



Gary Henley

Seaside wrestler Aidan Tice returns for his junior season with the Gulls.

Healthy numbers for Seaside

By GARY HENLEY
Seaside Signal

Oregon class 4A high school wrestling: One more sport with a state champion from the Cowapa League.

For the most part, Tillamook dominated the 4A ranks last year. The Cheesemakers won the District 1/4A meet by 250 points over their nearest competitor, then won the team title at state with 264.5 points, the most scored by any state champion last year.

Seaside will be among the other four Cowapa League teams chasing the Cheesemakers. And the Gulls have just as good a chance as any other team.

“We are returning two state qualifiers, including a fifth-place finisher,” says Seaside coach Dan Taylor. “We have at least five returning wrestlers who have realistic goals of qualifying for state.

“We hope to at least double our state qualifiers and have more than one placer,” he said. “Our numbers have improved, including two female athletes. Outside of our top six or seven, we have several promising, but inexperienced athletes.”

The returning state qualifiers are seniors Luke Nelson and Andrew Gastelum.

Gastelum placed third at 120 pounds in the District 1/4A meet, pinning Ernie Preciado of Woodburn in a quarterfinal match, before Tillamook’s Quintin Metcalfe scored a fall over Gastelum in the semifinals.

Gastelum pinned two straight in consolation to lock up a spot at state, where he

THE WRESTLERS

(approximate weights)	Everett Rollins, 145/152
Carson Taylor, 106/113	Aidan Tice, 152/160
Johnathon Kenenunis, 113/120	Natalie Mayes, 160/170
Xander Knox, 113/120	Whitney Brown, 165
Dillon Ledford, 113/120	Cesar, David Cruz Gaspar, 170/182
Dakota Mathison, 113/120	Diego Silva-Villa, 170/182
Aikino Kershaw, 120/126	Sam Taylor, 170/182
Damien Vidales, 120/126	Tyler Tackitt, 182/195
Naiomi Upega Leon, 120/126	Lawson Talamantez, 182/195
Cole Biamont, 126/132	David Toyooka, 182/195
Axel Garcia Mota, 126/132	Luke Nelson, 195/220
Frederick Hoeffliger, 126/132	Jeremiah Stanley, 195/220
Andrew Gastelum, 132/138	Forrest Tice, 195/220
	Gunnar Knox, 285
	Terra Wolden, TBA

opened with a pin (3:04) against Mazama’s Brycen Johnson.

Seaside’s top returner is Nelson, who finished second at 220 in the district meet, highlighted by a 7-1 decision over Tillamook’s Dawson McKibbin in the semifinals.

Once he took the mat at the state meet in Portland, Nelson continued his winning with a first round, 8-2 decision over Lincoln Clark of La Grande.

Seaside’s two opening round victories at state were the first wins for the Gulls in state competition since 2006.

Gastelum was eventually pinned in the quarterfinals but bounced back with one consolation victory, while Nelson had one more meeting with McKibbin, who he defeated 9-1 in the fifth-place match at state.

New pool, new team, new hopes for Seaside

By GARY HENLEY
Seaside Signal

Time for some rebuilding in the water — in and around the pool — for the Seaside swim program.

After a more than a monthlong closure, the Seaside pool has been re-filled, with water and swimmers, and the Gulls are ready to go for the 2019-20 season.

The Sunset Pool was officially reopened Nov. 25.

(The closure came after the learner pool failed to comply with an Oregon Health Authority code for public water systems, leading to the possibility of cross contamination between the learner pool and main pool.)

The first official day of winter sports practice was Nov. 18, which left the Seaside swim team without a home pool for the first week. Instead, the Gulls held some practices at the Astoria Aquatic Center (what are friendly rivals for?) and did some conditioning.

The pool has been upgraded with underwater lighting, and the entire filtration system for the lap pool was replaced, allowing the district to keep a cleaner and more efficient body of water. The project work was estimated at \$90,000.

Meanwhile, Seaside swim coach Shane Spell is handling the rebuilding job for the Gulls.

Seaside has 15 new swimmers in the program, “and the whole team has been working hard for a big season,” Spell said. “They handled the first week without a home pool really well, getting some dry land work in and a couple of practices in at Astoria Aquatic Center, and have really taken advantage of being back in the home pool and getting ready for our first meet (Dec. 7).”

Despite their fourth place team finish in the district meet last season, the Seaside girls still had their share of success and state qualifiers.

The Gulls’ foursome of Kendy Lin, Kaisa Liljenwall, Anna Huddleston and Nicole Blankenhorn highlighted Seaside’s meet by winning the 200-yard freestyle relay in a season-best 1 minute, 52.46 seconds — which they trimmed to 1:50.21 in the preliminaries at state.

Lin also qualified for the state meet with her fourth-place time (1:07.87) in the 100-yard backstroke. Lin did not qualify for the finals at state, but did set a personal best time of 1:06.63 in the backstroke.



Hailey Hoffman

Seaside freshman Logan Dennis in the pool.

THE SWIMMERS

GIRLS	Logan Dennis, Fr.
Brooke Blankenhorn, Jr.	Leif DeWinter, Jr.
Nicole Blankenhorn, So.	Adrian Dzul-Fisher, So.
Ashlee Conrad, Sr.	Henry Garvin, Jr.
Ashlee Fraser, Jr.	Ben Hagman, Sr.
Linnea Hagman, So.	Justin Hallocks, So.
Sarah Kelley, Fr.	Sam Heroux, So.
Kaisa Liljenwall, Sr.	Cameron Lippert, Jr.
Tori Rehnert, Fr.	Liam Matlock, So.
Taryn Shay, So.	Max Matviyenko, Sr.
Sofia Shipley, Fr.	Masyn McCulloch, Fr.
Sarah Sills, Jr.	Sean Olea, So.
Kara Spell, Sr.	Ethan Olson, Jr.
Annika Wunderlich, So.	Aiden Ousley, So.
BOYS	Elliot Ousley, So.
Westin Carter, Jr.	Leif Rehnert, So.
Patrick Chapman, Jr.	Lucas Thompson, Jr.
Shawn Collins, Jr.	Luke Verley, So.

Lin and Huddleston will be among those who will be missed this season. Liljenwall (a student at Warrenton High School) and Blankenhorn both return.

“We graduated nine seniors last year, including state qualifiers Kendy Lin and Anna Huddleston,” Spell said. “Big shoes to fill.”

The Seaside boys have 21 swimmers on the pre-season roster, with just two seniors. The Lady Gulls have 13 swimmers, with three seniors.

“We had a good group of sophomore guys swimming most of the off-season, so that should really help their progress,” Spell said. “Tons of potential this year. We just need to make every practice count.”

The swimmers, Spell said, “are pushing each other, and we’ll just see what happens as the season kicks off and we aim towards districts (Feb. 14-15 at Newport) and then getting swimmers to state,” the following weekend at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center.