



Gary Henley/Seaside Signal

Seaside senior Gretchen Hoekstre focuses in for the win at the 4A state track meet.

Seaside Golf

Marist edges boys golf team for state title

The defending state champions from the 5A level, playing on their home course in the 4A state tournament ... that was a tough combination to beat, as the Seaside Gulls discovered Monday and Tuesday.

The Gulls gave it their best shot, but the Marist Spartans — who dropped down from Class 5A to the 4A level following the 2017-18 school year — won their second straight state title with a solid two-round effort in the 4A boys golf state championship at Emerald Valley Golf Club in Creswell.

Marist held an 18-stroke lead over second-place Seaside after Monday's first round, and the mighty Spartans pushed their final margin to 32 strokes following Tuesday's final round.

Marist carded a 314 team score to finish with a two-round total 627, while the Gulls finished at 659, following their 331 on Day 1 and 328 Tuesday.

Defending 4A state champion Valley Catholic placed a distant third with a 707 team score.

Seaside's second-place finish under coach Jim Poetsch was its best since winning back-to-back state titles in 2014 and 2015. The Gulls also won state championships in 1971 and 1975 under coach Ed Rippet.

Girls takes ninth at state

The Seaside girls started the day in ninth place in the team standings, and that's where the Lady Gulls finished after the final round of action in the Class 4A/3A/2A/1A girls golf state tournament.

St. Mary's held on to the No. 1 spot and finished as the team champion, as Day 2 action wrapped up at Eagle Crest Ridge Course in Redmond.

St. Mary's had a 35-stroke lead on Valley Catholic after one round, and won by 67 strokes over the Cowapa League champion Valiants, 638 to 705.

Heppner/lone took third with a 741, followed by Woodburn (787), La Grande (802) and Astoria (828). Seaside finished ninth (854).

Sophomore Baylee Hammericksen of St. Mary's also held on to her top spot on the player leaderboard, and finished as tournament medalist with a 139 (69-70).

Riverdale sophomore Yvonne Vinceri shot a 70 on Day 2 and finished at 146 for second place, followed by freshman Riley Hammericksen of St. Mary's (151).

Seaside sophomore Tristyn McFadden shot a 92 (down from 98 in Monday's round), for a 190, tied for 18th.

Every Seaside golfer improved on their respective first round scores.

Sydney Rapp finished with a 213 (108-105), and she was followed by Caitlin Hillman (117-106—223), Emma Arden (117-111—228) and Elise Seppa (132-140—272).

STATE CHAMPION

Seaside's Hoekstre learns from legendary coach

By GARY HENLEY
Seaside Signal

It's one of the great mysteries on the north Oregon coast.

How do the local high school track teams produce so many great throwers? As in discus tossers, shot putters and javelin throwers?

Seaside's Gretchen currently the No. 1 high school female shot putter in the nation (we haven't had many of those), and she hopes to finish up her prep career this weekend with a couple more state titles.

For those who know her, it couldn't happen to a better person or a harder worker.

"She's doing great. She looks like she's ready to go in and do great at the NCAA level," said local legend Bobek. "I'm real proud of her and glad I got to meet her."

It's fair to say that Bobek knows what she's talking about.

Astoria's record-setting thrower from 2006 to 2009 is a six-time state champion, winning the discus and shot put titles as a sophomore, junior and senior. She placed second in both events as a freshman in 2006.

Bobek ended up at that track mecca in Eugene, the University of Oregon, where she finished her career with a school record

in the discus on her final throw, in the 2014 NCAA championships at Hayward Field.

In addition to big points for the Ducks, it resulted in All-American status for Bobek.

And now Hoekstre is about to bring one chapter of her career to a close, with just as much promise as Bobek had 10 years ago. Or more. Not even Bobek had a 50-foot shot put in high school, like the one Hoekstre uncorked May 3 in the Nike/Jesuit Relays.

Hoekstre considers Bobek a hero, and met the former Astoria athlete at this year's Daily Astorian Invitational — where Hoekstre broke Bobek's meet record in the shot.

