



## Lions pile it on at Elmira for their second win in two weeks

After being up 35-0 at halftime, the Lions had to take their foot off the gas pedal in their 55-28 rout over the Elmira Falcons on Friday

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A highly anticipated road game against Elmira on Friday, Sept. 25 showed a great amount of improvement in execution and passion within the Lions varsity football program.

Cottage Grove emerged victorious in a 55-28 route of the Falcons. It was a game of very few mistakes by the Lions and a simple case of a stronger, better team beating down a less equipped squad.

For starters, the Lions ran all over the Falcons, quite literally. Zane Levings had 10 carries for 105 yards. Between Levings, Brynden Howell and Kory Parent, the Lions had three ball carriers that averaged 10 yards or more per carry each. In total, the Lions rushed the ball 34 times for a total of 288 yards and an average of 6.5 yards per carry. The ground game was virtually unstoppable, and even junior quarterback Blake Sentman picked up 46 yards on the ground with three rushing touchdowns.

"We were able to take advantage of what the defense was giving us," Head Coach Gary Roberts said. "Our offensive line did a great job of opening up holes and blocking downfield."

Roberts noted the efforts of offensive linemen Cody Sapp, Brad Geisler and Seth Morris. He also said that sophomore Anthony Slay is showing great growth.



Photo by Sam Wright

Quarterback Blake Sentman bursts through Elmira defenders, highlighting the dominance of Cottage Grove's offense.

The passing game was no different. Sentman completed 12 of 14 passes to four different receivers and three passing touchdowns along with zero interceptions. Sentman's 85.7 percent completion rate shredded the Falcons secondary with the help of Howell, who caught six passes for 118 yards and two touchdowns along with top producers Parent, catching three

passes for 46 yards and Levings who caught two passes for another 46 yards and a touchdown off of a beautifully executed screen.

"We were just able to exploit match ups that were in our favor," Roberts noted.

After a 35-0 halftime lead, the game looked to be in the books. But Elmira wasn't completely out yet. The Falcons were able

to score 14 unanswered points in the third quarter due to a Lion fumble early in the second half.

"They were able to get us with those traps and counter plays," said Roberts of defensive concerns. "We'll just have to take a look at the game film and see how we can improve."

But all-in-all, Roberts was pleased with the way his defense performed.

"Our kids did a great job of reading keys and flying to the ball; Garren Taylor (linebacker) was a great addition coming back from injury."

The Falcons were unsuccessful in mounting a comeback, even after they developed an offensive rhythm. The Falcons' momentum was reversed by a huge kick return by Michael Tharpe, who brought the ball to

Elmira's 30-yard line.

At the end, the Elmira coaching staff refused to shake hands with Coach Roberts.

"I don't understand," he said. "We only threw it downfield a handful of times and by the end, we rotated a lot of back ups in."

The Lions will host the Sweet Home Huskies on Friday at 7 p.m.



Photo by Sam Wright

Junior Kiana Hemenway strides toward the goal on a penalty kick during Thursday's game against Sweet Home.

## Lions break losing streak to JC, dominate Huskies

After 13 years of losing to the Junction City Tigers, girls' soccer defeats the Tigers and puts on a dominating performance against Sweet Home

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The girls' soccer team traveled north to Junction City on Tuesday, Sept. 22 to take on the Tigers, a team that Cottage Grove has failed to win against for over a decade.

But the tables were turned on Tuesday, as the Lions beat the Tigers, 2-1.

"We just had great passing," Head Coach Vern Stewart said.

"We played like the team I know we are."

It was senior Josie Mootz who scored in the first half, giving the Lions a 1-0 lead over Junction City, and after the Tigers had tied it up in the second half, junior Kia Hemenway put the Lions back on top.

Cottage Grove was ranked No. 6 in the 4A division, and having beaten a No. 14 ranked Junction City, the Lions are sure to move up.

Their climb to the top didn't stop at Junction City. On Thursday, Sept. 24, the Lions hosted the Sweet Home Huskies, a game Cottage Grove yet again controlled in its entirety, rolling to a 4-2 victory.

Thanks to top scorers Mootz and Kia Hemenway, who scored two goals each, the Lions held a commanding 4-0 lead in the second half until the Huskies managed to sneak in two goals before the end of the game.

"We're consistent, and we communicate well," Stewart said after the game. "I'm proud of the way everyone has been playing and we'll keep looking to improve."

There's not much to worry about for Stewart and his team so long as the Lions remain consistent in their game play.

The only concerning moment in the game was during the middle of the first half when senior Melissa Thielman injured her

knee. Thielman was swept off the field via ambulance and to the hospital. No further word on her condition has come in.

"It's definitely a big loss," Stewart said. "Mo is one of our top defenders, and we'll have to make some adjustments."

This week, the Lions host Sisters on Tuesday, Sept. 29 and travel to Elmira on Thursday, Oct. 1.



## Athlete of the Week



Watch out goalies: Kiana Hemenway leads the Lions to two victories this week

It was a week for her highlight reel, as junior Kiana Hemenway scored once in Junction City and twice at home against the Sweet Home Huskies. Hemenway, alongside her teammate Josie Mootz, have been dominating up front and maintaining a relentless attack on opposing goalies all season.



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YELLOW  
MAGENTA  
CYAN