



Seaside's Anthony Peon, left, and Hidden Valley's Ronan Hodge battle for the ball in last Saturday's play-in game.

Scott Stoddard/Grants Pass Daily Courier

Gulls lose to Estacada in play-in qualifier

The Astorian

After 99 minutes and 23 seconds of soccer in the rain — plus one lights-out delay — a winner was finally decided in a state play-in qualifier at Broadway Field, where Seaside was hosting Estacada in 4A girls soccer action last Thursday night.

Estacada senior Katie Willis scored with just 37 seconds left in the second 10-minute overtime session, sending the Rangers past the Gulls, 1-0. The contest included a 20-minute delay in the second half when the lights went out at Broadway.

Even in the light, shots on goal were hard to come by for both evenly-matched teams. Seaside finished 7-7-1 overall, while Estacada (7-6-2) moved on to the round of 16.

Estacada's first shot on goal came in the 26th minute of the first half, also by Willis. Willis had a one-on-one in the 30th minute with Seaside freshman goalkeeper Abygale Brien, who stopped the attempt.

Brien would make several more saves, including two by Willis in the second half of regulation and two in the first 10 minutes of overtime.

The Gulls were equally unlucky on offense, with a

pair of attempts by Emma Arden in the second half stopped by Ranger goalkeeper Hannah Lake, and additional shots by Arden and freshman Kaylee Snyder in overtime were saved.

Willis was fouled just outside the 18-yard box with a minute remaining in the second half of overtime, and her free kick from 19-yards out was deflected by Brien off the left post and into the net with 37 seconds left.

The Gulls carried nine seniors on their roster, along with eight freshmen. Seaside was also the only Cowapa League team with a junior varsity squad this season.

After building early lead, Hidden Valley stifles Seaside

The Astorian

Hidden Valley scored for an early lead, then tacked on two second half goals for a 3-0 win last Saturday afternoon over Seaside in a 4A boys soccer state qualifier play-in game.

The Gulls finish 5-7-1 overall, while the No. 8-ranked Mustangs (10-4) advance to the round of 16,

where they were set to play at Marshfield.

Hidden Valley had three goals wiped out by offside penalties, but dominated both time of possession and shots on goal, as Seaside finished with just one shot attempt for the game.

Leading 1-0 at halftime, the Mustangs increased their lead to 2-nil in the 12th minute of the second half, as sophomore Mason Klipfel

scored from close range in front of the net, off passes from Roman Hodge and Theo Bergman.

Seaside goalkeeper Riley Wunderlich had several big saves in goal to keep the Gulls within striking distance, but Hidden Valley's Joaquin Martinez made it 3-0 with just 2:45 left, scoring at the left post off a crossing pass from Conner Wright.



The Lady Gulls on the pitch against Astoria on Oct. 19.

Jeff TerHar

Gulls conclude season with tough defensive battle at Astoria

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

From Week 1 to Week 9, the 2021 fall season has been a reversal of fortunes for both the Astoria and Seaside football programs.

The regular season portion was capped last Friday night at CMH Field, where the Fishermen scored a 7-0 win over the Gulls, their second Clatsop Clash victory of the year.

Astoria senior Colton McMaster caught a 23-yard pass from Rocky Rub late in the second quarter for the first and only score. The touchdown held up, and the Fishermen move on to the post-season, where Astoria will play at No. 2 seed Cascade on Friday at 6 p.m.

"I'm sure we'll feel good when we show up to school on Monday and realize we're still playing," said Astoria coach Howard Rub, who moved his career Clatsop Clash record to 14 wins, eight losses.

In an up and down year for both teams, Seaside began the season with three wins in its first four games, by scores of 55-0, 48-0 and 69-0.

But injuries gradually kicked in, and the Gulls finished the year on a three-game losing skid, being outscored 73-3 in losses to Banks, Tillamook and Astoria.

Meanwhile, the Fishermen started 0-3 in league play, but eventually got healthy and posted wins over Valley Catholic and the Gulls. Astoria needed to defeat Seaside by at least two points in Friday's game, in order to break a three-way tie in the league standings with Milwaukie and Seaside, all at 2-3.

Friday's 7-0 final score was also the third straight shutout in the Clatsop Clash, following Seaside's 8-0 win in 2019 and Astoria's 8-0 victory last spring.

"I guess you can't expect a lot of fireworks when we play each other," Rub said of the Clash. "A lot of it has to do with how familiar we are with each other's programs."

