



Photo by Sam Wright

The Lions football team has been preparing for its season to start and looking sharper than last year.

Lions football gears up for season with a strong week

Head Coach Gary Roberts isn't concerned with last year's disappointing season or players that have left, looks ahead with confidence toward this new season and his refurbished team

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Lions football team started its first session of practices last week and head coach Gary Roberts feels like the team is having a good start to the season. After a rocky season last year, Roberts appears to have a strong confidence in his team and isn't too concerned about the talent lost with graduating seniors.

In fact, last year the senior class wasn't all that prevalent. Star quarterback and linebacker from last year Cameron Sando-

val was injured at the beginning of the season and missed all of the remaining games. That only left three other seniors on the team: Tristan Peters (OL/DL), Daniel Romero (OL/DL) and Johnny Conrad (RB/DB). While Roberts will miss his senior players, the bulk of his team still remains with players such as Brynden Howell (WR/LB) and Reily Boyce (WR/DB).

There was one other would-be senior on the roster this year, but external forces changed that. Senior Austin Gordon (OL/LB), who was a strong force on the offensive line during his junior

year last season, has moved elsewhere.

"Austin transferred elsewhere outside of his control," Roberts said. "As our starting center, that's someone we'll definitely miss."

And miss him they did. Thursday's practice showed signs of struggle at the center position as multiple bad snaps occurred in a row. After which the entire team hit the turf and did five push-ups for each faulty snap. "That can't happen!" Roberts shouted encouragingly.

The varsity Lions found organization and better compo-

sure during Friday's scrimmage at Meet the Lions night. Aside from a few minor mistakes such as missed blocks, the team seemed educated and focused.

A well-composed man, Roberts seems unshaken from this year's lost talent and a heart-breaking 2014 season, which started out 0-5, unable to secure a victory until week six against Sutherlin. But comparing the past and the present doesn't always give an accurate outlook for the upcoming year. Just two seasons ago, the Lions had stunned North Bend in the semifinals, and advanced to the

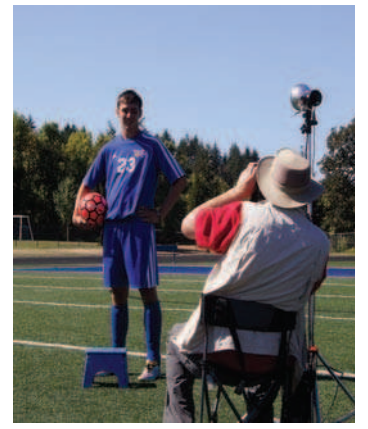
championship game in the state playoffs. The loss to Ridgeview in the championship game was disappointing; however, overall it was a fantastic season and a great playoff run.

The only thing the previous seasons have proved is that Roberts and his coaching staff have the ability to lock down a winning season and that last year's slump remains irrelevant.

The Lions are keeping their eyes straight ahead this season, not allowing the shadow of the past to loom over them.

Meeting the Lions

Fall sports teams introduced at CGHS



BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The sun beat down on Cottage Grove High School Friday afternoon as fall sports teams lined up to take pictures during their annual Meet the Lions night. The event brought tasty concessions, scrimmage action and restless teenagers attempting to stand still long enough for Northwest Sports Photography camera men to snap both team and individual photos. Photographers and teams scrambled to get organized for their photos. I believe the analogy of "herding cats" was mentioned several times.

Soccer, cross country, cheer, and football teams all faced the intensity of the sunshine outside and the heat of the turf as they stood for pictures and warmed up for their respective scrimmages.

Men's soccer kicked things off for the evening with great chemistry and sportsmanship from both varsity and junior varsity teams during scrimmage, followed by volleyball, women's soccer, cross country's run on the spirit trail, and football.

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Lumberjack follow up: hosting world-class talent

WOE's Lumberjack Show brings in heavy equipment, large events and renowned talent from around the country

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

It was my first time watching, let alone attending, a lumberjack show on Saturday, Aug. 15, and needless to say I had an inaccurate impression of what was going on.

Initially I believed the show to be a fair event that was simply meant to be a good time for fair-goers and logging enthusiasts.

While the event is supposed to be a fun time, it was not to be taken as lightly as last week's article suggested. The truth is, this competition consistently brings in world-class lumberjack veterans from all over the country, and while the WOE fair is a small-town exposition, the lumberjack show holds a more national relevance.

The lumberjack show was (and has been for many previous years) graced with the presence of world champions such as Melvin Lentz, who is also known as the "King of the Lumberjacks," all the way from West Virginia, and TJ Bexten from Washington. Both Lentz and Bexten fell within milliseconds



Photo by Sam Wright

The Gene Campbell Memorial Lumberjack Show brings in some of the best loggers in the nation.

of the world record for the cold-start three-cut event, but it was Bexten who won the race.

The competition also holds the largest stock saw event on the West Coast - quite possibly the nation. The log itself is roughly 50 inches in diameter.

The show is organized every year by Kevin Dunnavin, who said professionals approach him saying "it's the biggest little

show I've ever been to."

The lumberjack show is officially named the Gene Campbell Lumberjack Show. Campbell was a dedicated worker for the WOE fair, and organized one of the first logging shows in 1968. He kept this tradition for over 40 years. Therefore, the current logging shows at the fair are a salute to a man with extreme dedication and passion for his

community.

The reason for this follow up is because the previous week's article did not reflect the true essence of the lumberjack show; it was not a petty "just for kicks" pick-up sporting event, but an actual competitive and legitimately organized competition with trophies and high-rewarding cash prizes. Was there a lot of fun with a lot of banter and

joking around? Of course, that's the entire mood around the fair. But this Gene Campbell Memorial Lumberjack Show brought veteran experience from opposite ends of the country with world-class skill and very serious equipment. Both organizers and participants deserve more in-depth coverage and for that I apologize, to all who were involved.



Athlete of the Week

TJ Bexten wins the lumberjack show yet again this year after almost breaking a world record, beating out Mel Lentz

TJ Bexten came down from Washington last week to compete in the annual Gene Campbell Memorial Lumberjack Show. He competed against 14-time world champion Mel Lentz in the cold-start three-cut event. Both contestants neared the world record for that specific event, but it was Bexten who eventually won the race. In last year's lumberjack show, Bexten swept all the events he participated in. He seems to be the WOE Lumberjack show master.



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