# Thompson

*Continued from 1B*

airtight. But there were a few unusual mental errors. And I knew that [Ohio State coach] Urban Meyer would have a great game plan and come up with something to expose us. He did his homework and he found something.

*It was an unceremonious finish to the best season in the history of the program. The team banquet had taken place before the bowl season and many of the seniors left directly from Dallas to begin preparing for the NFL Draft.*

**MH:** What were some of the conversations after the game?

**GT:** It was weird knowing that people were about to scatter and that we wouldn't have a final goodbye after we got back. But we walked around after the game to give hugs and say how much we loved one another.

A lot of us were crying, but then Keanon Lowe came around with a big smile on his face and told us not to be sad. And that helped me put it in perspective. It was one game out of so many. It might have been the biggest one, but it won't overshadow what we accomplished.

*But when the Ducks returned to the team hotel, their biggest supporters were there waiting.*

**MH:** What was it like to be a part of the Oregon family?

**GT:** It was really fun. I know my parents enjoyed getting to know everyone's families. Since they went to most of the games, they got comfortable traveling with the same group. And the team parents support you whether you're close to their son or not. It was a nice family to be a part of.

*With a Heisman-winning quarterback at the helm, this appeared to be Oregon's best-chance yet for a national championship. And yet the final score indicated that the Ducks were further away from the ultimate prize than four years earlier against Auburn.*

**MH:** Do you think Oregon is getting closer or farther away from a national championship?

**GT:** Definitely getting closer. Whether it's a culture thing or preparation, our minds were in the right place; we did all of our homework. Ohio State ended up breaking some things that we couldn't fix.

Oregon is becoming more nationally recognized. But if you look at the national championship game, OSU fans outnumbered Oregon's 2:1 and that shows that we're still young and there are teams that have been good for a lot longer than us.

Oregon has a great foundation and it's going to continue to get great recruits.

*As the first bits of confetti hit the turf at AT&T Stadium, there emerged a hopeful, yet unlikely narrative of Mariota returning for his final season. But two days later, he declared for the NFL Draft.*

MH: Was Mariota ever close to coming back for his final season?

GT: No. It would have been terrible for him to come back. Obviously, he would have killed it, but there was no reason to and everybody understood that. He wasn't enrolled in school for winter term so it was obvious to the guys that he wasn't coming back.

*Thompson has already finished a degree in human services, and he is working on a second degree in general social science with a focus on business and economics. Pretty soon he'll be applying for jobs. He'd like to end up in Portland, but his girlfriend lives in the Bay Area.*

**MH:** Would you want a job in San Francisco?

**GT:** If I was hired. But I could blow my interview or something.

**MH:** That's unlikely, right?

**GT:** I've never personally done it, but one of my friends interviewed for four jobs last summer while wearing his bowl ring. They didn't talk about the jobs or his credentials; they just talked football and he got every job offer. I don't know if I'd do that because it seems like cheating.

**MH:** Which ring would you wear?

**GT:** Some of them are too out-of-control. My fingers can't even close around the first national championship-game ring.

**MH:** Has it sunk in yet that you're an alum of the program?

**GT:** Having seen Blake (Grant's brother, who was also a linebacker for the Ducks from 2007 to 2011) just go through it, I had an idea of what this would be like. I think it's important that the alumni stay involved. But it's real life now, and I have a lot of time to do whatever.

# Swimming

*Continued from 1B*

Sophomore Josh Ireland continued to shave time in the 100-yard freestyle. He placed third in 56.54 — a second faster than his PR set last week.

Senior Jarett Raade placed third in the 200-yard freestyle and second in the 500-yard freestyle with times of 2:07.62, and 5:46.53, respectively.

The 400-yard free relay team of Ireland, Miller, Raade and Seth Chambers went sub-4 minutes (3:58.83) and was right behind Springfield's B team (3:57.64) for third place.

The Lions scored 61 team points. Junction City finished with 38.

