



Kayla Bucher  
The Seaside Riptide. Front row, left to right: MaKenna White, Kylie Keranen, Moriah Johnson, Lily Miller. Back row: assistant coach Scott White, Ella Brenden, Mya Fenney, Carly Corder, Kenzie Starr, Kimberly Cristablol, Sophia Bucher, coach Chris Corder.

## Seaside sixth-graders win Sisters Shootout

Seaside Signal

At the high school level, the Astoria girls and the Seaside boys will be among the favorites in the upcoming 4A state prep tournament.

And when it comes to sixth grade basketball in Clatsop County, the Astoria boys and the Seaside girls will also be battling for state titles next month.

At a weekend tournament in Sisters, the Seaside Riptide girls' sixth grade team took first place in the "Sisters Shootout," defeating the Crook County Spurs in Sunday's championship game, 30-8.

Seaside had two wins Saturday over West Salem (48-8) and the Albany Lady Mayhem (35-24), and a semifinal win Sunday over Newport (33-8).



Kayla Bucher  
Seaside's Lily Miller defends the inbounds pass.

Coached by Chris Corder and Scott White, team members include Ella Brenden, Sophia Bucher, Carly Corder, Kimberly Cristablol, Mya Fenney, Moriah Johnson, Kylie Keranen, Lily Miller, Kenzie Starr and MaKenna White.

In sixth grade boys basketball, the Astoria Bandits qualified for state by winning a tournament in Kelso, Washington last week.

The Bandits defeated a team from Longview, 46-36, in the championship game of the gold bracket in Kelso's "For the Love of the Game" tournament to earn an automatic state bid.

Astoria's only loss of the tournament was in pool play to the same Longview team, 48-47.

The Oregon middle school state championships take place in Bend next month.

## Garvin, Seaside relay teams qualify for state

By GARY HENLEY  
Seaside Signal

Always a favorite at the state meet level, Newport swept the team titles Saturday on the final day of the District 1/4A swim meet, hosted by the Cubs.

There were no team titles for the teams from Clatsop County. Astoria and Seaside only won a combined three events, but the Fishermen and Gulls had better luck Sunday, qualifying several more swimmers for the state meet as wildcard entrants.

It was the second year in a row that Newport hosted the district meet. The event returns to Astoria next year.

The state meet takes place Feb. 21-22 at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton.

In the meantime, the Cubs had a great day in their home pool, crushing the district competition.

The Newport girls scored 279 points for a team title, with Tillamook second with 188 points, followed by Taft (179). Astoria (157) was fourth and Seaside (131) sixth out of eight teams.

The Newport boys racked up 297 points to easily top Taft (198) and Seaside (189). Astoria was fifth with 125.

And Newport's combined 576 points was plenty to win the combined team championship.

Among the Clatsop County swimmers, Astoria



Shane Spell  
Seaside swimmer Henry Garvin will take part in three events at the state meet.

junior Tori Smith swam her best meet, winning both the 200-yard individual medley in 2 minutes, 22.98 seconds, and then the 100-yard backstroke (1:03.91) to gain two automatic spots in the state meet.

Smith will have the sixth-best seed time in the 200 IM at the state meet, and will be the eighth seed in the backstroke.

Seaside's lone win belonged to junior Henry Garvin, who won the 50-yard freestyle final in 23.90 seconds. His time of 24.79 was the second-best

in Friday's preliminary. "We started off a little sluggish on Friday, but just kept building as the meet went on," said Seaside coach Shane Spell. "Henry's win in the 50 was a great race and punched his individual ticket to state."

The Seaside girls team "continued scoring a lot of points with not a lot of swimmers," he said. "Kaisa Liljenwall finished up a great three years of swimming with a PR in the 100 (1:02.86) and strong relay legs. "Our distance swimmers

across the board had a lot of good swims, dropping some nice chunks of time."

Other automatic qualifiers from the district meet (top two in each even qualify for state) included Astoria's Riley Cameron, who finished second in the 100-yard freestyle in 52.61 seconds, the fifth-best time going into the state meet.

Seaside's 200-yard freestyle relay foursome of Westin Carter, Luke Verley, Masyn McCulloch and Garvin finished second in 1:39.68, just behind Newport's 1:38.69.

Luckily for the Fish and the Gulls, the strength and depth of the district resulted in several wildcard qualifiers Sunday.

Cameron finished third in the 200 IM (2:13.29), good enough for a No. 6 seed at the state meet.

And the Gulls qualified a pair of fourth-place finishers.

Garvin's time of 55.02 was fourth in the district meet, but qualified for state; and the 400-freestyle relay squad of Carter, McCulloch, Logan Dennis and Leif Rehner placed fourth in district (3:56.19), good enough for a No. 12 seed in the state meet.

"That shows how fast our district is," Spell said. "A fourth place finish in the 400 relay still earned a wildcard slot at state."

On the girls' side, the only wildcard qualifier was Astoria's Grace Peeler in the 100-yard breaststroke (third, 1:17.16).

## Seaside falls at Valley Catholic

Seaside Signal

Seaside had a great opportunity to move up in the Cowapa League girls basketball standings Feb. 11, but came up just short at Valley Catholic.

The Valiants jumped out to a quick lead, then held on for an eventual 48-43 win over the Lady Gulls.

Valley Catholic improved to 3-2, a half-game lead on Banks (3-3), while Seaside dropped to 2-4.

"We battled back but could not quite get over the hump," Seaside coach Mike Hawes said of Tuesday's loss. "Right now, with some injuries and experience, we're running six deep and the kids just plumb get worn out. I have nothing but praise

for their effort."

Ruby Douglas and Lilli Taylor scored 16 points apiece for Seaside, which trailed 16-11 after one quarter. The teams played evenly (32-32) over the final three quarters.

The Gulls struggled from the 3-point line (2-for-12) and the free throw line (3-of-10), which made the difference.

"If we could have corralled a few more rebounds, made a few more free throws, held (Josie) Napoli in check just a bit ... but it didn't happen," Hawes said. "Ruby is playing well enough to be on a first name basis with the coaches. 'Guard Ruby.' She kept us afloat, and Lilli almost got us back to square, but the six that played all played well and hard."

## Gulls pound Valiants, 60-39

Seaside Signal

The Seaside boys basketball team started tuning up for the post-season with a 60-39 win Feb. 11 at Valley Catholic.

Beau Johnson scored a game-high 16 points, and

the Gulls scored their second blowout victory of the season over the Valiants. Seaside won the first encounter Jan. 24, 77-25.

The Gulls had three other players in double figures: Ryan Hague with 10, while Brayden Johnson and Stephen Snyder scored 10 apiece.

## SCOREBOARD

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Valley Catholic 48, Seaside 43  
SEA (43): Lilli Taylor 16, Ruby Douglas 16, Blodgett 5, Peterson 4, McFadden 1, Doney 1.  
Seaside 11 9 11 12—43  
Valley C 16 9 13 10—48

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Seaside 60, Valley Catholic 39

SEA (60): Brayden Johnson 10, Ryan Hague 14, Beau Johnson 16, Stephen Snyder 10, Sibony 7, Langmo 2, Rich 1.  
VC (39): Daniel Pruitt 14, Eberhart 8, French 6, Cheung 3, Lo 3, Howard 2, Baglaj 2, Hussein 1.

Seaside 14 17 15 14—60  
Valley C 10 4 18 7—39