

## Gulls could be the league's most improved squad



FILE PHOTO

Duncan Thompson is one of several talented pitcher/infielders on the Seaside baseball roster.

By Gary Henley  
Seaside Signal

It's the price you pay when you have a great basketball team.

While other baseball teams are out practicing, many of your players are still shooting 3-pointers and winning championships.

So it is with Seaside. After most teams began practices Feb. 26, the Gulls had exactly four days between their last basketball game and the first baseball contest.

In his 21st year as the Seaside coach, Joel Dierickx was pleased with a 2-2 start after four games.

"It's a good measuring stick of where we're at and what we need to work on,"

Dierickx said. "There's a lot of areas that need work. (The basketball players) had only three practices, for the most part. We'll figure it out."

### The Cowapa

"I think Banks is head and shoulders above everybody else," Dierickx said. "They're a real solid team, in all facets. From athleticism to speed, good pitching and contact hitting. They're just super solid.

"And Astoria's always going to be there," he said. "They will always be tough. Tillamook is a much-improved team. Scappoose has quality. It's like any other sport — the Cowapa League is going to very, very strong."

Seaside finished 4-11 in league play last year, which included three wins over Til-

lamook and a season-ending victory over Scappoose.

### The Gulls

Most area coaches see the Gulls as possibly the most-improved team.

"We're hoping," Dierickx said. "We have a lot of experience coming back, and some athleticism. Combined with some baseball knowledge and doing things the right way, maybe we can win some of the closer games we've had."

Call it "young experience," because the Gulls only have four seniors. Several juniors have been starting since their freshman season.

The Gulls had six pitchers listed on their preseason roster, but "we'll see how that pans out," Dierickx said.

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