



Coed soccer championship ends in close shootout

After a 2-2 tie in regulation, Dragon Ocean outscores Rally 3-2 in a shootout

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Following a brutal 5-0 shut-out match for third place, the South Valley Athletics Summer Coed Outdoor Recreational Soccer (SCORES) championship match was a much tighter game, as Dragon Ocean kicked off against Rally Wednesday evening.

The sun went down and the lights came on as Rally started off strong with an early goal by No. 7 Nick Markham to take a quick lead, but Dragon Ocean refused to roll over. Their star forward, No. 23 Timothy Eckstine, tied the game up with a beautiful strike into the top-right corner of the goal. Eckstine wasn't finished, however, as he scored one more time late in the first half to put Dragon Ocean in the lead as the game reached halftime.

The two teams struggled to get close to the goal for the entire second half. Several soccer balls were thoroughly ejected from the match via powerful



Photo by Sam Wright

Both the Rally and Dragon Ocean teams fought to find the goal in the championship game, but it would be after regulation play, during a thrilling shootout, that Dragon Ocean would emerge victorious.

strikes unable to reach their intended target, and it seemed that Dragon Ocean would walk away with the win.

But an eager Kirby Bullinger managed to elude Dragon Ocean defenders and score with

less than five minutes left in the game, tying it up at 2-2. Soon after, the referee blew the whistle to end regulation, and the game went into a shootout that reflected the tightness of the entire match.

Trevor Smith and Kyle Finnerty kicked it off with easy goals for Rally and Dragon Ocean respectively, but Rally's Kalli Ramsey was thwarted by Dragon Ocean's goalie, giving Dragon Ocean the edge until

the same goalie missed his opportunity right after Ramsey. It was not until Markham missed his goal and Dragon Ocean's star of the night, Eckstine, kicked the final goal of the shootout that earned Dragon

Ocean the victory. Both teams graciously congratulated each other, then eagerly went home, as the shootout kept spectators and participants on the field past 10:30 p.m.



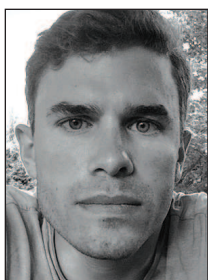
Athlete of the Week Timothy Eckstine

At the South Valley Athletics's Summer Coed Outdoor Soccer (SCORES) championship match, Timothy Eckstine led his team, Dragon Ocean, to victory over their opponent, Rally, with two stunning goals in regulation and the winning goal in the shootout.

A look back, just before moving on

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Tuesday nights, when each week's issue is delivered from our printing press on the coast, are my favorite times to be in the Sentinel office. On most of those evenings, I will hear a steady stream of people drive up to the curb at 116 North Sixth Street, walk up to the vending machine and drop in three quarters to get their paper. Though I've been thanked many times over the past year by people I've written about, it's the aforementioned Tuesday night ritual with readers that provided some of the most meaning to my work; it let me know that some people actually read the news we had worked so hard over the previous week to gather, and it's something I will miss dearly as I move on from the Sentinel.



This paper has been a launching pad for many talented journalists; Adam

Jude, who went on to cover sports for the Register Guard, Oregonian and now Seattle Times, comes to mind. I wish I could tell you all that I was moving on to the New York Times, but I'm not. Truthfully, when I applied for this position, I viewed it as an opportunity to become a better writer, rather than a step toward a life-long career in newspapers.

There have been times over the past year, however, when I reconsidered that plan. It wasn't long before I realized the thrill of a byline. I also developed stronger working relationships in a short period of time than in any previous jobs. And the weekly production allowed for some very attractive flexibility with my work schedule, as well as the time to digest a story and get it right.

The pressure of Monday deadlines was everything I hoped for but sometimes more than I bargained for. I worked from week to week with a certain level of anxiety about not having enough content to fill the page. Along the way I became better at planning ahead and using a few tricks of the trade to fill out a lighter week, but it was a rare Monday when all loose ends were tied

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NICE FORM!



photo by Jon Stinnett

Tennis instructor Bob Reed awaits a volley from Halle Violette during the first day of South Valley Athletics tennis camp Monday. The first-year camp drew an impressive 26 participants. Since the advent of pickleball on the Coiner Park courts, the need to share space between tennis and pickleball players has become evident.

Common ground at Coiner Park

Pickleball and tennis players attempt to share court space

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council is rarely the forum for discussions of community sports and recreation. However, at the July 27 meeting, representatives of the pickleball and tennis communities asked city officials to weigh in on a difference of opinion over the Coiner Park tennis courts.

Since originally installed over a decade ago, the three public tennis

courts have been enjoyed exclusively by the tennis community. Earlier this summer, however, a group organized by Ken Welker sought to bring pickleball to Cottage Grove. With support from City Manager Richard Meyers, the group purchased a community set of pickleball equipment and outlined two yellow pickleball courts — one in paint and the other in tape — on the most westerly tennis court.

Clarence Dean, who spoke on behalf of the tennis community,

said he is not opposed to other activities that get more use of the Coiner Park courts, but he became concerned when he was told that all three courts would be adapted for pickleball play.

"We're hoping that the city only marks one court for pickleball," he said. "From our point of view, it's invasive when you're playing tennis. When you're trying to determine if a ball is in or out, it doesn't matter if the lines are yellow or white."

Coincidentally it seems, the

pickleball group also saw the July 27 City Council meeting as an opportunity to present its case.

"We see this as a collaborative opportunity," said Welker. "We are not trying to convert all of the tennis courts. We have tentatively agreed with the city to paint one more tennis court (for a total of four pickleball courts) until the need for more arises."

As each pickleball court can accommodate up to four players,

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No races this weekend.
See you next weekend
enjoy the fair!

BLACK
YELLOW
MAGENTA
CYAN