MURRAY

Continued from 1B

experience with young players helped establish his fundamental philosophy.

"I coach for the kids, and if I can teach them something, then I've done my job. And yes, you want to be competitive and you want to win. Those are great things. But it's more important to instill what an honor it is to it to play this sport and play it hard," he said.

After coaching Murray for three years at Marist and knowing his basketball pedigree (Murray's father, John, played at Oregon during the 1970s Kamikaze Kids era), Schmerbach was not surprised to see him blossom as his assistant at Sacred Heart

"Michael was a natural, and the program hasn't been the same since he left," said Schmerbach, who is now an assistant at Southern Oregon — his alma mater. "He was a tough, hard-nosed player who did everything you asked of him. He understands all the little things a team has to do to be successful."

Prior to his junior year, Murray attempted to return to competitive basketball.

"When you love something that much it's hard to let go," he said. "So I though to myself, 'why not try?' If I didn't make it, I would know the reasons why."

He tried out for Southern Oregon and Northwest Christian, and although he was more physically mature than a couple years before, both schools were set at the guard position.

"It was a hard transition and brought about that defining moment of, 'what am I going to do now?' And still to this day I miss it," Murray said.

After graduating with a degree in elementary education, Murray returned to Eugene and began coaching eighth-grade boys in the Oregon Amateur Basketball organization. After meeting Marist head coach Bart Pollard at an open gym, he was offered the J.V. boys' job.

"Coaching J.V. was fine, but your last game is your last game. The only real measurable outcomes are: Did the kids have a good experience? And did they learn something? I wanted to coach at a higher level because you can play for something, and that teaches kids to fight for something."

And although the girls' season ended sooner than expected, that type of heartbreaking finality affirmed his decision.

"This season wasn't what I thought it would be, but it was more than I could have hoped for and wouldn't change it for the world," Murray said. "Getting to the tournament would have meant a lot to this team, but there's always an ending

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Continued from 1B

lead with under two minutes to play in overtime, and Cottage Grove committed a turnover on its very next possession as well.

The Lions also had uncharacteristic struggles at the free-throw line, where they went 8-for-21 and missed on an opportunity to take the lead at the end of regulation.

"Obviously we're disappointed and understand that we didn't play well enough to win," said Lion coach Kerry Clawson.

Cottage Grove (14-11) swept Junction City (13-12) in the regular season, with both wins coming by double digits. And after the Lions jumped out to a 9-0 lead, they appeared to be on their way to three in a row.

However, coach Liz Bolton was confident that her Tigers would be able to put those previous losses behind them and reverse their fortunes this time around.

"We had more time to prepare for this game, and we came in with a completely different mindset and game plan," she said.

After the initial foray, Junction City capitalized off of Cottage Grove turnovers and missed shots to score in transition. And in their half-court game, the Tigers saw opportunity in the paint against a depleted Lion frontcourt. Junction City brought down 11 offensive rebounds.

According to Clawson, usual starter Hannah Arnold strained a hip muscle in practice; she was only able to play for brief stretches of time. And while Delia Nichols-Ferguson was effective in her place, foul trouble meant more playing time for Hannah Albrecht, who typically plays a wing position.

"This team has showed tremendous resiliency all season long, but we never caught a break as far as injuries," said Clawson, who noted that only two players were available for every game this season.

The Tigers opened the second half on an 8-2

point."

At this time, Murray is undecided on his future. He currently does construction work in Eugene. The schedule allows him the flexibility to coach during the after-school hours, but he doesn't know if it's in his long-term career plans.

If he sticks with coaching, he is leaning toward returning to Cottage Grove. Murray said he developed a good working relationship with Clawson and would hate to leave the team after building a rapport with the players.

"I was glad to hear that he branched out to girls' basketball, and I hope that he sticks with it because he is an up-and-coming coach in the state," said Schmerbach. "I wouldn't be surprised to see him coaching at a championship level within the next few years."

run, but Conner Borigo scored seven of her gamehigh 25 points in the third quarter to keep the Li-

Junction City increased its lead to 33-26 mid-

way through the fourth quarter and began milk-

ing the clock with each possession. However, this

lack of urgency may have cost them, as Cottage

Grove outscored the Tigers 7-0 down the stretch

The Lions scored the first two baskets of over-

Clawson said that in hindsight she should have

considered calling a timeout to regroup after the

first turnover but trusted that her team would know

how to respond in their 25th game of the season.