Joelle Otterstedt (200-yard IM, 100-yard backstroke) and Erika Valdez (200-yard freestyle, 100-yard breaststroke) paced the Springfield girls with two wins apiece. The Millers scored 123 points to beat Cottage Grove (93) and Junction City (64).

Sophomore Sophia Edelblute scored a big victory in the 100-yard freestyle and placed second in the 200-yard freestyle.

The 500-yard freestyle once again belonged to Tori Raade. The sophomore finished in 6:02.60 — over 35 seconds faster than the rest of the field.

Raade returned to the pool a short while later to place second in the 100-yard backstroke in a new PR of 1:12.57.

Freshman Belen Rodriguez lowered her PR to 34.93 in the 50-yard freestyle.

Clover Rudicel may have turned in the performance of the day. The sophomore cut four seconds off of her former PR to finish second in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:22.53.

Coach Tyson Pilling said it was good to swim against 5A competition and that Willamalane is the best pool the team will swim in all year outside of the state meet (at Mt. Hood Community College). He added that the accuracy of the times, especially in the 50-yard events, will be helpful in forming the team's relay order for districts — which will be held next weekend in Coos Bay.

Pillling would not reveal much of an outlook for the meet, but he said that the boys' 100-yard freestyle, 100-yard butterfly and the girls' 100-yard backstroke could be some of the more exciting races for Cottage Grove.

# Equestrian Team

*Continued from 1B*

Judges don't like when teams go at 'uncontrollable speeds' but the crowd loves it."

The 12-member team has been practicing since Nov. 1, and some athletes may not finish until after regionals in late June. In addition to having one of the longest seasons, equestrian is also one of the most expensive sports. It costs each athlete $500 to compete in the OHSET season, and there are additional expenses for team gear, use of practice facilities and travel. Most athletes also provide their own horses.

Simons said that not many teams in the district receive the same level of support as Cottage Grove does from its athletic department, but the financial burden still falls on the athletes.

"Unlike the football or basketball team that gets to use the school's facilities, our kids have to pay for arena rentals," Simons said. "The school is amazing and they like the equestrian team, but financially we get nothing. So, our kids sell Cinnabons, Christmas trees and work all four days of the Eugene Pro Rodeo in 90-degree heat to help pay for all of this."

Cottage Grove is one of 19 schools that compete in the South Valley District. Cumulative scores from three district meets, the final two of which will be held on the first weekends of March and April, determine which athletes qualify to compete at the OHSET Championships, May 14-17 in Redmond. The top five placers in each event then qualify to compete at the Pacific Northwest regionals, June 19-21 in Monroe, Wash.

photo by Matt Hollander

**Cottage Grove's Sara Witty is shown competing in barrels on the second day of the South Willamette Valley's district meet, Saturday. Witty was also a member of the Lions' second-place Canadian flags team**

Four of South Valley's 11 representatives at last year's regionals were Cottage Grove athletes: Shania Schueller in steer daubing, Dennis in individual flags and the Canadian flags team of Schueller, Dennis, Witty and Theron Hill.

**Sky-Em Boys Basketball**

| | Conference | | | Overall | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | Pct | W | L | Pct |
| Sutherlin | 6 | 0 | 1.000 | 14 | 6 | 0.700 |
| Sisters | 5 | 1 | 0.833 | 12 | 6 | 0.667 |
| Junction C. | 4 | 2 | 0.667 | 12 | 8 | 0.600 |
| Sweet Home | 2 | 4 | 0.333 | 6 | 10 | 0.375 |
| Elmira | 1 | 5 | 0.167 | 8 | 12 | 0.400 |
| Cott. Grove | 0 | 6 | 0.000 | 4 | 16 | 0.200 |