And Friday's game "became a real conservative game with the play-calling."

Astoria's Luke Cummings was the leading rusher (68 yards), but averaged just 3.5 per carry. Late in the game, Rub called Cummings' number in consecutive direct-snap plays to the junior running back.

"I thought going with Luke was our best option, and we were able to control the time," he said. "That (Wildcat formation) was really the best formation we had that gave us a chance to control the ball, and play three yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust football. It got very conservative, but it worked."

In fact, the Fishermen had just three pos-

sessions the entire second half, to Seaside's two.

Astoria had a 13-play drive midway through the second half that resulted in a punt.

Doing the punting was McMaster, whose Senior Night introduction included the announcement that he would attend Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

McMaster had two 42-yard punts and a 46-yarder, pinning the Gulls at their own 15- and eight-yard lines.

The other big Astoria plays came on defense. Cummings intercepted a pass late in the first half at the Fishermen 5-yard line. In the second half, Seaside's best drive started at its own eight, and ended 11 plays later at the Astoria 6, an interception by Jase Jones.

Another big defensive play came on a second-and-long for Seaside late in the fourth quarter, when Astoria lineman Will Hofmann tackled a ball carrier for a seven-yard loss, essentially ending the drive.

Lawson Talamantez had 56 yards rushing for the Gulls, but three of their five ball carriers finished with minus-yards rushing.

"The two interceptions were huge plays," Rub said. "(The Gulls) felt compelled to throw the ball at the end of the first half, and Luke made a great play to keep his feet in

bounds. And Jase's interception was big, when Seaside had a first-and-goal inside our 10. We made a big push up front and made Carson (Kawaso) throw a ball he might not normally have thrown. And Jase came off the receiver real well to make the interception."

Rub added, "we benefitted from having Tucker Golightly back in the lineup on both sides of the ball. Up front, we controlled the line of scrimmage, and that was big. Both of our sophomores played well — Matt Evans and Will Hofmann."

Because of injuries to the Gulls, "Seaside obviously did not have the same offensive line they had back in August," Rub said. "They were decimated by some injuries and down some starters."

And "the rest of our linemen played well. Aiden Giles, Sven Johnson (both juniors) and Wes Ellison all had great games."

McMaster's touchdown "was the offensive play of the night," he said. "And his punts backing Seaside up in their own end was big, because we knew that special teams were going to play a big part."

"It was a great crowd," Rub said. "It's always fun to see the youth football kids play at halftime. The student section was great ... other than me wearing a mask, it felt like everything was back to normal."

BRIEFS

Aquatics coordinator honored for excellence



Lindsey Wolfe

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Aquatics Coordinator Lindsey Wolfe was recently honored with the Excellence in Programming Award from the Oregon Recreation and Park Association.

Wolfe has worked for the park district for seven years, starting as a lifeguard and swim instructor. She is also a volunteer firefighter with the Gearhart Fire Department and spends her summers fighting fires in Oregon and California.

Beaches and Breakers hold pickleball tournament

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District is hosting the Beaches and Breakers Pickleball Classic Nov. 12 through Nov. 14 at the Sunset Recreation Center.

This is a skill and age round-robin tournament with a shootout of the top three or four teams for gold, silver and bronze medals.

The tournament is managed in partnership with Pickleball is Great, an organization dedicated to the sport.

Participants can register at <https://pickleballisgreat.com/beaches-and-breakers-pickleball-classic/>.

Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving dinner ahead

Seaside Signal



Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Aiden and Elliot Ousley, among volunteers at last year's Thanksgiving dinner.

Join the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District for the annual Turkey Trot, a 5K fun run/walk held on Thanksgiving morning. The race starts at 9 a.m. from Quatat Park and follows a route through Seaside.

Check-in begins at 8 a.m.; patrons are encouraged to pre-register. Admission is \$30 and includes a t-shirt. Call 503-738-3311 to reserve your spot.

In following guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority, patrons are asked to wear masks when social distancing is not possible, including before and after the race.

After the Turkey Trot, join the park district from noon to 2 p.m. for a free Thanksgiving meal to go at the Bob Chisholm Community Center. Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Center



R.J. Marx

Seaside's Alex Van Slyke ran the 2019 Turkey Trot carrying the flag.

is partnering with the district to provide pre-packaged meals for the community. Registration is not required for this first-come, first-served meal.

To serve as a sponsor or volunteer for these events, email Melissa Ousley at mousley@sunsetempire.com.