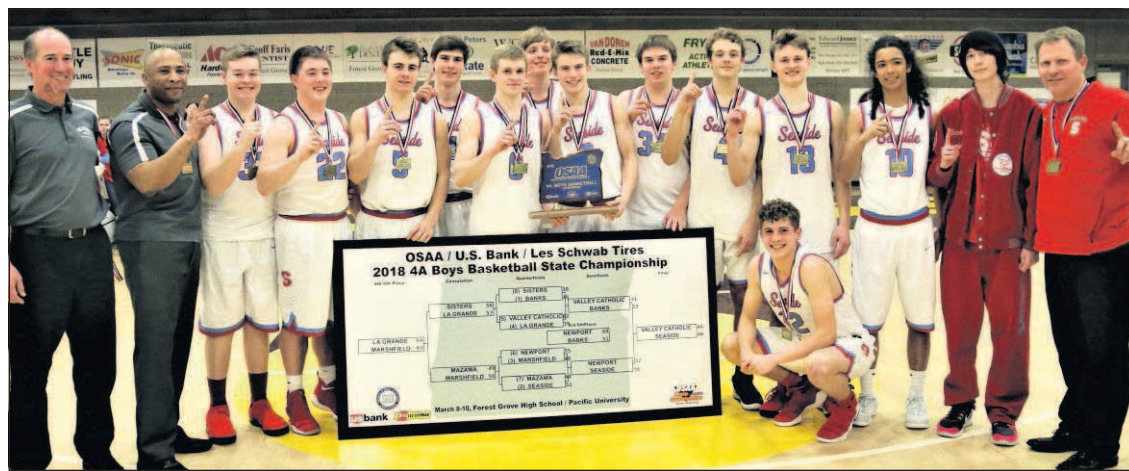
"Last year we were expected to win all season as the No. 1 seed," Chase said. "This year, at the start of the season, we didn't even think we were that good, and didn't realize it until the end of league. We were surprised to be here."

Still, Seaside was the heavily-favored team Saturday, as the No. 2 seed Gulls were playing in their third straight state championship contest and seeking their fifth consecutive win over the No. 5 seed Valiants.

Going back to last year, the Gulls had won four straight over their league rivals, with two wins (51-35 and 57-50) during this year's league season.

The Valiants didn't make it easy, however.

Valley Catholic was coming off a win over No. 1 Banks the



The 2017-18 4A state champion Seaside boys basketball team.

JEFF TER HARVEO MEDIA GROUP

**SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE RIDE, SEASIDE. THESE ARE YOUR GLORY YEARS.**

night before, a game in which the Braves lost Dalton Renne to an injury, when the Cowapa League's Player of the Year slammed to the floor following a dunk attempt early in Friday's semifinal.

"I think Banks would have beat Valley Catholic had (Renne) been there, and it would have been a different challenge for us," Januik said. "But we beat (the Braves) at home, and we know what it takes to beat them. It would have been a great game."

As it was, the Valiants still had hopes of an upset in Saturday's final, as they rallied from a 17-12 deficit with a 3-pointer by Davis Johnson, and scores from Ben Robbins and Jack Grasberger for a 23-19 halftime lead.

But for a team that's rallied from halftime deficits this year of 17 and 12 points, a four-point deficit was a drop in the bucket for the Gulls. Seaside went 3-point crazy in the third quarter, with Beau Johnson, Januik, Ryan Hague and Westerholm knocking down triples. By the end of the period, the Gulls had doubled their first half points and held a 38-35 lead.

"Their 1-3-1 zone was bothering us, and we slowed the game down so much — it had to be a boring game for our fans to watch," coach Westerholm said of the first half. "So our adjustment was to flatten the zone out a little, push the ball up the floor and not let them get set. We were

going to force this thing into a full-court game. It worked."

And the fans got their money's worth in the fourth quarter, which featured three ties and four lead changes.

Valley Catholic's Andrew Plambeck made two free throws for a 42-40 lead at the 5:00 mark, and Seaside answered with an offensive rebound score by Westerholm and Januik's jumper along the baseline for a 44-43 lead.

The Valiants made 2-of-4 free throws to pull even at 44-44 with 1:32 remaining.

The first two games of the tournament, the Gulls were a combined 20-for-39 from the free throw line. But they finally passed the free throw test in the final 47 seconds,

as Hague and Westerholm each went 2-for-2 from the line to secure the victory.