However, the Lions the allowed 50 seconds to run

off before fouling Junction City, leaving them

"It was tough, especially being a senior," said

Since winning the state championship in 2010,

Cottage Grove has yet to return to the state tour-

Sayles. "They came out ready to play and we

precious little time to run a final play.

time and appeared on their way to escape until the

Sky-Em Boys Basketball

	Coi	nference	Overall		
	W	L Pct	W L Pct		
Sutherlin	9	1 0.900	17 7 0.708		
Junction C.	8	2 0.800	16 9 0.640		
Sisters	7	3 0.700	15 8 0.652		
Elmira	3	7 0.300	10 15 0.400		
Sweet Home	2	8 0.200	6 14 0.300		
Cott. Grove	1	9 0.100	5 19 0.208		

Play-In Results

Sisters 44, South Umpqua 29 Cascade 53, Elmira 42 Yamhill-Carlton 43, Junction City 40

First Round Games Sisters @ Scappoose

Madras @ Sutherlin

Sky-Em Girls Basketball

Conference			Overall		
W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
10	0	1.000	24	0	1.000
7	3	0.700	14	11	0.560
5	5	0.500	13	12	0.520
5	5	0.500	11	13	0.458
3	7	0.300	6	16	0.273
0	10	0.000	1	19	0.050
	W 10 7 5 5 3	W L 10 0 7 3 5 5 5 5 3 7	W L Pct 10 0 1.000 7 3 0.700 5 5 0.500 5 5 0.500 3 7 0.300	W L Pct W 10 0 1.000 24 7 3 0.700 14 5 5 0.500 13 5 5 0.500 11 3 7 0.300 6	Conference Over W L Pct W L 10 0 1.000 24 0 7 3 0.700 14 11 5 5 0.500 13 12 5 5 0.500 11 13 3 7 0.300 6 16 0 10 0.000 1 19

Play-In Results

Junction City 41, Cottage Grove 39 Sisters 38, Philomath 34

First Round Games Baker @ Sutherlin Sisters @ Henley Junction City @ Valley Catholic

COTTAGE BOWL

League: Dynamic Trios Date: Feb. 24

Team	W	L
Grandma's Rule	15	1
Swearengin Design	12	4
Cottage Bowlerettes	11	5
Advanced Eyecare	11	5
Golding Enterprises	10	6
H. Selective Log.	9	7
H's Rowdy Bunch	7	9
K. Family Merc.	2	14
New Creations	2	14
R's Beauty Salon	1	15

High Game: Jeralee Swearengin 195 Three-high Series

1. Megan McNary 560

Margot Gotcher 509 3. Patsy McNally 506

League: Ball and Chain

Date: Feb. 25 Team Commonwealth F 14

League: Cottage Mixers

common wearun 1.	1 1
C.G. Speedway	11
Kelly's Trailer R.	8
Funseekers	7
Swearengin Design	7
Jerry Brown Co.	7
Bowling Stones	5
Cottage Bowl	5
Taylor's Towing	4
Covered Bridge U.	2
e	

High Game

Men: Billy Brock 257 Women: Kayla Simmons 217 High Series Men: Billy Brock 667 Women: Laura Cardoza 499

Team	W
Jenni and the Jets 2	7.5
Book Mine	5
Amigos Quatro	5
Mid State	4.5
V. Richenstain	4.5
Aces High	4
4 U Simple	4
Jim's Tire Factory	4
C.G. Vac and Sew	3
Ames to be True	0
All in the Family	0

