

SEASIDE Sports



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Baseball coach brings winning culture to Seaside

By GARY HENLEY
Seaside Signal

Building a program and changing the culture. If you do that, the wins will come.

That's the message Brett Wolfe brings with him to the North Coast and his new position as head coach of the Seaside baseball team.

The hire was a no-brainer for Seaside.

Wolfe spent 25 years as a coach at North Medford High School, with 494 career wins and state titles in 2007 and 2014.

Similar to when former Astoria High School baseball coach Dave Gasser came to Astoria in 2006, the Gulls now have their legendary coach from a big school, and a soon-to-be opened batting cage facility — now they just need a season.

The 2021 spring campaign is scheduled to take place April 12 to May 23.

Whenever the kids return to the diamond, Wolfe said he is here to stay and intends on bringing a winning culture.

The Seaside boys have a successful record in several sports over the past six years, winning two state titles in four championship appearances in basketball, a runner-up finish in football in 2018 and state titles in boys golf in 2014 and 2015.

If any Seaside sport needed some consistency, it's baseball. And that's where Wolfe hopes to deliver.

"The key is consistency," he said. "It's hard for kids to get excited when there's so much change."

But once a foundation is built, he said, "you get a program that wins, like bas-



Andy Atkinson/Medford Mail Tribune

Brett Wolfe is bringing his baseball knowledge, along with 494 career wins, to Seaside.

ketball, and kids get used to winning. You just have to guide them, and the winning takes care of itself."

The Gulls have had four coaches in the past three seasons. Longtime coach Joel Dierickx stepped down after 2018; Dan McFadden had the Gulls in 2019; and Ross Knutsen took over for McFadden in 2020, the season that was lost to the coronavirus pandemic.

Knutsen stepped aside, and in came Wolfe, who was hired as the varsity coach over the summer.

Wolfe said he met with representatives from the school last Christmas about this time.

"I drove up and met with Jeff (Roberts, Seaside High School principal) and told him my intent. Me and my wife (Kim, married 37 years) looked at this as our target area to retire to, because we love the area and we've always wanted to live up here."

The couple has a son in Mount Vernon, Washing-

ton, and a daughter who teaches in Medford.

Wolfe said he also "wanted to keep my hand in baseball, and this was the perfect match."

At first, he was looking to serve as a substitute teacher, but an opening for a teaching spot at the high school occurred near the start of the new school year. Wolfe accepted the position and is now teaching full time.

He added, "I knew Seaside was looking for a coach the year before, and I couldn't make the transition at the time. Ross (Knutsen) stepped in and said he would do the interim year (2020), then I could take over the program after the season ended. Unfortunately, the season never happened."

Citing family and business priorities, Knutsen stepped down and Wolfe was hired. Knutsen will still serve as an assistant.

At North Medford, Wolfe coached the Black

Tornado from 1995 to 2019, and finished six wins shy of the 500-career win mark, all for a 6A school.

Wolfe knows he is stepping into a hot area for Oregon high school baseball. Since 2006, teams from Clatsop County have made a combined 10 appearances in state championship games, winning seven.

Wolfe has done his homework and is aware of the successful programs in Astoria, Warrenton and Knappa.

"It's a different culture, a different level of play," he said.

"There's some good baseball around here. I'm excited, because rumor has it that the OSAA (Oregon School Activities Association) might be pushing for local leagues this spring to limit travel. If that's the case, the good thing is that there's some very good baseball here."

And Wolfe hopes the Gulls will be part of the mix.

Wolfe compares his coaching approach to that of Warrenton's Lennie Wolfe (no relation), saying "I'm kind of an old school guy. You give your best effort, you don't throw your bat or your helmet and you hustle on and off the field."

"There's good athletes here in Seaside," he said. "And I'm excited about the baseball program."

Living in Seaside is just a plus.

"As far as the weather goes, it's great," Wolfe said. "It's a little grayer than I'm used to. But we love the lifestyle, and we go to the beach every day."

The only negative: there's more shark attacks in Seaside than Medford. "Fortunately, I'm not a

surfer," Wolfe said of the recent shark attack. "And that just kind of confirmed that I never will be."

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Utti sidelined, Teubner finishes 2020 season

Seaside Signal

While athletes at Seaside High School wait for the start of a sports season, a couple of former Gulls are busy competing at the collegiate level.

Maddi Utti is in her senior season with the Fresno State University's women's basketball team and Alexander Teubner is a redshirt freshman for Boise State University football.

Both have seen action this month, although Utti recently had her string of 94 consecutive starts snapped in a Dec. 11 game vs. St. Mary's College of California.

She also missed the next game, a 102-93 double overtime loss at the University of San Francisco on Dec. 13.

Fresno State's latest game, Dec. 20 vs. California State, Bakersfield, was canceled.

The Bulldogs' next scheduled game is Jan. 2 at the University of Wyoming.

Utti had started Fresno State's first four games, and was averaging 14.8 points per game and 6.3 rebounds per game.

The Bulldogs are 3-3 through six games.

Meanwhile, Teubner saw action in five of Boise State's seven games of the 2020 season.

The former Seaside running back, who rushed for 2,420 yards and scored 44 touchdowns in his senior season in 2018, is listed as a safety on the Boise State roster.

He had two solo tackles and saw action on special teams.



CBS Sports

Seaside's Alexander Teubner recently had some air time in Boise State's win over Hawaii.

The Broncos finished 5-2 overall, 5-0 in conference.

Boise State lost to San Jose State University 34-20 in Saturday's Mountain West Conference Championship game.

Teubner was awarded "Scout team Player of the Year" for the Broncos last season. He had to quaran-

tine the first two weeks of practice after Boise State resumed because his roommate tested positive for COVID-19.

Teubner missed two games because he contracted the virus. He returns as a sophomore next fall and is expected to be a major contributor for the Broncos in 2021.

BRIEFS

District hosts 'Kiss 2020 Goodbye 5K'

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District presents "Kiss 2020 Goodbye 5K," a New Year's day fun run and walk. The event kicks off the year-long Prom Centennial.

Check-in begins at 8 a.m. at 12th and Prom. The race begins at 9 a.m., and runners will go the length of the Prom and back to complete the 5K.

Start times will be staggered for social distancing, and masks are required when participants are not able to social distance.

Cost is \$20 per participant and a T-shirt is included while supplies last. Call 503-738-3311 to register.

Sunset Pool closed for two weeks

As Clatsop County moves into Oregon's extreme risk category of COVID-19, Sunset Pool and Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District facilities are closed for two weeks. The district's anticipated reopening date is Jan. 4, depending on guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority.

The district's emergency child care program will remain open as an essential service for working families, but will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The emergency child care program will be open until 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve.



Westin Carter

Seaside Elks award scholarships

Westin Carter and Briana Boyd were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the Seaside Elks Lodge.

As winners of Most Valuable Student local scholarships, their applications have been forwarded to the Oregon State Elks Association Northwest District competition. Carter and Boyd will



Briana Boyd

compete against students sponsored by Elks Lodges in St. Helens, Astoria, Tillamook, Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo and Florence for further awards.

The scholarships are awarded for superior scholastic achievement as well as outstanding qualifications of citizenship and leadership, using judging criteria from the Elks National Foundation.