

# SEASIDE Sports

**A8**  
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SeasideSignal.com



Winter Sports

## Seaside beats Banks to win tie-breaker



Seaside basketball photo

The 2019 senior class of Seaside boys basketball.

By GARY HENLEY  
Seaside Signal

Entering the Cowapa League first-place tie-breaker Feb. 16 at Tillamook, the Seaside boys basketball team had a string of eight straight wins in post-season play.

And the Gulls were not about to ruin that mark.

Seaside made it nine straight playoff victories with a 51-42 win over Banks, giving the Gulls the tie-breaker at the top of the

Cowapa League standings.

And the two teams may meet a fourth time, as Banks and Seaside are on a collision course for the state championship game, March 9 in Forest Grove.

Just two days after the Braves scored a 54-53 upset over Seaside, the Gulls returned the favor in the tie-breaker.

Seaside never trailed in the league playoff, although the Braves rallied from a 37-27 deficit to start the fourth period, and pulled to within 37-35 midway through the quarter.

Seaside answered with 3-pointers from Beau Johnson and Ryan Hague, and the Gulls made six straight free throws in the final minute to secure the win.

Hague led Seaside with 12 points, while the team of Johnson & Johnson (Beau and Brayden) combined for 22, 11 points apiece.

Brayden hit a 3-pointer to end the first quarter, and made another to start the second.

Each Johnson added another 3-pointer in the second quarter, giving Seaside a commanding 28-16 halftime lead.

## Seaside's Nelson takes fifth at state

By GARY HENLEY  
Seaside Signal

Impressive first day results for Clatsop County wrestlers led to some big finishes for the locals at the state meet, Feb. 22-23 at Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

Combined, wrestlers from Astoria, Seaside, Warrenton and Knappa had six wins (including one bye) and two losses in first round matches on Day 1.



Seaside wrestling photo

Seaside's Luke Nelson, following one of his victories in the state meet

Seaside was 2-0 in the first round, with wins by Andrew Gastelum (3:04 pin against Mazama's Brycen Johnson) and Luke Nelson (8-2 win vs. Lincoln Clark of La Grande).

The two victories were the first wins for the Gulls in state tournament competition since 2006.

Gastelum was pinned in the quarterfinals, won his first match in consolation (12-9 decision over Mazama freshman Savien Burk), before being pinned by Woodburn's Marcos Hernandez.

Nelson also lost by fall in the quarterfinals, but then won twice in consolation, with a 2-1 win over Matthew Horrillo of Siuslaw and a major decision (11-3) against Kody Zemke of Madras.

Nelson dropped a 4-2 decision to Tyler Morris of Junction City, but again came back strong, winning the fifth-place match with a 9-1 decision over Tillamook's Dawson McKibbin.

## Scoreboard

BOYS BASKETBALL				
Seaside 51, Banks 42				
BAN (42): Blake Gobel 11, Bunn 8, Cameron 6, Slikka 5, Klein 4, Hiestand 4, Evans 2, Exline 2.				
SEA (51): Ryan Hague 12, BrJohnson 11, BeJohnson 11, Januk 7, Thompson 6, Westerholm 4, Meyer.				
<b>Banks</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15-42</b>
<b>Seaside</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14-51</b>
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Seaside 41, Molalla 31				
SEA (41): Lilli Taylor 19, Blodgett 8, Kiser 7, Douglas 7.				
MOL (31): Madeline Lisac 10, Myers 7, Nogle 3, Nelzen 2, Nacoste 2, Wood 2, Curry 2, Burge 2, Greer 1.				
<b>Seaside</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13-41</b>
<b>Molalla</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9-31</b>
Astoria 44, Seaside 42				
SEA (42): Lilli Taylor 9, Turner 8, Blodgett 6, Kiser 6, Goin 4, Douglas 4, Garhofer 3, Zagata 2.				
AST (44): Brooklynn Hankwitz 17, Norris 11, Fausett 9, O'Brien 5, Helmersen 2, Long, Jackson.				
<b>Seaside</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12-42</b>
<b>Astoria</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14-44</b>

## Swimmers compete at state

The North Coast did not send many swimmers to the final day of the OSAA state meet, held Feb. 15-16 at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton. But swimmers from Seaside still made the most of their appearance in Friday's preliminaries.

For the Gulls, "We didn't make it to the second day, but had some really great swims," said Seaside coach Shane Spell. "The 200 free relay dropped two seconds from their district winning time (1:52.46) and moved up one spot from their original seed (to 1:50.21). Great relay splits across the board."

In addition, "Kendy Lin had less than 10

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

minutes to turn around and swim her 100 backstroke," Spell said. "Lifetime best by over a second (1:06.63) and moved up three spots from her original seed (from 11th to eighth). I'm thankful that the seniors got to finish the season strong and some of our younger swimmers got a peak at what is possible next year."

## Merchants hold tryouts

The North Coast Merchants, a fastpitch club for local softball players age 8-16, is

holding tryouts Saturday, March 9, at Warrenton High School.

Tryouts will be held rain or shine, with a tryout fee of \$10 per player if registered before March 4, or \$20 day of the tryouts.

Scheduled times are 9 a.m. to noon for 8-12-year olds, and 1-4 p.m. for ages 12-plus. Players should bring gloves, helmet, bat and shoes for both indoor and outdoor practice.

For more information, contact or call coach Ian O'Brien at 253-720-7970, or email at: obrien@warrentonk12.org. Players can also message the North Coast Merchant Facebook page, or contact coach Morgan Streeter at 541-226-6535, or email morgan.streeter22@gmail.com.

## Sweet(!) Sixteen for Seaside girls after playoff win

By GARY HENLEY  
Seaside Signal

Seaside's 2-6 league record may not look like it belongs in the Sweet 16, but that's where the Gulls are headed, following a Class 4A girls basketball play-in game Feb. 22 at Molalla.

The Gulls clinched their spot in the final 16 with a 41-31 win over Molalla, improving Seaside's overall record to 14-13 and sending the Gulls on to the first round of the state playoffs.

Lilli Taylor scored 19 points for Seaside, which is one win away from returning to the state tournament for the first time in three years, when they took third in 2016-17.

The Gulls will open the state playoffs Saturday at Baker. The Bulldogs finished second in the final OSAA rankings — but they haven't faced a team from the tough Cowapa League, which has four teams among the final 16.

"Well, we were able to sneak our way into the state tournament, and Marla (Olstedt, assistant coach) and I couldn't be more proud to accompany this group," Hawes said. "We ask an awful lot from this youngster, but sometimes she just has to be the best player on the floor, and tonight she certainly was."



Colin Murphey/Seaside Signal

Seaside's Lilli Taylor, left, and Ruby Douglas try to stop Astoria's Hailey O'Brien on a drive to the hoop in the league playoff game Feb. 18.

at Molalla in the 2016-17 season, 38-31.

If they win Saturday, the Gulls would face either Junction City or Stayton in a first round game of the state tournament, March 7 at 8:15 p.m. at Forest Grove High School (the Seaside boys will likely be playing at 8:15 p.m. the same night, at

Pacific University).

Molalla scored the first three points of the game, but Seaside's Emy Kiser scored the next seven off a steal, an offensive rebound and a 3-pointer. And the Gulls never looked back.

Back-to-back scores from Morgan

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