

Cottage Grove picks Yoss as next varsity girls basketball coach

After 14 years in the boys program, Yoss makes the short move across the hall

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove didn't have to look very far for its next varsity girls basketball head coach.

On May 26, the school announced that long-time boys coach Kevin Yoss would take the reins for Kerry Clawson, who retired in April after eight seasons at the helm.

"I've always wanted to be a varsity head coach, but I also knew that I wanted to stay in Cottage Grove," said Yoss, who has spent the past 14 years in the boys program. "So when Kerry retired, I thought it was a good opportunity."

During his time at Cottage Grove, Yoss has been the head coach of the boys' freshman and JV teams, in addition to assisting at the varsity level. However, the only female player he has coached in his career is all-time Lion great Reed Levings — back in 2002 when she played with his son in South Valley Athletics.

"My only real hesitation about the job was how I would be received by the team; it's been a long time since the program

has had a male coach. But those hesitations went away very quickly. During my first practice I found the girls to be nice and very approachable," said Yoss.

Aiding in the transition will be some familiar faces on the bench. Yoss said he expects Jeremy Young to return as the JV coach, and Alyssa Gould, who was the freshman coach last year, will be the varsity assistant.

Head varsity boys coach Donn Pollard said he will wait till next school year to address the void on his staff, but he already knows that it will be a challenge.

"Kevin has been a very loyal and outstanding assistant for a number of years, and he will be sorely missed. He knows the game well and is invested in the community. We will miss him because he does a lot of things that allow us to be successful," he said.

Although the varsity season is still six months away, the job has already started for Yoss and the Lions, whose summer league began during the last week of May. And while the cupboard is not bare of talent — Cottage Grove returns all-Sky-Em players Hannah Arnold and Melissa Thielman — Yoss expects to develop an entirely new offensive strategy without graduating Sky-Em player of the year Conner Borigo.

"It's hard to say at this point what we'll try to do because I've only seen



Kevin Yoss

them practice and play once," he said. "The kids who are coming back weren't relied on to do much scoring, so we may have to work really hard to score the ball. But defensively we'll be athletic and we'll be able to pressure the ball. I also expect that we'll be able to get out and run some."

Yoss added that he would like to thank the hiring committee — South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent, CGHS principal Iton Udosenata and dean of students Gary Roberts, coach Clawson and

his wife, Monica.

According to Roberts, there were nine applicants for the position, and the committee interviewed four candidates.

"We're excited to have Kevin on board," Roberts said. "When the job came open, we were hoping that he'd be interested. He's been a staple of Cottage Grove basketball for a long time. He's been a big part of building our boys program, and I don't know if they would be where they're at without him."

Up Next: The Lion basketball camps for kids in grades 3-9 will be held June 15-18 at the Cottage Grove High School Gymnasium. The boys will meet from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and the girls will meet from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. More information will be included in the June 10 issue.

Head volleyball coach resigns

In other coaching news, varsity volleyball head coach Jill Colclasure has resigned. Athletic Director Dave Presley said the school has started its search for her replacement, and that Elysha Lang will serve as the interim coach for the Lions during the upcoming Marist summer volleyball league.

Trey Starks Dominates at Marvin Smith Memorial

BY BEN DEATHERAGE

Cottage Grove Speedway hosted the first night of the Marvin Smith Memorial Grove Classic on Friday, May 29. Classes in action included 360 Sprints, Late Models and Vintage Cars. And there was great racing all of the main events at the historic 1/4-mile clay oval.

Trey Starks from Puyallup, Wash. took full advantage of the initial start to seize the lead. Mastering lapped traffic, he made all the right split-second decisions to get his mount through the back of the field. He built a massive lead and lapped so many cars that only the top six retained lead lap status due to the feature going non-stop from green to checkered. Starks won his second race of the season at CGS and his third overall of the year.

Chico, California's Kyle Hirst was second, while Jason Solowold from Burlington, Wash. ended the night a very close third. The rest of the top five included Justyn Cox of Clarksburg, Calif. in fourth, and Kyle Miller from Salem in fifth.

In the Late Models, Preston Luckman from Coos Bay was the early race leader.

But he lost the lead on lap two to Pleasant Hill's Blaine Taylor. Taylor looked to have the car to beat and paced the field for much of the race. Then, on lap 21, Molalla teenager Justin Duty, got by Taylor for the top spot. Duty led the rest of the way to win his first Late Model race at Cottage Grove in his first ever start.

Taylor was second Rob Mayea from Bend. Cottage Grove's Curtis Towns crossed the line fourth while Bricen James of Albany was fifth.