Men: Bob McCarty 245
Women: Callena True 201
Men Three-high series
1. Ron Bascue 673
2. Aaron Ames 621
3. Robert Hand 615
Women Three-high Series
1. Cherry Bascue 533
2. Callena True 487
3. Elizabeth Risso 473
League: Meri Rollers
Date: Feb. 24

eam	W
Blue Sunshine	13
Emerald Valley	13
Aoms Girls	11
Team Reliv	10
Treasure Chest	9
Ron's Girls	7
Simand Chiro.	7
Charlie's Angels	6
Lucky Ladies	4
Addi's Diner	3
Thurso Amairaoa	2

E

MIDDLEFIELD MENS GOLF

2. Jennifer Fox 560

3.Jacki Jackson 514

Date: Feb. 23 Game: 2 Points

0

3 6

9

9

3

4

4

10

1t, Dave England, Mel Gowing, Dick Winters, Jack Doleman BD 88. 1t, Jack Doleman, Leon Hayes, Rudy Nellermoe, David Morris 88. 3, Larry Emery, Mike Cooney, Jerry Pennington Dave Tooker 87. Low Gross: 1, Doleman 73. 2t, Emery 74. 2t, Mike Helms 74. Low Net: 1t, Emery 65. 1t, England 65. 1t, Glen Hibner 65. Closest to the Pin: No. 5, Hibner. No. 7, Jake Cox. No. 14, Cox. Longest Putt: No. 11, Helms.

1, Larry Emery, David Morris, Jim Wamsley, David Dreiling (-27). 2, Ron Ackerman, Russell Bryce, Mel Gowing, Bill Avery (-24). 3t, Glen Hibner, Gary Ingram, Frank LaCosse, Jack Doleman (-19). 3t, Mike Cooney, Dave England, Leon Hayes, Dave Tooker (-19). Low Gross: 1, Helms 73. 2, Emery 74. 3t, Ingram 75. 3t, Doleman. Low Net: 1, Wamsley 60. 2, Morris 61. 3, Bob McCarty. Closest to the Pin: No. 5, Dan Pearson. No. 7, Tooker. No. 14, Steve Lindholm. Longest Putt: No. 12, Al Schweitzer.

CG WOMENS VOLLEYBALL

League: Set & Spike Date: Feb. 24

Team	W	L
Timber Chicks	40	5
Olson Electric	32	13
Markham Electric	25	20
O Ducks	17	28
Nice Hits	16	26
Horners	15	27
Twisted Sisters	8	34
League: CG Volle Date: Feb. 26	yball A	ssociatio
Team	W	TW

0

0

Date: Feb. 26	-	
Team	W	T
Patterson Cutting	4	36
Sets in the City	4.5	32
Smashers	3	24
War Eagles	3	23
Backer's Ballers	35	10

nament. Junction City moves on to face No. 3 Valley Catholic in the first round of the playoffs. "When it's close to being over, everyone on this team plays their best," said Tiger McKenna Straube. "The playoffs are a whole new season, and we're really enjoying this moment." Saturday, Feb. 28 Junction City 41, Cottage Grove 39 OT

weren't ready for it."

ons within range.

to force overtime.

fateful series of turnovers.

Junction City	7	12	10	4	8-41
Cottage Grove	13	6	7	7	6 — 39

Junction City: Graton 9, K. Thompson 9, Hansen 6, N. Thompson 6, Straube 5, Devorak 4, Mehlbreck 2.

Cottage Grove: Borigo 25, Neely 7, Thielman 4, Sayles 2, Nichols-Ferguson 1.

Date: Feb. 26 Game: 2 Best Ball

Team	W
Senior Funsters	7
Bowl Dozers	6
More Beer	5
Roman Numerals	4
Joe's Diner	4
Thunder Boltz	3
Cracker Jacks	2
Pin Pushers	2
Ally Oops	2
Party Patrol	1

High Game

Men: Andy Adams 255 Women: Robin Kwandt 212 Men Three-high Series 1. Andy Adams 691 2. Glenn Clark 656

- 3. Jim Chenoweth 655
- Women Three-high Series
- 1. Vanessa Chenoweth 565
- 2. Robin Kwandt 490
- 3. Dana Miller 461



Lady Ducks **Ball Busters** *Total wins

6

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