

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Continued from 1B

to end the game, and Thielman chipped in nine points. "We've been pretty good about working together and finding our groove again," Thielman said of the long layoff since the end of the varsity season. The Lions came into this summer with more unknowns than in any recent year. Yoss was hired in late May to replace Kerry Clawson, who had retired after leading Cottage Grove for

the past eight years. Over the past 14 years, Yoss had been the head coach of the boys' freshman and JV teams, in addition to assisting at the varsity level. But this is his first time coaching girls. "It's definitely different," he said. "They seem to try harder than the boys to do what you teach them. They've sure made me feel welcome, and they're coachable." So far, those feelings appear to be mutual.

"We all love him," Thielman said. "He's really good at encouraging us or letting us know that even if we didn't win or play our best, that we still played hard." Without a dominant post presence to fill the shoes of graduated senior Conner Borigo, it also appeared that the Lions would have to retool their offense with perimeter players. "We just now started to put in some pick-and-roll stuff, and they're just starting to know

how to do that, where to go and what's going to be open," said Yoss. "I think we're also willing to defend — and that's a positive. Although we didn't necessarily show it today." Based on Wednesday's games, Thielman seems to be a focal piece of the new-look Lions. While she is certainly not unaccustomed to bringing the ball up the court and initiating the offense, she'll be asked to do a lot of the scoring as well. Thielman took 13 shots against

Creswell and 10 shots against Roseburg. "It's different, but I'm adjusting," she said. "We relied a lot on Conner last year, but now we're driving to the hoop more and not passing so much." "She's just now starting to think score first before pass," Yoss said of Thielman. "Most of the girls (on last year's team) were thinking, 'Pass. Pass. Pass.' Now they're the ones who will have to step up to score." With no team camp this summer, the Lions won't officially meet again until the first practice of the season in November. Yoss said there will be regular open gym sessions over the summer, but he acknowledged that it's always challenging to find a schedule that works for all the players.



photo by Matt Hollander

Tucker Porter drives to the hoop during Cottage Grove's 74-32 win over Creswell on Saturday at the Junction City summer tournament.

Experts of their own mistakes

Lions improve through summer league

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

JUNCTION CITY — Midway through the second half of Cottage Grove's 74-32 victory over Creswell on Saturday, Chance Hopkins attempted to make an entry pass to a well-defended Jordan Hagewood. Even before Hopkins' pass was deflected and corralled by a Bulldog defender, several teammates had already let out a quick, "Nope," and started down to the other end of the court for defense. After a trying 2014-15 season of reacting to mistakes, the Lions are now anticipating them before they happen, and this

type of development has paid dividends on the scoreboard. Cottage Grove wrapped up a vastly improved summer season by going 7-2 in this weekend's tournament at Junction City. Kory Parent averaged 14 points per game to lead the Lions. "Physically we're bigger and stronger, but we've improved more mentally," he said. "We got beat down by all of the losses last season, but we've shown more toughness on defense." The Lions went 15-11 this summer with seven losses against 5A and 6A schools. Cottage Grove averaged 60.5 points per game while allowing 50.6 points per game. Parent was tops on the team with 17.5 points per game. Parent said that the team's improvement was apparent from

the first game, a 66-39 victory over Harrisburg, in part due to a change in philosophy. He said the team has moved from a half-court game to a run-and-gun style in order to better utilize the team's speed and quickness. Last season the Lions went 5-19, including a 1-9 mark against Sky-Em opponents. But several times this summer, Cottage Grove went toe-to-toe with Junction City — a team that finished second in the league last year and is a likely contender for this year's title. While the Lions finished 0-3 against the Tigers, including two losses in overtime, Parent said these games have been good measures of progress. **Up next:** This week, Cottage Grove is at the Gonzaga Team Basketball Camp.



The Cottage Grove/Creswell Special Olympics Oregon track team competed at the regional championships in Grants Pass on June 6. In total, the team won six gold, three silver and five bronze medals. Natasha Cospo won gold medals in the 50 meters and softball throw. Others receiving gold medals were Ryan Britton in the 50 meters, William Craft in the softball throw, Austin Crockett in the 100 meters, and Michael Crockett in the 100 meters. Daniel Abbott, Ian Miller, Rebecca Panella, Kendall Thiel, and Jill Vaverka also participated. Bob Alexander, Gene O'Neil and Jerry Vaverka coach the team. Teen assistants are Breanna Eberle, Estrada, Mystika Abbott and Taylor Hollowell.

Middlefield Mens Golf

Date: June 15
Game: 2-3 Best Ball

1, England, McCarty, Tooker, Gates (-25). 2, Cox, Perkins, Sparks, Wamsley (-23). 3, Ingram, Lee, Waterman, Miller (-21).
Low Gross: 1, Pearson 71. 2, Cox 73. 3t, Smith 75. 3t, Emery 75.
Low Net: 1, Lee 59. 2t, Waterman 60. 2t, Pennington 60.
Closest to the Pin: No. 5, Armor. No. 7, Eyman. No. 14, Eyman.
Longest Putt: No. 16, Eyman.

Date: June 18
Game: 3-2 Points

1, Eyman, Gates, Waterman, Hayes 112. 2t, Bodine, Chatigny, Kelder, Cox 110. 2t, Doleman, Ordway, Sparks, Vargas 110.
Low Gross: 1, Helms 71. 2, Zuvich 72. 3t, Bodine 73. 3t, Cox 73. 3t, Doleman 73.
Low Net: 1, Wamsley 59. 2, Tooker 60. 3, Waterman 62
Closest to the Pin: No. 5, Medin. No. 7, Zuvich. No. 14, Emery.
Longest Putt: No. 17, Neller-moe.

Cottage Grove Speedway

Race Summary:
Wild West Modified Shootout
Tuesday, June 16, 2015

A Feature: 1. W5-Jesse Williamson; 2. 6P-Travis Peery; 3. 4T-Troy Heupel; 4. 98-Alex Stanford; 5. 33C-Craig Hanson; 6. 5-Braedon Hand; 7. 83L-Scott Lenz; 8. 49-Troy Foulger; 9. 11-Steven Sturdevant; 10. S-Collen Winebarger; 11. 27-Mark Carrell; 12. 99-Brad Martin; 13. 1M-Mark Waage; 14. 13-Bricen James; 15. 41-Danny Lauer; 16. 7R-Ryan Gaylord; 17. 24-Curtis Towns; 18. 30-Jeremy Shank; 19. 54N-Nick Trenchard; 20. 66P-Paul Stone

Race Summary:
Quality RV Repair Hornets
Tuesday, June 16, 2015

A Feature: 1. 23-Brandon Letson; 2. 48-Mike Swaim; 3. 30-K.C. Scott; 4. 23F-Marcel Forte; 5. 17-Taunton Swaim; 6. 28-Chris Pierce; 7. 51-Jayson Nelson; 8. 89-Jim Simmons; 9. 7-Andrew Mathers; 10. 18-Josh Linville; 11. 03-Eddy Mesceji; 12. 77-Jared Simmons; 13. 80-James McClure; 14. 11-Joe Maricle; 15. 27-Stephanie Haladay; 16. 22A-Justin Austin; 17. 44-Brandon Fox; 18. 7C-Josh Corley

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