

Presley honored by OADA

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Oregon Athletic Directors Association recognized Cottage Grove High School Athletic Director Dave Presley with the OADA / OSAA Partnership Award on April 20 at Sunriver Resort, during the 46th annual OADA State Conference.



Dave Presley

The OADA recognizes athletic directors from each of the six classifications through nominations submitted by current and former associates, school personnel and community members that are evaluated by an awards committee and approved by the OADA Executive Board.

The OADA / OSAA Partnership award, which is not necessarily awarded every year, goes to an athletic director who goes above and beyond the scope of their normal duties to support the OSAA through their work on committees, hosting state-championship contests or other efforts that benefit the organization.

OSAA Sports Information Director Steve Walker said that Presley stood out from other nominees for his year-in, year-out commitment to staging high-quality championship events.

"What sets Dave apart is that he and his staff never just go through the motions. They really make it a special experience for athletes, fans and OSAA personnel. Even when his Lions aren't competing in these games, Dave shows just as much excitement to host outside teams," Walker said.

Presley was also recognized for his 15 years of service as an athletic director.

Lions fall in Sky-Em softball standings

After the opening week of league play, the Lions were in a tie for second place at 2-1. But since then, they have lost four games in a row.

On April 20, Junction City beat Cottage Grove 8-7 in eight innings. Angel Pitchford's double in the top of the eighth scored Mikayla Edwards for the go-ahead run and the visiting Tigers held on to win. Edwards and Pitchford each had three hits and a double. Cassidy Whisler was 2-for-4 with a double and triple for the Lions.

The following day, Elmira beat Cottage Grove 8-3 to complete the season sweep. Lyndsay Bradley had three hits, including two doubles, to lead the Falcons. Giulia Appoloni also doubled twice. For the Lions, Lizzy Wiltse went 3-for-4, with Taylor Sayles and Lindsey Clark each adding two hits.

Cottage Grove was scheduled to play a home doubleheader against Sisters on Tuesday and plays at Sutherlin on Friday.

Lions sweep Huskies, Falcons in Sky-Em tri meet

Cottage Grove girls and boys each win eight events on their way to victory at Sweet Home

BY MATT HOLLANDER
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The Cottage Grove track-and-field team had another strong outing in a Sky-Em League triangular meet Thursday at Sweet Home.

"If last week was a breakthrough performance, this meet was about competing," said Cottage Grove coach Ricky Knutson. "The temperatures were a bit cooler, and at times it was wet, so the conditions weren't the best for setting PRs. But I think that was an important lesson: you're not always going to be able to set a PR at this point of the season."

The boys won eight events en route to scoring 76 points, which outpaced

Sweet Home (66) and Elmira (38).

Michael Tharpe led the way with victories in the 110 meter hurdles and 300 meter hurdles. His time of 44.08 in the latter event was a seasonal best and ranks as the fourth-fastest in the Sky-Em.

Tharpe also placed second in the 100 meters (11.55) and teamed with Connor Howard, Jacob Woods and Brynden Howell to take first in the 4x100 meter relay (44.89).

Howard, who typically runs the short dashes, moved up to the 400 meters for the first time in his career. He won in 52.74, which is the fourth-best time in the league.

Please see TRACK AND FIELD, Page 2B



Athlete of the Week:
Michael Tharpe

Cottage Grove High School Hall of Fame preview

BY MATT HOLLANDER
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On May 9, the Cottage Grove High School Hall of Fame will introduce its eighth class of inductees. Those include athletes Lowry Hoyer, Wes Malcolm, Bob Wiltse, Melanie Woodworth and Kaitlyn Uram (Kronberger); coach Clive MacDonald, community contributor Bob Butler and the 2008 boys' soccer team.

Kaitlyn Uram (nee Kronberger) was a three-sport standout for the Lions from 2005 to 2009.

She earned three letters on the soccer field, where she helped lead the Lions to a fourth-place finish in the 2008 state playoffs, and the following year she earned first team all-league honors. She also competed on the track and field team for two seasons.

But Uram was best known for her exploits on the hardwood. The four-year letterman was named Sky-Em League MVP in each of her final three seasons, and she was a first team all-league performer as a freshman. At the all-state level, Uram was recognized on the third team as a sophomore, second team as a junior and first team as a senior.

With Uram, the Lions achieved unprecedented success. They finished fourth at the state tournament in 2008 and came in as runners-up the following year.

Uram said that her favorite memories include the state tournament run during her senior year and scoring 30 points against Dallas as a sophomore.

"I loved being able to play with such amazing teammates," she added. "I always felt I had the loudest and proudest family in the stands. They always supported me and held me accountable for everything."

After graduating from CGHS, Uram played one year of basketball at Lane Community College. She then transferred to Pioneer Pacific College, where

she played one season.

Kaitlyn married her husband John in July 2011. They had their first son, Cael, in June 2013, and they are expecting their second child in September. Uram said they love going camping, riding quads and spending time with family.

The family currently lives in Eugene, where Kaitlyn manages a cafe.

Clive MacDonald coached football, basketball and golf at Cottage Grove High School from 1959 to 1994.

