Lions wrap up summer scrimmages; play sharp against Bulldogs

Cottage Grove starters and backups get valuable reps in final 7-on-7 versus Creswell

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

On July 21, the Lions hosted Creswell for their final 7-on-7 scrimmage of the summer. Cottage Grove's JV squad played just as much as the varsity against the Bulldogs, which says a lot about how far the Lions have come since last year, when every rep came at a premium for the young team.

"We mixed it up tonight," said Cottage Grove coach Gary Roberts. "Creswell didn't have enough players to have two different scrimmages, so we alternated our older and younger guys every two series. When we were at camp (the varsity guys) got a ton of reps; we went to Springfield last week (for a 7-on-7 scrimmage) and they got a ton of reps. I feel good about what our kids have done this summer."

As it has been all summer long, the Lions' number-one offense was explosive against Creswell. Kory Parent went 7-for-9 with three touchdowns, and Blake Sentman was 9-of-13 with two touchdowns and one interception. Sophomore Joshua Claflin was 10-for-20 and tossed three touchdowns in five drives for Cottage Grove's JV team.

With less than four weeks until the start of fall camp, Roberts said that neither Parent nor Sentman has won the starting job.

"It's been evident that they've both improved," Roberts said of the two junior quarterbacks. "And we're just waiting to see who can consistently lead us."

At receiver, Payton Presley was the number-one target for both passers, as he caught five balls for 68 yards and three touchdowns. Reily Boyce added five catches for 84 yards and two touchdowns.

Cottage Grove's number-one defense held Creswell to just two scores on six possessions, and Presley (2), Sentman

photo by Matt Hollander
Payton Presley caught three touchdowns in Cottage Grove's 7-on-7 scrimmage against Creswell on July 21.

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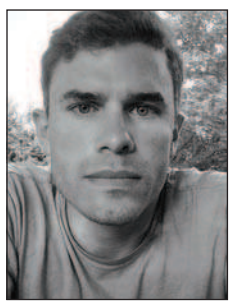
A question of style: Who will be the Lions' starting quarterback?

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel



Cottage Grove's 2014 season ended in a quarterback-by-committee with then-sophomores Kory Parent and Blake Sentman. While not an ideal situation for a football team, the Lions, who began the year 0-5 while using a primary starter, went 2-2 down the stretch with Parent and Sentman splitting time at the position. Additionally, Cottage Grove's offense was also significantly better over its final four games:

Games 1-5: 248.2 YPG, 8.6 PPG
Games 6-9: 307 YPG, 24.5 PPG

Not surprising, the spike in production correlated with more efficient quarterback play:

Games 1-5: Sentman 51-105, 514 yds., 8 Ints.
Parent 27-43, 173 yds. 2 Ints.

Games 6-9: Sentman 27-51, 341 yds.,1 Int
Parent 16-35, 222 yds., 1 Int.

*While playing receiver, Parent threw two touchdowns that traveled a combined 125 yards on double-pass plays.

After the season, coach Gary Roberts said he hoped that one player would emerge as the team's starter for 2015; however, with just over five weeks until the Lions travel to Marshfield for the season-opener, Parent and Sentman are still neck-and-neck.

The challenge in projecting which player would be more successful in the starting role is that Parent and Sentman have markedly different skills. It's almost not worth doing the standard side-by-side quarterback comparison — throwing power, throwing accuracy, running ability, etc. — because each player has a fairly significant advantage over the other in each category; Parent, for example, has proven to be the far more effective runner, but Sentman is superior on downfield passes.

From watching a few highlight reels of former Cottage Grove quarterbacks Dustin Hurd and

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Carter wins grand Extreme Sprint at CGS

Sell, Clay, Ray and Hansen also score victories

BY BEN DEATHERAGE

Cottage Grove Speedway had a fantastic evening of racing on Saturday, July 25. The cooler weather was a welcome change after several weeks of extremely hot temperatures. Classes in competition included the Clark Printing Extreme Sprints, Late Models, IMCA Sport Mods, Quality RV Repair Hornets and the Late Model Lites.

The Clark Printing Extreme Sprints entrants were driving for some big money as the folks at Herz Precision Parts put up $1,000 for the winner. The extra purse attracted teams from the states of Oregon, Washington and California.

Chelsea Blevins, a teenager from Anderson, Calif., was veryfast for much of the race, and due to the timing of the cautions she did not have to deal with lapped traffic.