Trey Starks won the 360 Sprint feature Saturday at the Marvin Smith Memorial Classic. photo courtesy of Dirt Monkey Productions

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4A Baseball Playoffs

First Round Results

Henley 5, Cascade 1
North Bend 7, Sweet Home 4
Astoria 11, Estacada 2
Hidden Valley 9, Philomath 6
Gladstone 4, Mazama 0
North Marion 11, Baker 2
Scappoose 15, Newport 9
Molalla 10, Sisters 5

Quarterfinal Results

Henley 6, North Bend 0
Hidden Valley 12, Astoria 10
Gladstone 15, North Marion 8
Scappoose 13, Molalla 2

Semifinal Games

Hidden Valley at Henley
Scappoose at Gladstone

4A Softball Playoffs

First Round Results

Banks 5, Ontario 1
Scappoose 12, Elmira 3
Mazama 7, Marshfield 3
Newport 13, North Valley 5
Yamhill-Carlton 8, Corbett 1
Henley 2, Crook County 0
Douglas 4, Gladstone 3
McLoughlin 10, Crook County 0

Quarterfinal Results

Banks 4, Scappoose 1
Mazama 5, Newport 4
Yamhill-Carlton 4, Henley 1
McLoughlin 4, Douglas 0

Semifinal Games

Mazama at Banks
Yamhill-Carlton at McLoughlin

Sky-Em Softball

All-league Selections

Pitcher of the year: Miranda Jensen, Elmira
Player of the year: Sierra Thayer, Sweet Home

First team

Pitchers: Miranda Jensen, Elmira; Ally Tow, Sweet Home.
Catchers: McKenzie Cochran, Sweet Home; Cassidy Whisler, Cottage Grove.
Infielders: Giulia Appoloni, Elmira; Mikayla Edward, Junction City; Natalie Thorpe, Sweet Home; Ashton Webber, Elmira; Lizzy Wiltse, Cottage Grove; Lindsay Bradley, Elmira.
Outfielders: Sierra Thayer, Sweet Home; Nicole McCallum, Elmira; Caylin Gillespie, Sweet Home; Becca Bumcrot, Junction City.
Utility Player: Kylee Anderson, Elmira

Second team

Pitchers: Angel Pitchford, Junction City; Taylor Sayles, Cottage Grove
Catchers: Shayla Curtis, Sisters; Nicole Snyder, Junction City.
Infielders: Madi Barringer, Sweet Home; Ashley Victor, Junction City; Anja Gros, Sisters; Britany Zook, Sweet Home; Bailey Westrom, Sutherlin; Katie Mobley, Elmira.
Outfielders: Tristyn Duck, Sutherlin; Amanda Smith, Sisters.
Utility Player: Taylor Sayles, Cottage Grove

Honorable Mention

Catcher: Kaylea Knee, Sutherlin
Infielders: Caitie Carrillo, Sutherlin; Jordan Spangler, Junction City; Zoey Nason, Sisters; Hailey Hudson, Sisters; Kalea Galbreath, Cottage Grove.

Middlefield Mens Golf

Date: May 25
Game: 3-2-1 Points

1, Cunningham, Lee, Lindholm, Sparks 102. 2t, Ackerman, Miller, Eyman, Pennington 96. 2t, Cooney, Culp, Doleman, Wamsley 96. 4, Armor, Fisher, Hibner, Russo 95.

Low Gross: 1, Culp 70. 2, Doleman 71. 3t, Sparks 72. 3t, Russo 72. 3t, Martin 72.

Low Net: 1t, Lee. 1t, Fisher 58. 3t, Ryan 61. 3t, Eyman 61.

Closest to the Pin: No. 5, Doleman. No. 7, Lee. No. 14, Sparks (Hole in one).

Longest Putt: No. 8, Cooney.

Date: May 28
Game: 2 Best Ball

1, Cunningham, Neller, Wilson, Levings (-31). 2t, Emery, Vargas, Prunkl, Gilmore BD (-30). 2t, England, Gilmore, Eyman, Dreiling (-30). 4, Hayes, Hibner, Ryan, Bryce (-29).

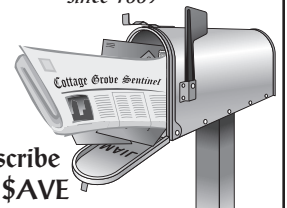
Low Gross: 1, Sparks 69. 2, Culp 71. 3t, Emery 73. 3t, Morris 73. 3t, Doleman 73.

Low Net: 1, Cunningham 53. 2, Eyman 56. 3t, Pennington 58. 3t, Arney 58. 3t, Prunkl 58.

Closest to the Pin: No. 5, Prunkl. No. 7, Martindale. No. 14, Gowing.

Longest Putt: No. 6, Gowing

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