

SEASIDE Sports

A10
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SeasideSignal.com



Battle of the Cowapa

Jeff Ter Har

Yes, look at the clock, end of the first half long shot, and yes it was...

NOTHIN' BUT NET!

By **GARY HENLEY**
Seaside Signal

It's roughly the Oregon high school hoops equivalent of the Atlantic Coast Conference, and North Carolina vs. Duke.

Tuesday night's battle by the ocean went to Seaside, which rallied from an early eight-point deficit for a 60-51 win at the Gulls' Nest.

The victory puts Seaside back atop the Cowapa standings by themselves, but before the Gulls get comfortable in the No. 1 spot, Tuesday's contest was just the first of three meetings between Banks and Seaside. The Braves will host the league season finale Feb. 14, and — odds are — both teams will be there, March 9 at Forest Grove High School, to decide another state championship in another sport.

"We'll see them down the road again," said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm, whose team improves to 16-2 overall, 4-0 in the Cowapa League. "We'll see them in the playoffs. Should be some exciting games."

But at this point, there are no other candidates. The Braves and the Gulls are the class of Class 4A basketball. Tuesday's game had all the appearances of a state championship preview.

Banks brought an 18-game win streak into the game, while the Gulls had won 12 in a row, including a victory over defending

5A state champion Thurston.

Banks was (and still is) rated No. 1 in the OSAA RPI poll, and Seaside is ranked No. 1 in the 4A coaches poll.

So something had to give, and it turned out to be the Braves.

Banks couldn't handle a pressure defense the Gulls threw at the Braves, who had eight turnovers in the first half.

Combined with numerous missed shots from close range, the Braves let their 15-7 lead turn into a 16-15 deficit late in the first quarter, following baskets by Seaside's Chase Januik, Ryan Hague and Brayden Johnson.

A 9-2 run by the Gulls midway through the second quarter gave Seaside a 34-27 advantage, but the Braves closed the first half on an 8-3 run of their own, even taking a brief lead.

Seaside's final three points of the half came the dramatic way, with Januik sinking a shot at the buzzer from just beyond the mid-court line.

Still, "We didn't finish the half very well," said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm. "We should have been up six or eight. Instead we had two turnovers in a row and they scored on both to go up one, then Chase hits the half-court shot."

And the Braves had one more rally in their system, in the third period.

A jump-hook by Blake Gobel and a 3-pointer by Jarred Evans had the Braves in front, 44-43, but that would be their final lead.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Slifka helps Banks slip past Seaside

The Daily Astorian

The Seaside Lady Gulls had plenty of looks at their favorite shot, firing up 24 3-pointers — but only seven went in, and that wasn't enough to stay with the Banks Braves in a Cowapa League girls basketball game Tuesday night.

Banks led from start to finish in a 50-37 win

over the Gulls, who otherwise played a good game against the No. 2-ranked Braves.

"I thought our kids played pretty well," said Seaside coach Mike Hawes, "though Banks kept their foot off the throttle somewhat, with no full court press, which we'll see (Friday) against Astoria."

Morgan Blodgett had 14 points and 10 rebounds

to lead Seaside, which had 38 rebounds total.

The Gulls simply couldn't keep pace with the Braves' Aspen Slifka, who led all scorers with 24 points.

"We still have turnover spurts where Aspen said 'thank you very much' and then laid it in," Hawes said. "Without the turnovers (20) we were pretty even in the half court, but dang if they don't count them."

Januik hit two free throws and scored on a short jumper over the 6-foot-7 Gobel, and Hague converted an offensive rebound for a 49-44 lead.

Banks was within 49-47 at the end of the third quarter, but the Gulls scored the first five points of the fourth, and that was enough for the win.

Once Seaside had built a 51-47 lead with four minutes remaining, the Gulls simply played keep-away with the ball, and

allowed the Braves to score just four points in the final period.

"The kids have been doing this since they were in the fourth grade," coach Westerholm said. "They see they have a lead, and they start milking the clock. That has nothing to do with me. With just under four minutes left, we got patient and took about a minute off the clock."

"We knew they had to foul, so we got to the free throw line, and shot free throws pretty well in the fourth quarter."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

GIRLS

Morgan Blodgett, Basketball

The senior scored a game-high 26 points in a win over Tillamook Jan. 25. She was 8-for-12 from the field, including 5-for-6 on 3-pointers, and 5-for-5 on free throws. She also had a team-high seven rebounds and two assists. Blodgett led the Gulls in a Jan. 18 loss to Valley Catholic, scoring 11 points. She transferred to Seaside from Warrenton.



Morgan Blodgett

BOYS

Beau Johnson, Basketball

The Seaside Gulls take turns when it comes to leading the team in scoring. In the Jan. 25 win at Tillamook, it was Beau Johnson's turn, as the junior wing led four players in double figures with a game-high 18 points, which included three 3-pointers and 5-for-6 at the free throw line.



Beau Johnson

Seaside swims to win

Seaside Signal

"Senior Day" for the Seaside swim team turned out perfectly, as the Gulls hosted Tillamook for a double dual meet Jan. 24 at the Sunset Pool.

The Seaside girls' and boys' teams both scored victories over the Mooks for a Cowapa League sweep in the pool.

Seaside defeated Tillamook 94-68 on the girls' side, while the Seaside boys sunk the Cheesemakers, 103-42.

Gulls' coach Shane Spell called it "a great opportunity to celebrate nine (senior) swimmers who've made their time with the team count, whether it was one season or four."

SCOREBOARD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaside 72, Tillamook 54
SEA (72): Beau Johnson 18, Hague 15, Januik 13, Br. Johnson 10, Westerholm 8, Thompson 8, Higdon, Snyder, Sibony, Meyer.
TIL (54): Charlie Jenck 12, Kellen Shelley 12, Wilkes 11, Miller 8, Boomer 5, Kunert 4, Weber 2.
Seaside 19 16 23 14—72
Tillamook 13 11 14 16—54
Seaside 55, Valley Catholic 49
SEA (55): Ryan Hague 15, BrJohnson 12, Januik 11, Westerholm 10, Thompson 7, BeJohnson, Meyer.
VC (49): Jack Tetzloff 14, Eberhart 12, Pruitt 12, Napoli

GIRLS BASKETBALL

5, Boileau 4, Miller 2.
Seaside 15 13 14 13—55
V.Catholic 14 5 23 7—49
Seaside 59, Tillamook 52
SEA (59): Morgan Blodgett 26, Taylor 12, Kiser 8, Douglas 5, Angulo-Joli 3, Garhofer 3, Turner 2, McFadden, VanDusen.
Seaside 22 15 9 13—59
Tillamook 9 8 19 16—52
Valley Catholic 48, Seaside 28
SEA (28): Morgan Blodgett 11, Taylor 8, Kiser 5, Turner 4, McFadden, Goin, Zagata, Doney, Garhofer.
Seaside 7 5 9 7—48
V.Catholic 14 18 9 7—48

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