(Said Bobek, "It had to happen sometime, right?")

Hoekstre says, "(Bobek) has like, all the records. She's so good and so much fun to watch. It was really cool to have her there. And even she was super-excited with my throw, even though I think I broke her record."

Hoekstre's private coach is currently Lex Strom.

"We started working together right at the end of last season, and I wouldn't be where I am without him," she said.

Back to the present, Hoekstre no doubt will be looking to not only win state titles this weekend in the discus and shot put, but set some new personal bests.

And Hoekstre has a way of meeting and exceeding her goals. She's been doing it her whole career.

"At the beginning of the season I told my coach my goal is to throw 47 feet," in

the shot put, she said. "And my coach said, 'that's a pretty big goal. We'll see if we can get you there.'"

"And obviously, we're there. That's happened every year so far. I set a goal that I think is pretty big, and I end up getting it pretty early in the season.

"My sophomore year was to break the school record, which was 39-4. And four meets in, my fourth meet ever, I threw 40 feet. The next year was, 'I want to hit 42.' And I hit 43 in Banks. It's been really cool to see that hard work does pay off. Because sometimes you don't see it. It's been nice to see those numbers grow."

Just for reference, the girls 4A Oregon state meet record is 48-7, a mark held by Christy Ward of North Valley since 1988. The discus state meet record was set by (guess who?) Bobek, at 152-10. Hoekstre's current best is 154-2.

Certainly doable for Hoekstre, who wants national records.

The National Federation High School record for the shot put is currently 54-10¾, set by Michelle Carter of Austin, Texas in 2003.

"All these girls from Georgia, California, Texas and Kentucky, those girls are throwing huge numbers, and then someone asked, 'why can't you? Why not you?'"

"And I said, 'I don't know.' That's where I'm at," Hoekstre said. "My goal is to be the best, and to prove to everyone else that some girl from a small town in Oregon can do it."

Gulls return to state playoffs for first time since 2010

Seaside Signal

It's on to state for the Seaside baseball team.

A long road trip (900-plus miles, round trip) that turned into a three-day stay in Ontario, who defeated the Tigers 6-3 Saturday morning, in a Class 4A play-in game.

A two-run home run by Seaside's Brayden Johnson in the sixth inning highlighted the win, the Gulls' first post-season victory in 12 years.

The Gulls left Thurs-



Seaside's Gulls ready for state tournament play.

day for the Friday game in Ontario, where rained postponed the play-in game to Saturday.

The 11th-ranked Tigers

finish 12-9 overall, while Seaside (11-12 overall), advances to the round of 16, where the Gulls were scheduled to play Wednesday at

Henley.

In Saturday's win, Seaside pitchers Travis Fenton and Payton Westerholm scattered eight hits with seven strikeouts and two walks, while Ontario's Seth Forsyth went the distance, allowing nine hits with seven strikeouts and a walk.

Seaside scored a run in the first inning (a double by Alex Teubner driving in Duncan Thompson), before the Tigers answered with two runs in the bottom of the second.

The Gulls came right back with two in the top of the third, with a single

by Teubner scoring Gage McFadden for the go-ahead run.

After Ontario tied the game, Seaside took the lead for good in the fourth, when the Gulls loaded the bases with one out, and Fenton scored on an error. The Tigers got out of the inning without any further damage.

From there, Westerholm and the Gulls kept Ontario scoreless over the final four innings.

In the sixth, Justin Morris reached base on a bunt, and came in moments later on Johnson's two-run homer.

McFadden, Teubner and

Isaias Jantes all had two hits apiece for Seaside, which had four stolen bases.

It was Seaside's first playoff victory since May 18, 2007, when the Gulls defeated Sweet Home 12-6 in a first round game. Seaside lost in the round of 16 at Henley, 12-4.

Wednesday's game will mark Seaside's first appearance in the state playoffs since 2010, when the Gulls lost a first round game at Sutherlin, 14-6.

Meanwhile, Seaside's last play-in appearance was in 2011, a 6-4 loss at Gladstone.

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