**Friday's Results**
Sisters 48, Cottage Grove 38
Sutherlin 62, Sweet Home 46
Junction City 62, Elmira 56

**Friday's Games**
Sutherlin @ Cottage Grove 7:15 p.m
Sisters @ Junction City
Sweet Home @ Elmira

**Tuesday's Games**
Sweet Home @ Cottage Grove 7:15 p.m.
Elmira @ Sisters
Junction City @ Sutherlin

**Sky-Em Girls Basketball**

| | Conference | | | Overall | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | Pct | W | L | Pct |
| Sutherlin | 6 | 0 | 1.000 | 20 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Cott. Grove | 4 | 2 | 0.667 | 11 | 9 | 0.550 |
| Junction C. | 3 | 3 | 0.500 | 10 | 10 | 0.500 |
| Sisters | 3 | 3 | 0.500 | 8 | 11 | 0.421 |
| Elmira | 2 | 4 | 0.333 | 5 | 13 | 0.278 |
| Sweet Home | 0 | 6 | 0.000 | 1 | 15 | 0.062 |

**Tuesday's Results**
Sutherlin 53, Brookings-Harbor 27

**Friday's Results**
Elmira 43, Junction City 40
Sutherlin 67, Sweet Home 22
Sisters 44, Cottage Grove 43

**Friday's Games**
Sweet Home @ Elmira
Sutherlin @ Cottage Grove 7:15 p.m.
Sisters @ Junction City

**Tuesday's Games**
Junction City @ Sutherlin
Sweet Home @ Cottage Grove 5:45 p.m.
Elmira @ Sisters

## COTTAGE BOWL

**League: Dynamic Trios**
**Date: Feb. 3**

| Team | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Golding Enterprises | 4 | 0 |
| Grandma's Rule | 4 | 0 |
| Swearengin Design | 3 | 1 |
| Advanced Eyecare | 3 | 1 |
| H's Rowdy Bunch | 2 | 2 |
| H. Selective Log. | 2 | 2 |
| New Creations | 1 | 3 |
| Cottage Bowlerettes | 1 | 3 |
| R's Beauty Salon | 0 | 4 |
| K. Family Merc. | 0 | 4 |

**High Game:** Ellie Golding 189
**Three-high Series**
1. Patsy McNally 569
2. Megan McNary 497
3. Ellie Golding 478

**League: Ball and Chain**
**Date: Feb. 6**

| Team | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Party Patrol | 31 | 9 |
| Bowl Dozers | 29 | 11 |
| Roman Numerals | 28 | 12 |
| Senior Funsters | 21 | 19 |
| Pin Pushers | 20 | 16 |
| Thunderboltz | 16 | 20 |
| Joe's Diner | 14 | 26 |
| Ally Oops | 13 | 27 |
| More Beer | 13 | 27 |
| Cracker Jacks | 11 | 29 |

**High Game**
Men: Brian Roman 269
Women: Vanessa Chenoweth 258
**Men Three-high series**
1. Del Blosch 688
2. Brian Roman 669
3. Jim Chenoweth 663
**Women Three-high Series**
1. Vanessa Chenoweth 706
2. Callena True 519
3. Elaine Cox 503

**League: Cottage Mixers**
**Date: Feb. 4**

| Team | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Cottage Bowl | 51 | 19 |
| Covered Bridge U | 43 | 27 |
| Bowling Stones | 38 | 32 |
| CG Speedway | 38 | 32 |
| Taylor's Towing | 37 | 33 |
| Kelly Trailer R. | 36 | 34 |
| Funseekers | 32 | 38 |
| Jerry Brown Co. | 31 | 39 |
| Commonwealth F. | 23 | 47 |
| Swearengin Design | 21 | 49 |

**High Game**
Men: Errol Miller 267
Women: Heather Tatom 214
**High Series**
Men: Errol Miller 725
Women: Edie Owen 563

| Team | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Treasure Chest | 2 | 2 |
| Simand Chiro. | 2 | 2 |
| Ron's Girls | 1 | 3 |
| Three Amigos | 1 | 3 |
| Charlie's Angels | 0 | 4 |
| Addi's Diner | 0 | 0 |
| Blue Sunshine | 0 | 0 |

