

BoysGolf



JIM POETSCH/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Seaside golfers Mason Crawford, Mason Shamion, Curtis Kunde, Jackson Kunde and Connor Merrell following the Gulls' win at The Dalles.

Gulls looking for return to top on the golf course

By Gary Henley
Seaside Signal

It's been a great year for boys sports at Seaside High School, with state playoff appearances in football and boys soccer, and of course another state title in basketball.

One team that's always competitive: coach Jim Poetsch's boys golf squad.

After winning state titles in 2014 and 2015, the Gulls are once again part of the state championship discussion.

Especially after their performance in the first two meets of 2018.

The Gulls came up 20 strokes short of state contender Valley Catholic in a dual meet March 21, and two days later, Seaside finished ahead of a field that included

all 5A schools in The Dalles Invitational.

If they don't win a state title this year, the Gulls will be right back in the running in 2019, with most of their golfers returning.

The leader and lone senior for the varsity is Jackson Kunde, who placed ninth individually in last year's district meet.

Rounding out Seaside's usual top five are juniors Connor Merrell, Mason Shamion and Samson Sibony, along with freshman Curtis Kunde, who tied his brother Jackson for Seaside's top score in The Dalles Invite.

After the loss to the Valiants, Poetsch said, "We had 14 double bogeys, two triples and two quadruples today. If we can turn those into bogeys, we win this match. Even with those holes, we

are light years ahead of where we were at this time last season.

"All of our returners scored much better than their opening scores from a year ago and our freshman, Curtis Kunde, was able to get those first match jitters out of the way.

"Valley Catholic is a team I expect to compete for the state title in May, and they only got us by 20 on a day we gave 42 strokes away on blowup holes. As the season progresses, we will learn to limit damage and I expect we will have a very successful year."

Junior Mason Crawford has also seen time with the varsity, while Seaside's current junior varsity includes Chris Bodner, Leif DeWinter, Nick Mace and John Whittle.

GirlsGolf



SEASIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Madi Grim, Tristyn McFadden, Sydney Rapp and Caitlin Hillman comprise the 2018 Seaside girls golf team.

Gulls girls like where they stand on the links

By Gary Henley
Seaside Signal

The Seaside girls golf team enters the 2018 season in much better shape than they finished 2017.

Last year, the final tournament of the year for the Gulls was the district tourney at Forest Hills, in which Seaside had only three scoring golfers (to qualify for state as a team, you need at least four).

For now, the Gulls are back to four. And maybe five.

Either way, it's still going to be a young group for second-year coach Mike Verhulst.

Seaside played its first

two tournaments of 2018 with sophomores Caitlin Hillman and Sydney Rapp, and freshmen Madi Grimm and Tristyn McFadden, who is currently listed as the Gulls' No. 1 golfer.

Hillman is the only returner from last season, one of the three Seaside players in the Cowapa League meet and Regionals. Top golfer Caroline Kotson has graduated.

Only three of the Cowapa schools had four or more golfers in last year's league meet, won by Valley Catholic, ahead of Astoria and Scappoose.

Oregon Episcopal won the district meet, which serves as the qualifying

tournament for state.

"I'm excited to see how the girls progress throughout the season, and look forward to continuing to grow the program," Verhulst said. "The girls are eager to move into league play and get experience with the new scoring format for the matches (modified Stableford). A huge focus for our program will be developing our short game."

And the Gulls may add one more golfer to the roster at some point.

"It looks like we may be adding a fifth golfer to the mix with a recent out-of-state transfer student," Verhulst said. "We look forward to adding her into the mix for league matches."