

## PLAYOFFS ROUNDUP

## Gulls knocked out by Junction City

By GARY HENLEY  
Seaside Signal

Seaside's run at a fifth straight championship game appearance in the 4A boys basketball state tournament came to an end last Friday afternoon at Marshfield High School, where No. 1-ranked Junction City held off the Gulls, 43-35, helping the Tigers secure a spot in Saturday's championship game.

The Gulls were bounced into Saturday's third-place consolation game.

Seaside still managed to trim a nine-point deficit down to 35-32 early in the fourth quarter, but less than 24 hours after a dramatic comeback win over Philomath on the previous day, Seaside had used up all of its miracle points for the tournament.

The top-ranked Tigers, who trailed by three points early, led the rest of the way to win the semifinal game.

Both teams struggled from the field (Gulls 10-for-33, Tigers 10-for-34), but Junction City was 20-of-25 at the free throw line, 8-of-12 in the last 3:28 of regulation, to hold off any Seaside comeback.

More impressive was the Tiger defense, which held Seaside's Ever Sibony to just six points (one field goal and four free throws), after Sibony's 25-point outburst in Thursday's game.

Seaside's Cash Corder scored a team-high 15 points before fouling out late in the game, while Junction City used just six players the entire game, and effectively ran time off the clock in the final quarter, allowing just five points for the Gulls in the fourth period.

Junior Kaleb Burnett led the Tigers with 16 points and seven rebounds, while teammate Colby Evans added 10 points, including 6-for-6 at the free throw line.

Connor Langmo chipped in nine points and seven rebounds for Seaside, which had appeared four straight state championship games (2016, '17, '18, '19), with the state tournament canceled in 2020 and 2021.

On Saturday, Seaside lost the consolation game to rival Banks, 62-54 at Marshfield High School. The Gulls finished 20-8 overall.

### Gulls defeat Philomath

The last time they took part in a 4A state tournament, the Seaside boys basketball team walked off the court as a loser in the 2019 4A state championship, when the Gulls came up on the short end of a 62-56 loss to Banks in the title game in Forest Grove.

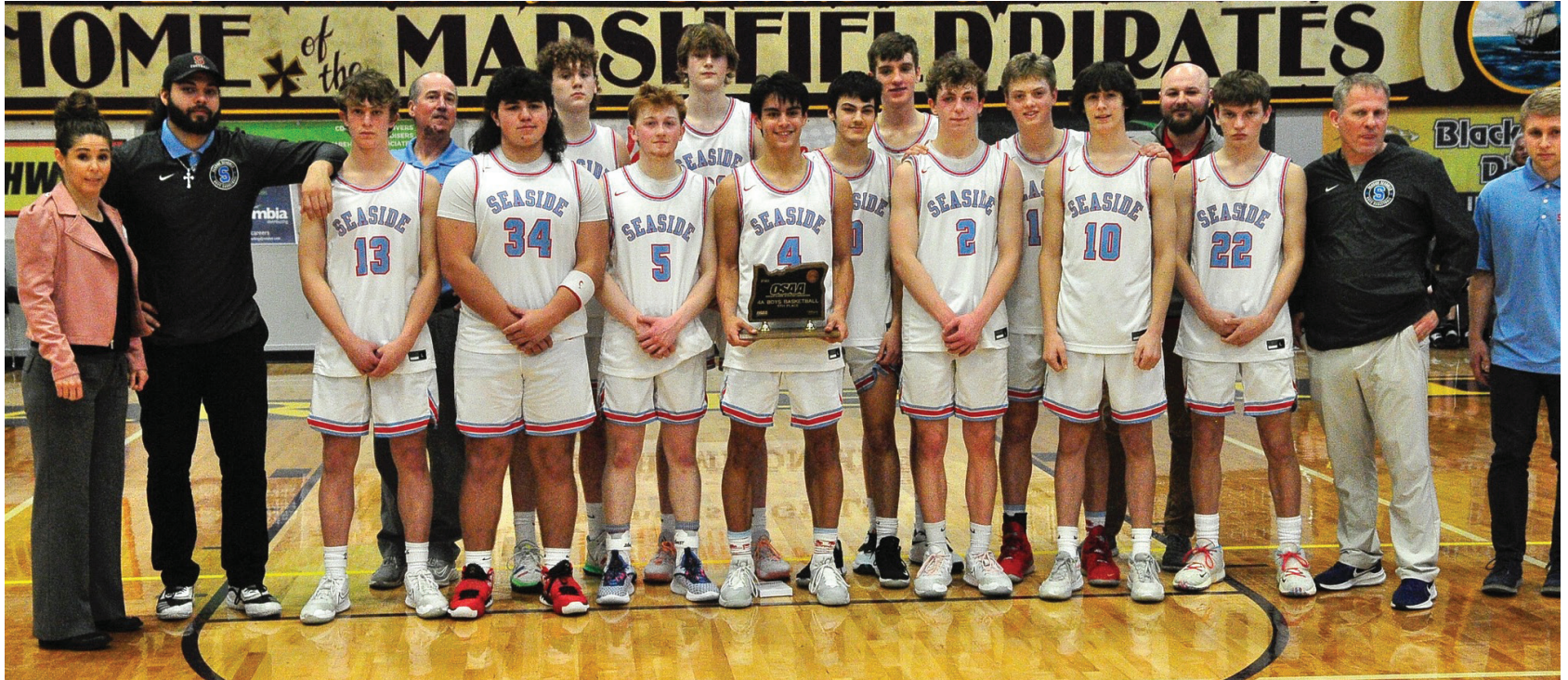
Fast forward to 2022. A different location, but the Seaside Seagulls are still a traditional power in 4A boys basketball.

