

BOYS BASKETBALL

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were going to need more of a cushion," he said.

Over the ensuing four minutes, Sisters (8-5, 1-0 Sky-Em) showed patience in working through its offense for high-percentage shots and went 7-of-11 from the free-throw line. On the opposite end of the court, the Lions committed two costly turnovers and rushed many opportunities as they shot 1-for-6.

"Our defense did not let up tonight," said Sisters coach Rand Runco. "It gave us time for our offense to catch up, and that was the key to the game."

The Lions were forced to play without regular starters Jayden Tucker (concussion) and Chance Hopkins (illness), leaving them very short on depth. But Yoss said the team handled that adversity well, and he was particularly pleased with freshman Jordan Hagewood — who made his first-ever varsity start.

"For a freshman, that's a pretty big situation, and I thought he did very well," he said.

Although he did not score in the game, Hagewood came up with several key plays, includ-

ing a steal with 2:26 left in the game.

"The coaching staff did a great job of getting me ready and all my teammates were, so I felt great tonight," he said.

Without Tucker and Hopkins in the frontcourt, the Lions elected to play more zone defense than normal. This in part led to a very methodically paced opening quarter in which the teams combined for just 16 points.

During halftime, Runco said he talked to his team about being more aggressive in its attack of Cottage Grove's interior.

"I thought that we were tentative playing from the perimeter in the first half, and maybe we were trying too hard to execute. So, we tried to use our size on the inside and just be patient," he said.

The Outlaws responded by outscoring Cottage Grove by 10 points in the third quarter and took a 29-24 lead.

It was the umpteenth time this season that the Lions failed to keep pace with an opponent during the third quarter, but Yoss doesn't believe that the team has any particular issue with that

stage of a game.

"A young team is going to struggle with execution at different points in the game and that leads to the lack of scoring," he said.

As no Sky-Em team distinguished through the preseason, the race for the league championship figures to be a highly competitive one. However, wins and losses stack up, and the Outlaws recognize the importance of drawing first blood.

"It means a lot to start out league play with a win," said Hayes Moore, who scored eight points for Sisters. "Last year, we were all young players, and we didn't do very well. Whoever improves most is probably going to win the league this year."

Although Cottage Grove is now chasing the pack, coaches and players are not discouraged:

"It looks like we can compete with anyone,

and it's going to depend on who shows up that particular night. I think it's going to be tough for anyone to win them all or even be a frontrunner in the league," said Yoss.

"We're young; we're resilient; we shake things off pretty quickly," said Parent. "It's encouraging to know that we're not the only team that's struggling. We're not the only team that's rebuilding."

The Lions will have their rematch with Sisters on Feb. 6, but in the immediate future lies dates with Junction City (scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 20) and Sutherlin (Jan. 23). Both teams won their league openers.

Friday, Jan. 16

SISTERS 42, COTTAGE GROVE 32

Sisters	6	8	15	13	— 42
Cottage Grove	10	9	5	8	— 32

Sisters: Harrer 12, Schaab 12, Moore 8, Johnson 6, Greaney 4.
Cottage Grove: Parent 17, Sentman 11, Murphy 2, Porter 2.



photo by Matt Hollander

Freshman Jordan Hagewood made his first career start in the Lions 42-32 loss to Sisters.

HOLLANDER

Continued from 1B

off-the-ball screens, or how Chance Hopkins is boxing out inside. But if I did that, my play-by-play would be full of holes, and therefore, so would my game stories.

So, I need to talk specifically about Kory and Blake and let their growth as athletes also represent the growth that I'm sure has taken place in each member of the team — regardless of what sport they played this fall.

I don't know many 16-year old kids that could have made it through what Blake did this football season. He threw eight interceptions in guiding the team to an 0-4 start before he was benched for Kory. That experience could have been the end for many young athletes. But Blake showed humility, poise and improvement as he split time with Kory for the rest

of the season.

Coming into the basketball season, I was curious to see if any of that would carry over to the court; whether or not he would want to bear the responsibility of the game's outcome.

"No," coach Donn Pollard said unequivocally when I asked him that very question. "He's a competitor; he'll be fine. When things get tough, he plays harder."

And from the opening tip of the season, Sentman has played fearlessly.

After the Holiday Tournament, Sentman said that the football experience helped him improve as a basketball player, particularly when it comes to the mental pressure of varsity competition.

I had fewer concerns about Kory, but his play has exceeded any expectations I had.

"Starting with weights this

past summer, I couldn't tell you how much football has helped," he said after Friday's game. "Even having a little varsity experience last year has carried over to now."

He went on to talk about how the current uncertainty of the Sky-Em hierarchy feels similar to how it was during the fall. He also said that the team has a goal to finish top-two in the league and host a postseason game.

That sounds like an ambitious goal when you consider that the Lions finished fifth in the Sky-Em-football standings. However, these are not the same Lions. Growth doesn't just happen over the summer, between school years. It happens between seasons and even between games.

Back on Oct. 3, Sisters defeated Cottage Grove 7-0 in a game that wasn't as close as the scoreboard indicates. The Outlaws committed 14 penalties

and failed to capitalize when in scoring position. The Lions, meanwhile, only had seven first downs for the entire game and never moved past the Sisters' 27-yard line.

