

Lions keep their own scores this summer



Jaace Cross went 2-for-4 in the Lions' win over Elmira on June 16. photo by Matt Hollander

Cottage Grove takes out Elmira in extras, 6-5

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

VENETA — There's a particularly care-free air around the Cottage Grove baseball team this summer. The Lions opted for an independent schedule over the more typical small-school league, meaning that record means even less than usual. But they still keep score, and so far they're doing very well.

Cottage Grove's D1 / Varsity team was undefeated through the first two weeks of its summer slate, including a 6-5 (8 inns.) road win over Elmira on June 16.

The teams were knotted at four runs apiece after seven innings. In the top of the eighth, Brett Ollivant scored Jaace Cross on an RBI single for the go-ahead run. And Ollivant later came in for the would-be game winner.

The Falcons responded immediately in the bottom of the inning. Kobe Bechtel hit a triple and later scored on a passed ball. And Harley Clarke, the game-tying run, was on second for Elmira. But the next two Falcon batters flew out to left field, and Clarke was picked off on his way to third base.

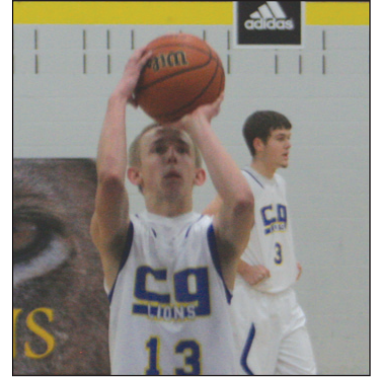
"Early on in these games, it's more about teaching," said Cottage Grove coach Dan Geiszler. "But hopefully, when you get into those final innings, the competitive nature will take over. Winning isn't really the main part of the summer, but it's nice to see the way our kids perform in those situations."

For much of the game, it appeared that the Lions had the victory well in hand. They got on the board first with two runs in the third inning. Ollivant, who finished with three hits, extended the lead with an RBI single in the fourth. And T.J. Bellamy, who went 3-for-4 with two doubles,

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Athlete of the Week: Kory Parent



The Lions' varsity basketball team went 7-2 at a summer tournament last weekend at Junction City. Kory Parent averaged 14 points per game to lead Cottage Grove. See Page 2B for more coverage.

All-Star Sayles

Taylor Sayles, a recent graduate of Cottage Grove High School, was selected to play in the OSAA Senior All-Star basketball tournament, held this past weekend at Corban University in Salem. The teams — North, South, East and West — were comprised of 4A, 3A and 2A players who had earned first or second team all-league honors this past winter. Sayles, who was named second-team All-Sky Em, was chosen to play on the South team.

In the first game, the South defeated the North 64-48. Sayles had five points, four rebounds and four assists. And in the championship game, the South prevailed again, 69-53, over the East. Sayles had eight points, three rebounds and five assists.



Taylor Sayles

New-look Lions wrap up summer league



Melissa Thielman scored nine points in Cottage Grove's summer league game against Roseburg. photo by Matt Hollander

Cottage Grove loses to Creswell and Roseburg in finale doubleheader

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

EUGENE — The Cottage Grove varsity girls' basketball team concluded its summer league schedule with a doubleheader last Wednesday at Lane Community College. The Lions dropped their opener to Creswell, 33-12, and were later defeated by Roseburg, 52-33.

While several players were absent from Wednesday's games, first-year head coach Kevin Yoss said that the games still highlighted key areas for improvement.

"We have a long ways to go, but I think that the girls are willing to do it, which I'm pleased to see," he said.

In the first game, Creswell jumped out to a 14-0 lead while holding Cottage Grove without a field goal for 16 minutes. (Summer league games are two 20-minute halves of running clock.) Madison Eusted led the Bulldogs with 16 points, and Kaylee Lehman added 10 points. Melissa Thielman was the Lions' high scorer with five points.

Cottage Grove nearly tripled its scoring against 6A Roseburg but struggled on the defensive end.

The Indians led by 17 at halftime and were ahead by 25 late in the second half. Jessie Farrington scored 18 points for Roseburg.

Bethany Fromdahl and Amia Gowins added 12 and 10 points, respectively, for the Indians. Hannah Arnold score 12 points for the Cottage Grove, including eight straight

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Williamson wins Wild West Modified Shootout at CGS

Letsom picks up second Quality RV Repair Hornet win of 2015

BY BEN DEATHERAGE

Cottage Grove Speedway hosted the fourth race of the 2015 Wild West Modified Shootout on Tuesday, June 16. A total of 43 cars were on hand representing the states of Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, Colorado and the Canadian province of British Columbia. Some spectacular action was on display at the historic 1/4-mile clay oval.

Martinez, California's Troy Foulger was the early race leader, but he lost the lead on lap five to Jesse Williamson from Eugene. Williamson appeared to have the race won until going off the track on turns three and four of lap 16.

Williamson was able to get back on the race track, but he forfeited the top spot to Chowchilla, California native Alex Stanford. Stanford did not have to worry much about lapped traffic due to several cautions. But on lap 28, just before another caution, Williamson found a way around Stanford to reclaim the lead.

Shortly after the restart, Redmond's Mark Carrell come from the bottom of the track to seize the

lead on lap 30. Unfortunately, Carrell spun in the second turn and collided with a few cars, resulting in a premature end to his night.

Williamson inherited the lead with just a few laps left to go, and he held off some very fast race cars to become the first multi-feature victor in the 2015 Wild West Modified Shootout. It was also his third win of the year at Cottage Grove Speedway.

Travis Peery of Williston, North Dakota was the runner-up while Troy Heupel, also of Williston, managed to get third. The rest of the top five consisted of Stanford and Albany's Craig Hanson. Troy Heupel was awarded the Klecker Knives Hard-charger award.

Also in action on Tuesday was the Quality RV Repair Hornets, which was the support division to the IMCA Modifieds. There was a strong contingent of eighteen cars in attendance for the rare mid-week appearance.

Marcola's Brandon Letsom seized the race lead on the first lap, and he managed to keep all challengers at bay for a wire-to-wire victory. It was the second of 2015 for Letsom.

Mike Swaim of Dexter was second, while behind in third was Springfield's K.C. Scott. Marcel Forte from Junction City ended his evening fourth, and Dexter's Taunton Swaim was fifth.



Jesse Williamson won an exciting leg of the Wild West Modified Shootout, Tuesday at the Cottage Grove Speedway. Photo Courtesy of Kayla Simmons Photography

Cottage Grove Speedway

Join us June 27th
for
NWWT Sprints,
IMCA Modifieds, Street Stocks,
Quality RV Repair Hornets