Division 4A basketball hasn't played a championship game without Seaside since 2015.

Not deterred by a 20-point deficit in the first half, the Gulls clinched their spot in the Final Four with a 62-61 victory over Philomath last Thursday at North Bend High School, as Seaside's Cash Corder drained a 3-pointer with 9.2 seconds left for the game-winner.

(Ironically, Philomath is the last non-Cowapa League team to win a 4A boys basketball state title).

It was the Warriors who came out firing in the first half of the game, as they turned an early 5-4 deficit into a 25-7 lead late in



The Gulls celebrated a great season in 2021-22, although title hopes were dashed by Junction City.



Students give a royal send-off to the Gulls as they headed to the state tournament last Wednesday.

Jeff TerHar



Ever Sibony moves past three Philomath defenders.

John Gunther

the first quarter, following a 3-pointer by Cole Beardsley.

Philomath's largest lead came late in the second period, a layup by Chad Russell for a 38-18 advantage.

But the Gulls just stuck with their brand of basketball, relying on 3-pointers to get themselves back in the game.

Seaside made four triples in the second quarter, the last three by Ever Sibony, who brought the Gulls back to within 38-27 at halftime after back-to-back 3-pointers in the final minutes of the first half.

And the Gulls picked up where they left off to start the second half, and their state Player of the Year candidate led the charge.

Sibony scored on a steal and layup to start the third quarter, and scored three off steals later in the period to bring Seaside to within 42-37.

Philomath, meanwhile, lost starting forward Logan Carter to a foot injury in the first half, and went cold from the field in the third quarter.

And the Warriors just had no answer for Sibony, who scored 12 points in the third

and helped Seaside pull to within 47-46 going to the fourth quarter.

The Gulls — who outscored Philomath 37-21 over the second and third quarters — tied the game 53-53 on a layup from Conner Langmo with 4:48 left, then took the lead, 58-56, when Sibony hit a free throw line jumper at the 2:53 mark.

Seaside lost Carson Kawasoe and Jared White to fouls, and the Warriors took advantage, making 5-of-6 free throws to grab a 59-58 lead on two foul shots by Jacob Peters with 1:15 left.

With Philomath still leading 61-59 following a timeout with 16 seconds left, Corder was cash on a 3-pointer to give the Gulls the game-winning points with 9.2 seconds remaining. The Warriors committed a turnover as time ran out.

Sibony finished with a game-high 25 points, followed by Corder (18) and Langmo (14), as the Gulls shot 51% from the field.

### Braves win finale

It was only fitting that one of the final basketball games of the 2021-22 season would

pit the Banks Braves against the Seaside Seagulls.

The only thing wrong with Saturday's boys basketball final between the long-time rivals — it wasn't the state championship game.

As it was, third place was on the line between the Braves and Gulls, the two Cowapa League teams who were playing for the fourth time this season, this time in the 4A state tournament at Marshfield High School.

The teams also met four times in the last full winter sports season of 2018-19, when the Braves beat Seaside 62-56 in the state championship game in Forest Grove.

Saturday's winner was Banks again, with a score of 62-54. It was a statement victory for the Braves, as the Cowapa League's smallest school secured a third-place finish at state in their final basketball game at the 4A level. Banks will move to the 3A Coastal Range League next school year.

It wasn't easy, but the Braves led from start to finish on Saturday, holding a 24-10 lead early in the second quarter, only to see it dwindle in

the second half.

Going out in a blaze of glory in his final game with the Gulls, senior Ever Sibony hit four 3-pointers in the second half on his way to a game-high 25 points, with four assists and three steals.

Fellow senior Carson Kawasoe drained three treys in the third quarter, and Seaside (10-for-30 from the arc) rallied from a 34-22 halftime deficit to within 42-41 in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter.

But as they did three years ago, the Braves countered with another Gobel — Cooper — who led Banks with 22 points, including eight in the fourth quarter, answering almost every Seaside score with a basket of his own.

A 3-pointer by Sibony had the Gulls within 51-47 with 4:28 left, but Gobel responded with two-point scores at the 2:26 and 1:08 marks, and two free throws with 44 seconds left for a seven-point lead. Gobel also had seven rebounds and three assists.

Cash Corder had four assists and 13 boards for Seaside, which out-rebounded Banks 35-25.

Seaside left the tournament with a fifth-place trophy, one last award for a senior group that had to battle just to have a full season for the first time since 2018-19.

The Gulls lose every starter to graduation, but Seaside will return a strong group in 2022-23, including freshmen Austin Palmer, Jordan Westerholm and Jake White, along with sophomores Izzy Jantes, Kyler McCleary and Ruger Thompson, and junior Tanner Kraushaar.

## Catch up on preventative care.

Early on in the pandemic, many people put off in-person doctor visits. It's time to catch up on any preventative health services you missed. These can include:

- Mammograms and pap smears
- Screenings for diseases and cancer
- Childhood vaccines and annual visits
- Flu and pneumonia shots
- Routine checkups to get advice on diet, exercise and safety

CMH-OHSU Health Medical Group  
Astoria • Seaside • Warrenton  
503.325.4321