**High Game:** Shelly O'Reilly 211
**Three-high Series:**
1.Allie Simons 538
2. Shelly O'Reilly 521
3. Dawn Cushman 509

**League: Junior Stars**
**Date: Feb. 7**

| Team | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Ten Pin Mafia | 38 | 7 |
| Space Money | 31 | 14 |
| Hot Shots | 30 | 15 |
| Delivery Boys | 26 | 19 |
| Lane Damage | 26 | 19 |
| My Spare Ladies | 22 | 23 |
| Junior Who Cares | 20 | 25 |
| J Dawgs | 18 | 27 |
| Lane Rangers | 10 | 35 |
| Team to Beat | 4 | 41 |

**High Team Game**: Space Money 587
**High Team Series:** Delivery Boys 1600
**High Game Boys:** Chirstopher A 234
**High Game Girls:** Kim Smith 200
**High Series Boys**: Austin Renfro 635
**High Series Girls**: Gracie Stewart 543

**League: Meri Rollers**
**Date: Feb. 3**

| Team | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Emerald Valley | 4 | 0 |
| Team Reliv | 3 | 1 |
| Moms Girls | 3 | 1 |
| Lucky Ladies | 3 | 1 |

**League: Yamaha City League**
**Date: Feb. 5**

| Team | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Who Cares | 26 | 10 |
| Drain Chainsaw | 25 | 11 |
| High Yield Tech | 22 | 14 |
| Cottage Bowl | 21.5 | 14.5 |
| Jim's Tire | 17 | 19 |
| Addi's Diner | 15.5 | 20.5 |
| Dawgnauts | 15 | 21 |
| Gladiators | 14.5 | 21.5 |
| Gilkison & Dad | 14 | 22 |
| Urban Honey | 9.5 | 26.5 |

**High Team Game**: Drain Chainsw 1154
**High Team Series:** Cottage Bowl 3211
**High Game:** Robert Hand 288
**High Series**: Andy Mitchell 784

## MIDDLEFIELD MENS GOLF

**Date: Feb. 2**
**Game: 3-2 Best Ball**

1, Ron Ackerman, Jack Doleman, Mike Helms, Pat Rickard (-15). 2, Dave England, Gary Ingram, Ron Warner, Darrell Lee (-14). 3, Frank Gates, David Morris, Jerry Pennington, Mel Gowing (-13).
**Low Gross:** 1, Helms 68. 2, Steve Erickson 72. 3, Gary Sparks 74.
**Low Net:** 1, Tom Arney 63. 2t, Morris 65. 3t, Bob McCarty 65.
**Closest to the Pin:** No. 5, Arney. No. 7, England. No. 14, Morris.
**Longest Putt:** No. 17, Arney.

**Date: Feb. 5**
**Game: 3-2 Points**

1, Deross Kinkade, Gary Sparks, Steve Lindholm, Mel Gowing BD 112. 2, Jack Doleman, Mel Gowing, Pat Rickard, Bob McCarty 108. 3, Larry Dreiling, Ron Ackerman, Don Hanly 105.
**Low Gross:** 1, Steve Erickson 70. 2, Sparks 72. 3, Mike Helms 73.
**Low Net:** 1, Lindholm 64. 2, Gary Ingram 65.
**Closest to the Pin:** No. 5, Hanly. No. 7, Helms. No. 14, Sparks.
**Longest Putt:** No. 18, Dan Pearson.

## CG WOMENS VOLLEYBALL

**League: Set & Spike**
**Date: Feb. 3**

| Team | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Timber Chicks | 32 | 4 |
| Olson Electric | 28 | 8 |
| Markham Electric | 22 | 14 |
| Nice Hits | 13 | 23 |
| Horners | 13 | 23 |
| O Ducks | 11 | 25 |
| Twisted Sisters | 7 | 29 |

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