In his 10 seasons as head coach of the football team, MacDonald compiled a 42-49 record, which ranks as the third most wins in school history.

In 1979, the Lions placed fifth at the

AAA golf championships, and they won a district championship in 1990.

MacDonald said he was drawn to coaching because of a life-long love of athletics, and he was further encouraged to pursue that career after spending two years helping coaches Len Casanova and John McKay at the University of Oregon.

MacDonald said that his career highlights were beating Marshfield to deny Pirate coach Pete Susick from winning his 200th game, and working with Wally Ciochetti, who served as the Lions' defensive coordinator from 1969-1978.

"I enjoy the small-town atmosphere, and I loved the work ethic of the students and coaches I worked with," he

said.

MacDonald said that he is still enjoying life as a retiree. He spends his time golfing and reading up on military history.

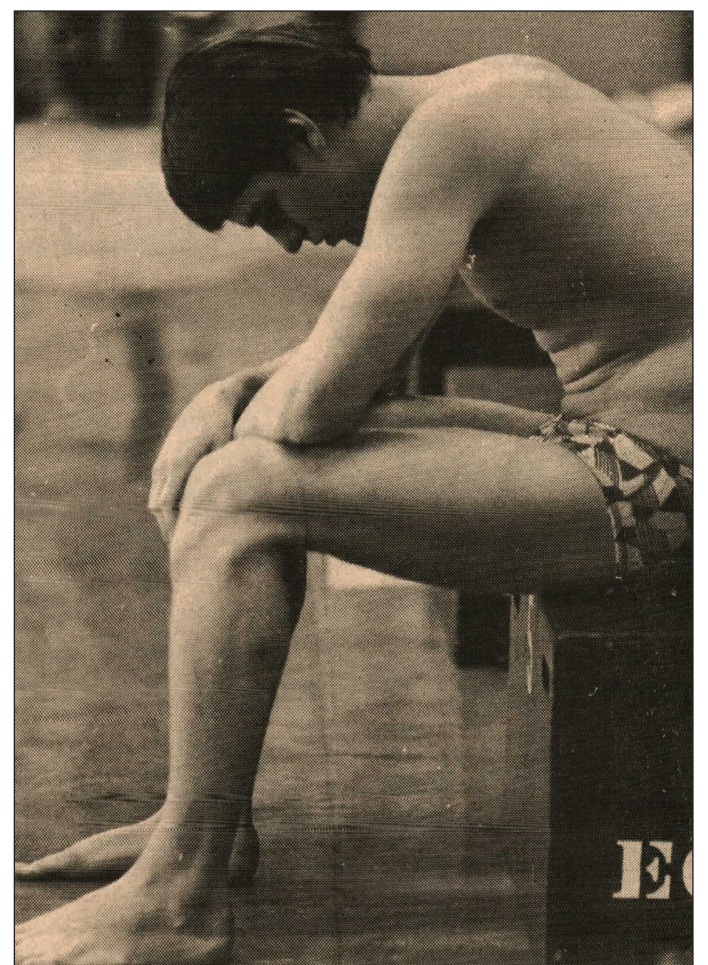
Robert Wiltse attended CGHS from 1974 to 1976 and is one of the most decorated athletes in the history of its aquatics programs.

Wiltse was a four-year letterman for the swim team and set numerous school records. At the 1975 state meet, Wiltse won the 200-yard freestyle, placed second in the 100-yard breaststroke and was a member of the Lions' victorious 4x100-yard freestyle relay, as Cottage Grove took third place overall.

Please see HALL OF FAME, Page 2B



Kaitlyn (Kronberger) Uram and Bob Wiltse are two members of the 2015 Hall of Fame class.



file photos

Cottage Grove loses ground in Sky-Em race

Lions have lost four games in a row

BY MATT HOLLANDER
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Oh how fortunes have changed for Cottage Grove.

Two weeks after rising to the top of the Sky-Em, the Lions have lost four games in a row to drop to fourth place in the league standings. And with six games remaining in the regular season, their margin of error to reach the postseason is nil.

On Friday, Sisters beat Cottage Grove 13-3 in six innings.

While it could have been expected that the Outlaws would bounce back from their loss to Cottage Grove earlier in the season, the Lions' 11-9 defeat by Elmira on Tuesday, April 21, was a bit more shocking.

Cottage Grove nearly overcame a disastrous outing by Zach Thomason, by scoring four runs in the top of the sixth inning to trim a 10-5 deficit down to one run, but the Falcons made just enough plays down the stretch to hold them off.

"This league is just rugged," said Elmira coach Rick Royster. "Everybody can score runs, so you're never safe in a game. You got to give Cottage Grove all the credit in the world for coming back like they did."

The Lions got off to a strong start against the Falcons, putting three runs on the board in the first inning. T.J. Bellamy scored two of those runs with a line-drive single to right field.

But in the top half of the inning, it quickly became clear that Thomason, Cottage Grove's top pitcher, was off his game. He gave up three base hits and threw three

Please see BASEBALL, Page 2B



photo by Matt Hollander

Cottage Grove's Tristan Mihan, who also pitched in relief, hit a two-run double at Elmira on April 21.

Join us for the
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and Quality RV Repair Hornets

