



# Athletes of the Year

## Presley masters the art of shifting

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

His first baseball glove was made of plastic so stiff that he couldn't even squeeze it. And he showed up to his first practice as a third-grader not knowing how to catch a pop fly. But by the end of the year, he was hitting and getting on base, fielding ground balls and playing shortstop.

These early baseball memories might sound a lot like those of Scotty Smalls from "The Sandlot," but they are in fact those of Payton Presley, the Cottage Grove Sentinel's male athlete of the year.

"I was surprised by how fast I picked it up, and I think that's why I stuck with it," he said. "I liked that it was a mental game, and I liked that it was fun."

Presley recently completed a banner junior year at Cottage Grove High School. On their way to a postseason berth, he led the Lions with a .386 batting average while driving in 16 runs. He also led the team with 28 stolen bases.

On the gridiron, Presley caught 24 passes for 392 yards and a team-high five touchdowns. Defensively he primarily played at cornerback, and he came up with a key interception in the Lions' first win of the year against Sutherlin.

It's shaping up to be a busy summer for Presley. Earlier this spring he



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photo by Jo Wheat

## Big decisions pay off for Borigo

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
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Summer basketball has nearly arrived for Conner Borigo. Borigo, the recently graduated Cottage Grove girls' basketball star, says it's one of her favorite times of the year. She can focus solely on hoops and create bonds with her teammates that will last them through the long winter season.

When she returns to the gym this week, Borigo will be doing so with Northwest Christian University. And though her new home court will look a lot like the one on which she spent the past four years excelling — both are 94 feet long with blue and gold accents — Borigo knows that her life is about to change.

"I'm sad to leave behind the memories and the people I got to know here, but I'm super excited for what NCU has to offer," she said.

Borigo, the Cottage Grove Sentinel's female athlete of the year, signed with the Beacons this past December and finished her high-school career in dominating fashion. She led the Lions to the postseason with a second-place finish in the Sky-Em League. In a non-conference game against Stayton on Jan. 9, she established a new single-game school record of 34 points. And following the season, she was awarded co-league player of the year and was named second team all-state.

Later in the spring, in just her second season of track and field, Borigo climbed to fifth on the school's all-time shot put chart with a mark of 37-2 and placed sixth at the 4A state meet.

Looking back, Borigo knows that finalizing her college plans before her senior season began had a lot to do with how she performed during it.

"Last summer I was still trying to find a coach and a school that would really give me an offer, and I was stressed out all the time. But when it finally happened, I



photo by Gary Ordway Sports Action Photography

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Male Overall: Payton Presley — Football, Baseball

Female Overall: Conner Borigo — Basketball, Track and Field

Freshman: Adam Lamb — Football, Wrestling, Track and Field

Freshman: Halle Petersen — Soccer, Track and Field

Sophomore: Kory Parent — Football, Basketball

Sophomore: Hudson Weybright — Soccer, Track and Field

Junior: Bryce Allen — Wrestling, Baseball

Junior: Delia Nichols-Ferguson — Soccer, Basketball, Track and Field

Senior: Johnny Conrad — Football, Golf

Senior: Taylor Sayles — Volleyball, Basketball, Softball

### Fall Sports

### Winter Sports

### Spring Sports

Boys Cross Country: Adam Najera

Girls Cross Country: Breanna Wright

Boys Soccer: Joe Welch

Girls Soccer: Kia Hemenway

Football: Austin Gordon

Volleyball: Sara Bass

Boys Basketball: Chance Hopkins

Girls Basketball: Melissa Thielman

Boys Bowling: Austin Renfro

Girls Bowling: Gracie Stewart

Boys Swimming: Jarett Raade

Girls Swimming: Tori Raade

Boys Wrestling: Andrew Bordeaux

Girls Wrestling: Katie Dennis

Baseball: Lucas Ward

Softball: Liz Wiltse

Boys Golf: Cameron Sandoval

Girls Golf: MacKenzie Husko

Boys Track and Field: Michael Tharpe

Girls Track and Field: Courtney Hammel

## The Business of Sports

Program offers CGHS students hands-on work experience in athletics

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

It's a fall Friday night in Cottage Grove, and you've decided to go catch the Lions. By the time you get your program, purchase your snacks and settle into your seats at Herald White Stadium, it's likely that you've encountered at least half-a-dozen instances of work done by the school's Advanced Business Concepts class.

The program was started in 2007 with a gift from the Carl Perkins Foundation. The goals for the class were twofold: provide students with valuable, hands-on experience; and generate revenue to help compensate for cuts to the school's activities budget. The class now raises \$10,000-

\$15,000 annually for school activity programs and scholarships.

"We saw it as a win-win for everyone involved," said instructor Ricardo Florez. "A lot of coaches were already fundraising in the community, and we felt that if we could concentrate our efforts into one proposal, then we wouldn't put local businesses in the position of having to choose which programs to support."

The class started small in both size and scope. Its primary function in the early days was to produce and sell programs at sporting events. But it wasn't long before the students also took on vending and concessions.

"Early on, we wanted it to be something the students could handle and do correctly," said Florez.

In recent years, the program has become increasingly multi-faceted. Within Advanced Business Concepts is the Sports Marketing division,

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photo by Matt Hollander

Advanced Business Concepts students Kenny Thurman, Makenzie Wells and Croix Hogan and instructor Ricardo Florez make sure that sponsor signs are evenly spaced around the fences of Herald White Stadium.

# Cottage Grove Speedway

Join us June 13th  
for Ladies Night  
Late Models,  
360 Sprints, IMCA SportMods,  
Quality RV Repair Horents, Pro 4's