

# SEASIDE Sports



Winter Sports

**A5**  
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## Olstedt leads Gulls into new era

By GARY HENLEY  
The Astorian

Marla Olstedt would have made her Seaside varsity basketball coaching debut Friday night.

In their original revised schedule because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Lady Gulls were set to open their shortened 2021 winter season in a nonleague game against Vernonia. It also would have been the first varsity basketball game in Seaside's new high school building.

Unfortunately, action on the new court, opening night and Olstedt's debut will all have to wait for another time.

Everything's still on hold in the world of Oregon high school sports, but Olstedt and the Gulls will eventually play that first game.

Any delays won't stop Olstedt from continuing her life's goal.

"I knew that basketball was always going to play a very big role in my life. What that looked like, I really didn't know, but I couldn't be luckier," she said.

On the bright side, she tells herself, "I'm coaching

for my alma mater, our program is supported by a great community and I've got a program with great girls."

The Gulls also would have played a home game Monday night against Knappa. Whenever that first game comes, Olstedt has been well trained for the moment.

Her mentor at Seaside was Mike Jacobson, the former girls' coach at Knappa and Seaside who now coaches at Astoria. The Jacobson coaching tree includes Tracie Nygaard-Brockey at Knappa and Olstedt at Seaside.

"I've been very fortunate to have great mentors who have helped me along the way," Olstedt said. "Between my high school coach (Jacobson) and my college coach Chad Meadors (Lower Columbia College), they've been great resources for my growth as a coach."

"Coaching alongside Mike Hawes was a great experience the last couple years, allowing me to help make decisions at the varsity level," she added.

Olstedt was a standout athlete at Seaside in soccer, basketball and track. Her brother, Dennis, the head

track coach at Scappoose, was a Seaside Hall of Fame standout in football, basketball and track.

"Being involved in the (basketball) program the last five-plus years, I have great relationships with the girls at all levels," Olstedt said. "We will make sure all grade levels continue to be supported from the high school level."

And Gulls basketball will still be Gulls basketball, no matter what playground or gym it's played in.

"Traditions are a big thing in our program. Just last week, I asked the high school girls their favorite memory to date," Olstedt said. "The majority said our annual Cedar Ridge trip with grade levels four to 12. Three days of having fun with their peers. That won't change."

Meanwhile, high school athletes and coaches in Oregon have been through a lot since September — yet none have played or coached in a single game.

"What a wild six months it's been," said Olstedt, who keeps herself busy by working in sales and marketing at Lum's Auto Center. "As for our program, we have been offering voluntary work-



Jeff Ter Har

Seaside basketball coach Marla Olstedt.

outs two to three times a week when the weather permits. Due to our county's risk level, all workouts have taken place outdoors, most often at Broadway Park."

The winter sports season — basketball, wrestling, swimming — is scheduled to take place the second week of May through June — when high schools are seeing their best weather of the school year.

Winter sports should be getting players who are in great shape, playing their third different sport in three months.

"We'll be the final sports season of the year, so the girls will be in great shape to get on the court," Olstedt said. "We just have to make sure they are prepared for each day. A regular season flies. I can't imagine how quickly these six weeks will go. Whatever it looks like, I'm ready for these girls to get back in the classroom, on the court, field, etc."

And, "being that our season begins in May, we've included more conditioning and injury prevention drills in our workouts for the girls to prepare for their upcoming

fall season. My hope is to prepare them the best we can. I'd hate to see any athlete sidelined due to injury in their already shortened season."

As for basketball, "I look forward to getting back on the court," she said. "These girls have dedicated a lot of time to extracurricular activities and deserve an opportunity to play. We have a senior in our program who shows up to nearly every workout with great optimism for her final season. That's refreshing to see."

## Reopening: 'We want to meet the needs of all our families'

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parents and our students." Even in the hours leading up to the board meeting, Penrod was involved in a meeting with state officials and other administrators to discuss new advisory metrics in regards to case counts.

Before, school districts in the orange high-risk level — which includes the Seaside School District — had to continue comprehensive distance learning while county case counts were at 200 or more per 100,000. As of Jan. 19, that figure was increased. Districts can implement careful, prioritized phasing-in for students even with case counts of 200 to 350 per 100,000. If case counts exceed 350 per 100,000, districts are recommended to stick with distance learning.

