

SEASIDE TOPS GLADSTONE



JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Brayden Johnson crosses the goal line after catching a pass from Alexander Teubner in last Saturday's win over Gladstone.

BOUND FOR FINAL

Gulls from Page 1A

"This is pretty amazing for this community. I can't say enough about how proud I am of these kids, my coaches and these fans."

And if he ever came across the Seaside football team, the old coach and former announcer John Madden would say, "to win, build a lead, then give 'em a heavy dose of Alexander Teubner."

That seems to be all it takes right now for the Gulls, who will face Banks next Saturday, time and place to be announced.

Teubner rushed for 168 yards and a touchdown on 21 carries, threw a touchdown pass (his first), and was named the OSAA's Player of the Game for Seaside.

"We've been talking about (reaching the state championship) since we were in the third and fourth grade," Teubner said. "The basketball team's had their chance, now it's kind of our turn to fulfill what we think is our destiny."

The Gulls haven't played a perfect game yet in the playoffs, but Seaside is the best team still standing in 4A football.

Seaside had three turnovers in the first half of Saturday's playoff — all inside its own 34-yard line — but the Gladiators could only manage six points off those turnovers. In addition, Gladstone missed two point-after kicks and a short field goal, and continually shot itself in the foot with 11 penalties for 143 yards.

Meanwhile, the Seaside defense was doing its best impression of a brick wall, making the key stops when they were needed.

And it's nice when your go-to player in the fourth quarter also happens to be the state Player of the Year.

Seaside's catcher in baseball is also the Gulls' closer in football, as Teubner secured the win by carrying the ball eight straight times on Seaside's final drive to run out the clock.

"Alexander is the best offensive football player in the state at the 4A level," Roberts said. "If he doesn't win the



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Seaside's Alexander Teubner gets ready to launch the first pass of his high school career, a 46-yard touchdown to Brayden Johnson.

Player of the Year (award), there's something wrong. You can print that. That's the reality of it.

"The kid has over 2,000 yards and 40 touchdowns. And he throws one today? The kid is special. Above everything, he's a hard worker and a great team leader.

"But Gio Ramirez and Duncan Thompson have also done a great job all year, and with our offensive line, we like to run the ball and we're going to continue to run the ball."

High winds on the field Saturday may have led to two fumbled punts by the Gulls, and Seaside also lost a fumble at its own 34. But the Gladiators let a golden opportunity to build a first half lead slip through their hands, and resulted in nothing more than a 10-point halftime deficit.

With the wind, "Those were hard balls to field," Roberts said. "Those things were knuckling all over the place, so we made some adjustments at the half, like not fielding punts. We turned it over in some tough spots, and the defense was awesome."

Pre-snap penalties also cost the Gladiators.

On both of Seaside's touchdowns in the first half, the Gulls — who were lined up to kick the point-after score — instead decided twice to go for two points when the Gladiators jumped offsides. And Seaside converted both two-point conversions.

After spotting Gladstone a 6-0 lead two minutes into the game, Seaside (eventually) responded, with a 41-yard touchdown run by Teubner to cap a four-play, 65-yard drive.

The Seaside defense forced a three-and-out, and the Gulls took the lead for good six plays later, when Teubner took a pitch from Payton Westerholm, then casually tossed a 46-yard touchdown pass to Brayden Johnson.

"That one was (put in) last week," Teubner said. "That was my first completion, too. That worked out pretty well."

Gladstone drew to within 16-13 on a 16-play, 80-yard drive that ate up most of the third quarter. From there, the Seaside defense rose up on the Gladiators' next possession and stuffed a fourth down play at the Gladstone 29.

Two plays later, Westerholm scored the game-winner on a 33-yard run with 10:45 left in the game.

That was enough time for one more Gladiator score, a 23-yard pass from Jake Gehrke to J.P. Peterson.

But Seaside ran out the clock by giving the Gladiators their heavy dose of Teubner, who had consecutive runs of six, 10, 13, five and 11 yards in the final minutes.

"That's a testament to our line," Teubner said. "They've done a hell of a job all year, and they were able to give me a hole and get four or five yards."

Westerholm converted a fourth-and-three with a five-yard run, and Teubner had two more carries for 11 yards, running his season total to 2,209 yards and 41 touchdowns.

Earlier this season, the Gulls defeated Gladstone 70-46. But it wasn't surprising to see 74 fewer points on the scoreboard Saturday.

"We knew that 70 probably wasn't going to happen again," Teubner said, "and we had to play a full team game to do what we had to do and come out with a win, to play one more week."

Memories from Seagulls' football glory days past

The year was 1994. I was a pretty normal sixth-grade student, one of the first sixth-graders to attend Broadway Middle School.

I had yet to strap on a football helmet and shoulder pads as the youth football program of our community had not taken shape. But like many Seaside youth during that time, we rooted for the Seaside Seagulls.

I've closely followed the success of the Seaside football team this year which has stirred up memories of my youth, watching my older brother Ben and his teammates run through their regular season and playoff competition of Burns, Molalla, Junction City and, eventually for the state championship, Brookings-Harbor. That game was played at Autzen Stadium on the campus of the University of Oregon.

SKY BOX
SKYLER ARCHIBALD



I have many memories of those experiences, traveling to the games and cheering on the team. But one of the most impactful recollections that I have of that season was one that may have slipped under the radar after all these years.

The year 1994 may seem like it wasn't that long ago but this was before the technological and media advances of our day and at least my 11-year old mind did not realize that the championship game would be played on a turf field. This was also before the change in artificial grass technology so when I say turf,

I mean that bright green carpet that was heavily used in wet and indoor climates and frequently referred to as "Astroturf."

The surface required special shoes that were designed for the carpet like field and those were luxuries that Seaside High School football players — up until that time at least — did not need. The footwear of the day was big, bulky and hunkered down by rubber or metal tipped cleats that would give the athletes at least a little traction on the playing surfaces at the time, which would typically be pretty sloppy by the end of the year.

The game was played the Saturday after Thanksgiving, like this year's contest will be. On Thanksgiving Day, the local news came to the high school practice. That practice, due to some wet weather,

was held in the Seaside High School gym. I can fondly recall watching the head coach of the Gulls at the time, Stubby Lyons, be interviewed.

I don't recall how it happened or who paid for it. But by some stroke of generosity, each of the players were given a pair of turf shoes to wear for the upcoming championship game. It was my understanding at the time that the turf shoes were arranged and purchased by some charitable local resident who wished to remain anonymous, although I may be misremembering the experience.

The Gulls went to Eugene and came home champions. A team and a community were captivated by the experience. Generations of future athletes developed the aspirations of future state championships. But, to my recollection at least, perhaps

none of it would have happened without the gift of the shoes.

My brother kept his shoes for some time. I remember seeing them around our house and they stood as a testament of his experiences and the championship run of that team. But for me, they endured as evidence of the generosity of our community and the giving spirit that so many here embody.

Both as a youth and now as an adult, I've seen countless individuals contribute to the betterment of our community. So much of what occurs here, occurs because of selfless service and a willingness to pitch in. Whether it be for the local sports team, volunteering in government or a service organization or just giving back around your own neighborhood, it's the people here that make our community a great one to live in.

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