

PREP SWIMMING

Experienced Cove team looking for state placers

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

COVE — Cove head coach Steve Koza only has six swimmers on his team, but each one has a shot at competing for a state title. The Leopards have three boys and three girls on this year's team, all of whom have competed for the high school or club team in the past. Cove's girls swimmers will look to make some noise, while standouts on the boys side are aiming to come away with state titles. "I'm really excited about this season," the coach said. "Everybody that we've got has experience, so I think that's a good spot to be in." The Leopards are led by junior Taylor Fox and senior Tim Koza. Fox is coming off a fifth place finish at the 2A/1A cross-country state championship. Both upperclassmen competed at the state swimming tournament in the 2019 season.

"We're feeling really good about their chances of making it back again this season," Steve Koza said. Cove will also welcome in senior Kaleo Theis, a senior who previously went to school at Pendleton. "He will likely be a state swimmer, too," Steve Koza said. "On our boys side with those three, I'm really optimistic about what we've got there." On the girls side, senior Trinity Gettman will look to lead the way. She competed at the state championships in 2019 and has the most experience on the girls team. Trinity's younger sister, sophomore Ally Gettman, and Sarah Koza will also aim high this team.

"Sarah has swam club for us for years and will likely be a state qualifier," Steve Koza said. "Both her and Ally have swam some with the club, so they have some experience under their belt."

With only three swimmers on each side, Steve Koza is realistic about how the Leopards will compete as a team. Even so, Cove has a strong showing of swimmers this year for a Class 1A school.

"Unfortunately we're small enough that we don't have enough kids to do relays, so you're not going to see us winning meets or that kind of stuff," he said.

The Leopards start the season at a meet in La Grande on Saturday, Dec. 11.

"I really think you'll see all three of our boys at state and probably competing well there," Steve Koza said.

PREP BASKETBALL



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Terrell Davis gets into position for a shot during practice at Cove High School on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021. Davis, one of the few upperclassmen on the team, will look to help Cove compete in the Old Oregon League in the 2021-22 season.

TURNING A CORNER?

Cove looks to put struggles behind with increased turnout, strong returners

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

COVE — Head coach Doug Wiggins and the Cove boys basketball team are looking forward to a return to normalcy this season. The Leopards consist of a young group, but will look to build on a 3-1 season in limited play last spring. Now facing a full slate of games, Cove is aiming for a run in 2021-22. "We're excited for the season and I think we have a lot of good returners,"

Wiggins said. "I think the kids are excited to play. We've got a good group that is bonding well, which is a really good thing." Cove saw an increase in turnout this year, which Wiggins thinks will go a long way. The Leopards have three juniors, two sophomores and nine freshmen, which will allow the team to field a junior varsity squad this year. "Compared to last year when we only had seven kids, it makes a big difference," Wiggins said. The Leopards are led by juniors Patrick Frisch, Terrell Davis and Caleb Wiggins. Frisch is coming off a productive season on the gridiron and figures to play a large role for Cove this year. "He's our big guy in the middle," Wiggins said. "He's going to be a standout." Wiggins is also excited about sophomore Wyatt Burgess, who he says could

have a breakout year in his sophomore campaign. Davis returns as a junior and will compliment Frisch on the perimeter. "He's going to be really improving on his shot and his ball-handling skills," Wiggins said of Davis. The Leopards get off to a fast start, facing a competitive slate of games at the Union Lions Tournament. December consists of a full slate of tournament games before Old Oregon League action begins on Tuesday, Jan. 1, against Powder Valley. Two years removed from a 2-20 season, Wiggins is pleased with the team's progress. As the team heads into the upcoming season, lofty goals are in reach for the Leopards. "I think obviously compared to two years ago, we've turned a corner," Wiggins said. "We're looking to be competitive enough to get into districts this year."

STARTING FROM SCRATCH IN COVE

Leopards have young, hungry team ready for new season

By JEFF BUDLONG
For The Observer

COVE — Kindra Wright and her Cove girls basketball team are one in the same. Wright was hired as the team's head coach last year, but the pandemic ended hopes of a season. So in her first true year she is leading a team with almost no varsity basketball experience. Wright, a 2015 Cove graduate, has 11 players on the roster, with only one having any high school basketball experience. Junior Danielle O'Reilly has limited experience while Rachel Baird and Audrey Garlitz are the two seniors on the squad. "Danielle is the only one that



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

See, Leopards/Page A7 Audrey Garlitz drives to the basket during practice drills at Cove High School on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021.

SPORTS SHORT

Reser Stadium's West side will be imploded on Jan. 7

By NICK DASCHIEL
The Oregonian

CORVALLIS — The big one is coming soon at Reser Stadium. Oregon State University and the \$153 million Reser Stadium West side renovation team decided to bring down the aging grandstand by implosion. It takes place Jan. 7 between 7-8 a.m. Rather than demolish Reser's West side by taking apart the structure in pieces, it was determined implosion by a licensed contractor was safer. The structure will implode ver-

tically to the ground following a series of explosions over a two-second period. It will require weeks of preparation and planning. One of the Northwest's most famous construction implosions was the Seattle Kingdome in 2000. The Reser implosion will be shown via livestream, with viewing information coming prior to the event. To bring down the West side by implosion will require plenty of community cooperation and an orchestrated safety plan. All structures within 500 feet of the stadium's West side will be unoccupied

during the implosion event. Occupants in buildings within 1,000 feet are asked to stay indoors and away from windows and patios. Several neighboring streets will be closed to vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic for about a half hour. Rebuilding Reser's West side, the most expensive construction project in OSU history, is expected to be complete prior to the start of the 2023 football season. The project includes premium seating for football, a welcome center for prospective OSU students, and a wellness clinic.



Oregon State University/Contributed Photo

Oregon State University and the \$153 million Reser Stadium West side renovation will begin by bringing down the aging grandstand on Jan. 7, 2022.