"This is an advised guide," Penrod said. "The superintendent and school board members can make a decision of their choice that works best for their community."

### In-person instruction

Clatsop County has hovered around 250 cases per 100,000 for most of December and January. In December, the board decided to wait until Feb. 1 to evaluate the situation and determine whether the district could start phasing-in elementary students by Feb. 15.

They are committed to giving teachers, staff and community members a definitive two-week notice before the transition.




In the next couple weeks, school administrators plan to work with teacher leader teams to develop the best model to deliver hybrid instruction to students. The goal is to provide an a.m. and p.m. model for elementary students so they are in school four days per week. That requires addressing challenges with transportation and meal delivery. School administrators also must figure out the best method for delivering instruction to students who opt to stay in distance learning, even when permitted back on campus.

"We want to meet the needs of all our families," Penrod said. "That is definitely a discussion in progress."

When students do return, certain health and safety protocols will continue to be required, not only advised. These include providing 35 square feet of space per student; enforcing 6-foot physical distancing; prescreening individuals before they enter school; and making face coverings a requirement, except during staggered lunch times and for individuals who are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Staff and teachers

### INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

ON-SITE	HYBRID	COMPREHENSIVE DISTANCE LEARNING
 <p><b>Students Safely Learn In School</b></p> <p><small>All students have access to in-person instruction in accordance with public health requirements.</small></p>	 <p><b>Students Safely Learn In School and Away from School</b></p> <p><small>Student groups have access to in-person instruction using staggered schedules and/or prioritizing certain grades, courses, and/or programs, in accordance with public health requirements. On-Site instruction is supplemented by Comprehensive Distance Learning.</small></p>	 <p><b>Students Safely Learn Away from School</b></p> <p><small>All students are engaged in learning through Comprehensive Distance Learning. Instruction occurs remotely with very limited exceptions for in-person supports.</small></p>
<p><b>RESPONSE TO OUTBREAK</b></p> <p><small>Districts, schools, and programs need to flexibly plan to use multiple models throughout the school year to meet evolving health conditions. Even when the primary plan is through an On-Site or Hybrid learning model, Comprehensive Distance Learning will be required due to outbreaks that result in school closure. Every district will plan and prepare for CDL in order to ensure continuous service to students.</small></p>		

Meanwhile, a survey of Seaside teachers revealed a majority of them are uncomfortable with in-person instruction, especially until they have received the vaccination. Chuck Albright, a Seaside teacher and president of the Seaside Education Association, said that "even with a changing goalpost, the data is not great."

"We are dealing with the spike in the pandemic right now," he said. "Teachers do not feel comfortable starting without that vaccine."

Additionally, Penrod said, the district faces insurance liability issues if they decide to bring students back on campus with case counts at 350 or more per 100,000.

"What that liability is, we're not quite sure yet," she said. "If we are following all of our safety protocols, if we're following our hybrid plans, of course we lower our risk. But yes, there is some risk, which is completely out of our control."

Referencing a quote by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, she said, "The virus sets the timeline; we don't set the timeline."

"We are working in an area we haven't worked in before," she added. "We will do our best to be as creative as possible while still following the health and safety protocols."

cannot eat at the same time as students or together in common areas. The district can't allow use of the gym until Clatsop County moves down from the extreme-risk category.

### Differing opinions

During the meeting, Penrod and the school board members addressed the challenge of weighing the varying needs and opinions of teachers, parents, students and other stakeholders.

"Many different people have many different needs," Penrod said. "It's our job as the board, and my job as the superintendent, to look at as many different perspectives as we can."

Comments made during the meeting raised concerns about the declining mental health of students — particularly high schoolers — who remain in distance learning. One person asked why the district is being reactive instead of proactive in offer-

ing in-person instruction and on-site extracurriculars at the allowable level.

Board president Mark Truax pointed out the district must follow the regulations and guidance of the state, as well as the limitation on gathering sizes being enforced countywide, not just on schools.

"It's a moving target," he said. "We are doing everything we can to try and get the schools open as best we can."

Oregon Department of Education

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