Blevins lost the lead position on lap 19 to Cottage Grove's Colby Carter. Although Blevins stayed on his tail tank for much of the remainder of the race, Carter held on to win his second race of the season.

Blevins finish second, while Dave Hibbard from Medford was third. Cottage Grove native Patrick Dills placed fourth, and Jake Helsel from Monroe, Wash. followed in fifth.

The Late Model main event was a caution-filled feature. Sweet Home chauffeur Kye Frick was the early leader until Salem's Brady Sell passed him on lap 13. Sell managed to keep in front and win the race. Amazingly, during his time trial Sell made heavy contact with the outside retaining wall in turn four that put the future of his night in serious jeopardy.

Frick finished as the runner-up, and in third was Vernonia veteran Doug Davenport. Bend driver Thomas Hunziker finished fourth, and behind him in fifth was Salem's Britton Donahoo.

Kolby Clay from Junction City dominated the IMCA Sport Mods Clay and would take the lead on the first lap and stayed there the whole way. It was his first career win in the IMCA Sport Mods in only his second career start in the class.

Gene Ashley from Jasper was second, and Springfield's Jayson Nelson finished in third. Scott Akin from Crow was fourth, and Cottage Grove's Tyler Smith was fifth.

The Quality RV Repair Hornets main event had several cautions and plenty of lead changes. Pleasant Hill's Justin Austin got out to the front early, but Dan Jenkinson of Marcola passed him on lap four. Austin would reclaim the lead on the ninth circuit, only to be overtaken on lap 17 by Cottage Grove's Mike Simmons, who spun out after a restart — thus giving the lead back to Austin.

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Tires LES SCHWAB

Athletes of the Week: Kate Bevilaqua and Guy Crawford

photo by Matt Hollander
Guy Crawford and Kate Belivaqua formed quite the power couple at Saturday's Tri at the Grove. They both set new Olympic distance course records en route to very convincing victories.

Tri at the Grove's Sweethearts

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Guy Crawford and Kate Bevilaqua are living in an endless Summer. The professional triathletes live and train together half the year in Australia and the other half in Boise, Idaho.

On Saturday they rode another wave of success to the top of the podium at the fifth annual Tri at the Grove.

Crawford demolished the course record en route to victory, completing the 1,500-meter swim, 24.8-mile bike and 6.2-mile run in one hour, 51 minutes and 36.2 seconds. His girlfriend Bevilaqua also set a new course record in the women's Olympic distance of 2:05:49.30.

With defending champion Jesse Thomas and two-time winner Chris Bragg (2013 and 2012) not participating in the full triathlon this year, Crawford had to find something else to compete against.

"Once that I found out that Chris and Jesse weren't racing, I was like, 'Well, there needs to be a motivation for eating that much pain,'" said Crawford, who bettered Thomas' record time of 1:54:58.8 set last year. "So the course record was what I was after, and that's why I went deep."

Andrew Langfield of Portland finished second, nearly eight minutes behind Crawford.

"This was my first time here, and you couldn't have asked for a better day," said Langfield. "It was perfect weather and it's fun to chase someone who's fast and fit."

Absent from this year's women's race was Emily Cocks, who defeated Bevilaqua in 2012 and 2014. However, Bevilaqua was hardly content with an easy victory, as the three-time champion took down her own course record of 2:06:21 set in 2013.

"I went hard today," Bevilaqua said. "There wasn't Emily or somebody to race against. But my coach always says, 'when you go to a race you're racing for a (personal best).' You're going as hard as you can because you can do that on your own." This upcoming weekend, Bevilaqua is taking on her first Ultra Triathlon. In training for the grueling, three-day 323-mile endurance event, she has made Crawford join for some much longer training sessions.

"I'm looking forward to when we're just doing Ironman training; I think it will help our relationship," Crawford joked.

After so much high-volume training, Bevilaqua, who has competed at Tri at the Grove in each of its five years, said she was excited to see if she could go fast on a familiar course.

"The location is stunning," she said. "You turn up here in the morning and you forget how beautiful it is. Even on the bike course sometimes you have to remind yourself that you're racing and work really hard because the scenery is so beautiful."

Please see Page 3B for results from Tri at the Grove.

Cottage Grove Speedway
Join us
August 1st
WALLBANGER CUP
Late Models, Clark Printing Extreme Sprints, IMCA Modifieds, Street Stocks