Trailing by two, Valley Catholic missed a 3-point attempt before fouling Westerholm with five seconds left, leading to Westerholm's two clinching points.

Seaside did not set any scoring records this postseason, but their defense came to the rescue, allowing an average of just 43 points in four playoff games.

"At the start of the year, I thought we were more of an offensive team," Januik said. "But towards the end and the start of the playoffs, it felt like we turned into the best defensive team in the state. Everyone just stepped up their game, and as a defense, we just became unstoppable."

With four of their five starters returning next season, the Gulls will be heavily favored to win it all next year as well. Only time will tell how many more state titles this group will win. Keep in mind that Seaside has one of the strongest youth programs in the state, so there's more talent on the way.

"We've built the program from the ground up, the kids know how to win, and we're going to be good for a while," coach Westerholm said.

Januik delivered a strong message to rest of the 4A world after the game: "We're going to be better than ever next year. We'll be looking for a three-peat."

For now, sit back and enjoy the ride, Seaside. These are your Glory Years.

**FINAL FOUR**

## Win over Mazama sent Gulls to Final Four

By Gary Henley  
EO Media Group

FOREST GROVE — In the first of three games in three days, and the Seaside boys basketball team took step one Thursday, March 8, in Forest Grove, where they cruised to a 51-44 win over Mazama in a Class 4A quarterfinal game at Forest Grove High School.

Seaside struggled offensively for a half, then pulled away in the third quarter and held off a late challenge by the Vikings, as all eyes were on the defending state champions in Thursday's last game.

For the third year in a row, it was on to the

Final Four for Seaside.

The Gulls split two games with Newport in the regular season. The Cubs scored a rare win at Seaside in the Holiday Classic, before the Gulls got revenge with a 64-63 win at Newport Jan. 5.

As for Thursday's win, the Gulls picked up where they left off following last week's 43-32 win over Gladstone, involving themselves in a low-scoring, defensive battle. An offensive rebound basket by Colton Carter gave Seaside an early 9-2 lead, and Chase Januik's 3-pointer to end the first quarter had Seaside in front, 12-6. Even fewer points in the second period ended with the Gulls leading at half-

time, 20-10.

Carter added another score and Januik's drive to the hoop in the closing seconds gave Seaside the 10-point lead.

The offense ran a little smoother for the Gulls in the second half. A jump shot by Ryan Hague, a 3-pointer from Beau Johnson and a Januik jumper gave Seaside a 27-16 lead midway through the third quarter.

A triple from Brayden Johnson and a three-point play the hard way by Payton Westerholm at the 2:00 mark basically put the game away, at 35-20. Mazama made a late run in the fourth quarter, but never threatened the Seaside lead.

**SEMIFINALS**

## Gulls rallied to defeat Newport in semifinal

By Gary Henley  
EO Media Group

FOREST GROVE — Seaside secured its spot in the Class 4A boys basketball state championship game with a 56-52 win over Newport, late Friday night.

In Friday's semifinal, the Gulls had to rally from a 33-27 halftime deficit, and did so by outscoring Newport 14-9 in the third quarter, followed by a 9-1 run to start the fourth.

Payton Westerholm scored his first points of the night early in the fourth period to give Seaside a 43-42 lead. Moments later, Chase Januik scored his first basket of the game for a 45-42 advantage, and the Gulls never trailed again.

Westerholm added a 3-pointer, and Seaside turned a 39-36 third quarter deficit into 52-43 lead midway through the fourth, following a 16-4 run.

The Cubs made a late rally and pulled to within 53-52 on a short jumper by Kyle Blaser with 27 seconds left, but Januik drained a pair of free throws with 17 seconds remaining, and teammate Beau Johnson made 1-of-2 for the final point.

Seaside's Ryan Hague scored 11 points in the first quarter, on his way to a 23-point night.

After they were both held scoreless through three quarters, Januik and Westerholm combined for 15 points in the fourth.

Newport outshot Seaside (46 percent to 39 percent) and the Cubs outrebounded the Gulls 36-29, but Newport had 23 turnovers to Seaside's nine.

**SEAGULLS VARSITY SCOREBOARD**

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**Seaside 48, Valley Catholic 44**  
Valley Catholic 7 16 12 9—44  
Seaside 10 9 19 10—48

**Valley Catholic (44):** Jack Grasberger 16, Andrew Plambeck 13, Daniel Pruitt 8, Ben Robbins 4, Davis Johnson 3, Trey Eberhart, Peter Boileau, Jack Tetzloff.

