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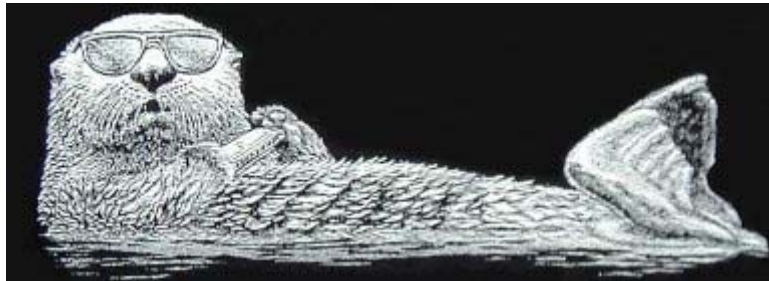
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Sea Otters Rock!

by *Charity Winters*



Seldovia Booster Club

The Sea Otter's favorite time of the year is here – high school basketball is in session! The season officially started with its first practice this Monday. This year it will be exciting to see what our boys AND girls will be able to do. **That's right, there is a girls' team this year, with plenty of players!**



Russ Radliff, coach of the boys' team, had some great things to say about this year's team. "Last year was a learning year – now I understand what they can do. They have improved a lot. Last year, the first day of practice was something else! This year, they're 10 times farther ahead." Radliff is also grateful for a more experienced team – last year's 5 freshman players are now sophomores with a solid year under their belt. This year's team consists of 11 players: 2 seniors, Evan Mickelson and Colton Collier, 2 juniors, Kyle Burt and Dustin Baines, 5 sophomores, Levi Harkness, Tyler Tucker, Harold Haynes, Tim O'Leary, and Griffin Swick, and 2 freshmen, Steven Payton and Jordan Geagel. Radliff feels the team will be "fairly aggressive with a strong defense." He simply expects the "kids to play as hard and as best as they can – everything else will take care of itself."

Tim Winters will be assistant coaching this year's team. Winters works as the math and science teacher at Susan B. English. He comments on the upcoming season: "I'm

excited to be out there with the kids and interact with them on a different level other than the classroom.” After his experience coaching wrestling last year he says, “I’m just glad I can help coach a sport I actually know something about.”



Damara Lorentz couldn't be more excited about her first year of coaching. This year she has taken on the girls' basketball team with high hopes for a fun season. “It really is a good group of girls,” she comments, “They're all really athletic.” Another plus is Lorentz's rapport with all the students from her teaching position at Susan B. English 2 years ago. There are 9 players this year: 2 seniors, Emily Haynes and Deidre Cameron, 4 juniors, Naomi Gallien, Jennifer Giles, Stephanie Lewis, and Rachel Payton, and 3 freshmen, Katie O'Leary, Kristy Gallien, and Rochelle Purpura. Lorentz says the girls' strengths are that they are strong, athletic and smart. Their major weakness is that they didn't play together last year due to a lack of a team – so it's been almost 2 years since they have really played. Lorentz is also glad to have Jacqueline Brown (photo not available...sorry) helping out with the team. Brown is a former basketball player and graduate of Susan B. English.

The two teams will be heading off their season with their annual trip to Yakutat for the traditional tournament. Unfortunately, other teams have backed out and the tournament has been changed to a double-header between the two schools. Radliff says he's looking forward to some good games though. Last year was a competitive, fast-paced game and he's expecting nothing less this year.

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