

CG football golf tournament to be held Saturday at Middlefield

The annual golf tournament fundraiser for the Cottage Grove High School football team will be held Saturday, July 11 at Middlefield Golf Course beginning at 8 a.m. Entry fees are \$55 per individual or \$220 for a team of four; lunch and raffle tickets are included.

"It's a fun way to raise money and it really helps what we do," said Cottage Grove coach Gary Roberts.

The tournament helps raise \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year for the football program, which typically has \$20,000 of unfunded expenditures each

year, according to Roberts. Football is a zero-based budget sport, which means that anything above travel, game officials and coaches' salaries must be achieved through fundraising.

Cottage Grove has hosted the tournament in 21 of the past 22 years. The only year missed was in 2008, right after Roberts was hired to lead the program.

Roberts is expecting 10-15 teams to play on Saturday, but there is room for additional teams to register. Those interested may contact coach Roberts at 541-912-2530.

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

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Despite all of the obstacles, Cottage Grove had an outstanding season. The Lions qualified nine individuals for state, as well their drill team, Canadian Flag team and two birangle teams. Senior Shania Schueller and junior Ashley Goertzen took first in Birangle out of 34 teams.

Additional state-meet qualifiers included: Shelby Glaspie in saddle seat equitation; Shania Schueller in break-away roping, drill team, barrels and Canadian Flags; Ty Schueller in break-away roping, drill team and steer Daubing; Ellie Harrold in birangle, pole bending and steer daubing; Sara Witty in drill team and Canadian Flags; Tia Barkley in drill team; Katherine Dennis in barrels, figure 8, Canadian Flags, individual flags, pole bending and birangle; Justin Hill in drill team, individual flags and Canadian Flags; and Ashley Goertzen in drill team, barrels, figure 8 and pole bending.

In order to qualify for state, athletes must place in the top-10 percentile on average over three district meets. There are eight districts in Oregon.

In addition to the state champion birangle team of Schueller and Goertzen, the Lions had numerous other top-five finishes. Goertzen took third place in figure 8 and fourth place in barrels.

The Canadian Flag team, despite an injury to regular member Sara Witty the day before the competition, finished second with the team of Shania Schueller, Justin Hill, Katie Dennis and substitute Ellie Harrold. Harold also placed fourth in steer daubing.

Normally, top-five finishers from the state meet would be preparing to compete in a regional meet against Washington. However, due to the virus outbreak and subsequent delay of the Oregon state meet, the regional meet was canceled.

"It's heartbreaking for our seniors who won't get another opportunity to compete for a chance to go to regionals. But we can't be selfish. We'd rather be home with a healthy animal than out competing with a sick animal," said Simmons. "My vote was to cancel our own state meet, but I'm glad that we went. It was a good experience."

Cottage Grove is already gearing up for next season. The athletes just finished up working all four days of Eugene Pro Rodeo this past weekend, and they will have a fundraiser food booth at Cottage Grove Rodeo next weekend.

Any high school student interested in joining the team may contact Simmons by phone 541-520-5052 or by email at shanonwagonwheel@aol.com.

Elementary Tri set for Saturday

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The fifth annual Elementary Triathlon is scheduled to be held this Saturday at the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center beginning at 8:30 a.m. The triathlon is not a race but rather a fun event for kids in grades K-5, and all finishers will receive a ribbon.

"The biggest thing is it's not a competition for time or place. The idea is to give them an opportunity to learn about pacing and have a good time while trying out a new sport," said event director Ron O'Keefe.

There will be separate start-

ing waves and race distances for each age group: grades k-1 will swim one width of the pool, bike two laps of the parking lot and run 165 yards; grades 2-3 will swim two widths of the pool, bike five laps of the parking lot and run 1/4 mile; grades 4-5 will swim four widths of the pool, bike 10 laps of the parking lot and run 1/2 mile.

"Over the years I've directed large triathlons for adults, but I'll always remember going out to the pool deck of the first Elementary Triathlon: the kids are barely three feet tall, and they have water wings and training wheels. It's a very refreshing concept," said O'Keefe.

The event is hosted by Friends

of the Pool, and all proceeds benefit efforts to support the pool. Over the years, the organization has helped purchase life saving equipment, however, O'Keefe said the primary objective is to raise awareness for the pool as a community resource.

"We built the pool in order to save lives, and since that time not one South Lane student who has taken swimming lessons at the pool has died from drowning," he said.

A \$3 entry fee, payable to South Lane School District is due at the pool by July 8, or \$5 after that date. Participants will need to bring a helmet and check in begins at 8 a.m.

BASEBALL

Continued from 1B

and he said that it may have had something to do with the team's sluggish offensive numbers. The Lions had just four hits through six innings.

"We've swung the bat pretty well all summer, so that was atypical, but that's usually what happens when the head coach is away," he said.

Despite their own struggles at the plate, the Tigers scored three unearned runs, including two on balls that got past catcher Jaace Cross. However, Geiszler said that those mistakes are part of the learning process and he still felt that Cross, a sophomore, had one of the more surprising summer campaigns.

"Jaace still has improving to do to catch at the varsity level, but as of right now he's definitely a viable option," he said.

Overall, the Lions went 10-2 this summer, and their only other loss came against 6A South Eugene. Geiszler was pleased by how the team performed in a lot of close games, as well as its ability to find success with players experimenting in

new positions.

"We got to see where some kids could play and where they can't play," he said. "Some of the kids were working on new things offensively, and I thought we ended up swinging the bats a lot better, but it's hard to work on things during games and be successful."

Perhaps the most important development on the defensive side was the emergence of pitchers Hunter Harris and Ollivant. According to Geiszler, Harris, who was Cottage Grove's top closer this spring, could become a regular starter next year; and Ollivant, who pitched in just a couple of Sky-Em League games this year, could be the Lions' number-one pitcher in 2016. Ollivant started the summer season with 17 scoreless innings.

"You gain a lot of confidence when you're missing guys but still competing with every team you face," said Ollivant, a junior. "It's gotten a lot better (since my first summer season): expectations are a lot higher, we're a better team and we know what's expected of us."

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