**Seaside (48):** Chase Januik 17, Payton Westerholm 10, Duncan Thompson 8, Brayden Johnson 5, Ryan Hague 5, Beau Johnson 3, Colton Carter.

**Field goals:** Valley 16-39; Seaside 17-32.  
3-point FG: Valley 2-14 (Johnson, Plambeck); Seaside 7-17 (Januik 2, Westerholm 2, Hague, Be.Johnson, Br.Johnson). Free throws: Valley 10-15; Seaside 7-13. Fouls: Valley 15, Seaside 16. Fouled out: none. Turnovers: Valley 7, Seaside 20 (Hague 5).

**Players of the Game:** Valley C.-Jack Grasberger; Seaside-Chase Januik.

**Seaside 56, Newport 52**  
Newport 11 22 9 10—52  
Seaside 15 12 14 15—56

**Newport (52):** Kyle Blaser 16, Jose Ponciano 16, Justin Plechaty 9, Jack Fisher 5, Bryan Tapia 3, Matt Beaudry 3, Carson Martinson, Drew Sain.

**Seaside (56):** Ryan Hague 23, Payton Westerholm 9, Beau Johnson 9, Chase Januik 6, Duncan Thompson 6, Brayden Johnson 2, Colton Carter 1, Rafi Sibony.

**Field goals:** Newport 19-41; Seaside 21-54.  
3-point FG: Newport 9-22 (Ponciano 5, Plechaty 2, Fisher, Tapia); Seaside 5-25 (Hague 2, Be. Johnson 2, Westerholm). Free throws: Newport 5-10; Seaside 9-17. Fouls: Newport 16, Seaside 13. Fouled out: none. Turnovers: Newport 23, Seaside 9. Rebounds: Newport 36 (Blaser 16); Seaside 29 (Westerholm 7).

**Players of the Game:** Newport-Kyle Blaser; Seaside-Ryan Hague.

**Seaside 51, Mazama 44**  
Mazama 6 4 15 19—44  
Seaside 12 8 17 14—51

**Mazama (44):** Andrew Reynolds 18, Mario Segura 10, Trey Lopez 6, Aidan Schram 5, Javon Hall 4, Steven Luna 1, Christian Kasper.

**Seaside (51):** Ryan Hague 13, Payton Westerholm 12, Chase Januik 11, Beau Johnson 6, Colton Carter 4, Brayden Johnson 3, Duncan

Thompson 2, Rafi Sibony.

**Field goals:** Mazama 16-58; Seaside 18-50.  
3-point FG: Mazama 2-17 (Lopez, Reynolds); Seaside 4-23 (Januik, Westerholm, Be.Johnson, Br.Johnson). Free throws: Mazama 10-16; Seaside 11-22. Fouls: Mazama 17, Seaside 16. Fouled out: none. Turnovers: Mazama 14, Seaside 9. Rebounds: Mazama 47 (Reynolds 11, Segura 11); Seaside 37 (Hague 10).

**Players of the Game:** Mazama-Andrew Reynolds; Seaside-Ryan Hague.

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**

**First Team**  
Grant Webster, Jr., Marshfield  
Kye Blaser, Sr., Newport  
Ryan Hague, So., Seaside  
Blake Gobel, Jr., Banks  
Daniel Pruitt, So., Valley Catholic

**Second Team**  
Andrew Plambeck, Sr., Valley Catholic  
Nojah Chamberlain, Sr., La Grande  
Chase Januik, Jr., Seaside  
Ty Horner, Sr., Sisters  
Dalton Renne, Sr., Banks

Sportsmanship: Newport

**4A STATE TOURNAMENT**

**4A Boys Championship**  
Seaside 48, Valley Catholic 44

**Third/Fifth place**  
Newport 68, Banks 51

**Fourth/Sixth place**  
Marshfield 69, La Grande 64

**4A Girls Championship**  
Marshfield 48, Cascade 41

**Third/Fifth place**  
North Marion 65, Banks 57

**Fourth/Sixth place**  
Valley Catholic 37, Stayton 35

**Seaside state champions (Since 2000)**  
2001 Seaside boys track (3A)  
2014 Seaside boys golf  
2015 Seaside boys golf  
2015 Seaside boys cross country  
2017 Seaside boys basketball  
2018 Seaside boys basketball

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