Last Friday, the game hung in the balance until the very end. Given the lack of a shot clock in high-school basketball, whoever has the lead in the final minute has such significant edge to win the game. If the Lions could have pulled back even with the Outlaws after they went up 34-32 with 1:07 left, who knows what would have happened.

Closing out a game is a skill, but it also takes a lot of other skills just to be in the position to do so. These Lions may not have enough time to grow into a team capable of finishing in the top half of the Sky-Em, but they're going to keep getting closer.

Sky-Em Boys Basketball

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Sisters	1	0	1.000	8	6	0.615
Junction C.	1	0	1.000	9	6	0.600
Sutherlin	1	0	1.000	9	6	0.600
Elmira	0	1	0.000	7	8	0.467
Sweet Home	0	1	0.000	4	7	0.364
Cott. Grove	0	1	0.000	4	11	0.267

Men: Craig Allen 248

Women: Elly Bright 200

Men Three-high series

1. Craig Allen 675
2. Jim Chenoweth 646
3. Mike McCarty 621

Women Three-high Series

1. Vanessa Chenoweth 527
2. Elly Bright 478
3. Callena True 475

League: Cottage Mixers

Date Bowled: Jan. 14

Team	W	L
Cottage Bowl	34	15
Covered Bridge U	31	18
Bowling Stone	30	19
Kelly Trailer R.	27	22
CG Speedway	27	22
Taylor's Towing	26	23
Jerry Brown Co.	20	29
Funseekers	19	30
Commonwealth F.	16	33
Swearingin Design	15	34

High Game

Men: Butch Cardoza 259

Women: Kayla Simmons 220

High Series

Men: Butch Cardoza 700

Women: Kayla Simmons 573

League: 5 O'Clock Shadows

Date Bowled: Jan. 11

Team	W	L
V. Richtenstein MD	23	9
Ames to be true	23	9
Amigos Quatro	20	12
Mid-State	19	13
All in the Family	18.5	13.5
Ace's High	17	15
Book Mine	15.5	16.5
4 U Simple Book.	14	11
Jim's Tire Factory	14	15
Jenni & the Jetts	13	19
CG Vac & Sew	10	22

High Game:

Men: Don Perkins 233

Women: Cherry Bascue 199

Men Three-high Series:

1. Don Perkins 601

2. Bob McCarty 600

3. Aaron Ames 570

Women Three-high Series:

1. Jana McTaggart 508

2. Cherry Bascue 504

3. Jennifer Saldana 488

League: Meri Rollers

Date Bowled: Jan. 13

Team	W	L
Three Amigos	24	12
Team Reliv	23	13
Lucky Ladies	22	14
Treasure Chest	22	10
Mom's Girls	20	12
Simand Chiro.	19	17
Emerald Valley	18	18
Charlie's Angels	18	18
Blue Sunshine	15	21
Ron's Girls	14	22
Addi's Diner	12	24

High Game: Allie Simons 228

Three Game High Series:

1. Jacki Jackson 595

2. Allie Simons 587

3. Dawn Cushman 574

League: Junior Stars

Date: Jan. 10

Team	W	L
Ten Pin Mafia	24	1
Space Money	16	9
Hot Shots	16	9
Delivery Boys	14	11
Lane Damage	14	11
J Dawgs	11	14
Junior Who Cares	10	15
My Spare Ladies	10	15
Lane Rangers	7	18
Team to Beat	3	22

League: Yamaha City League

Date: Jan. 15

Team	W	L
Who Cares	14	6
Dawgnauts	12	8
Addi's Diner	11.5	8.5
Drain Chainsaw	11	9
High-yield Tech	10	10
Gladiators	10	10
Jim's Tire	10	10
Urban Honey	8.5	11.5
Cottage Bowl	7	13
Gilkison & Dad	6	14

MIDDLEFIELD MENS GOLF

Date: Jan. 12

Game: 3 Best Ball

1, Mike Helms, Jack Doleman, Tom Arney, Pat Rickard (-16). 2, Dave England, Jim Cunningham, Ron Ackerman, Larry Dreiling (-14). Low Gross: 1, Steve Erickson 71. 2, Helms 73. Low Net: 1, England 65. 2t, Dreiling 66. 2t, Darrell Lee, 66. Closest to the Pin: No. 5, Arney. No. 7, Dave Tooker. No. 14, Erickson. Longest Putt: No. 12, Russell Bryce.

Date: Jan. 15

Game: 3 Points - Red tees

1, Jim Hoover, Leon Hayes, Dave Tooker, Frank Gates — 137. 2, Mike Cooney, Steve Erickson, Lynn Ferrin, Bob McCarty — 133. 3t, Larry Emery, Jim Cunningham, Leroy Bodine, Jim Wamsley — 133. Low Gross: 1, Erickson 65. 2t, Bodine 66. 2t, Helms 66. Low Net: 1, McCarty 58. 2, Tooker 59. 3t, Hoover 60. 3t, England 60. Closest to the Pin: No. 4, Emery. No. 5, Bodine. No. 14, Deros Kinkade. No. 17, Gary Ingram.

CG WOMENS VOLLEYBALL

League: CG Volleyball Assc.

Date: Jan. 15

Team	W	TW*
Patterson Cutting	6	9
Sets in the City	2	7.5
War Eagles	3	7
Backer's Ballers	4	5.5
Smashers	3	5
Lady Ducks	0	0
Ball Busters	0	0

* Total wins



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