



Lions maul Bulldogs in boys basketball season-opener

With a loaded roster of returning talent, Cottage Grove travels to Creswell to hit the ground running in its first game of the season

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Lions' boys' basketball team tipped off its season on Friday, Dec. 4 against the Creswell Bulldogs. The Lions defeated Creswell on their home court with a brutal final score of 61-25. The 36-point win was definitely no fluke. For the entire game, Cottage Grove maintained its dominance on both offense and defense.

The Lions overall made 23 out of 64 shots attempted, and seven of those were three-point shots (24 three-point attempts were made overall). Compare that accuracy of 35 percent to Creswell's 16 percent (10 shots made out of 55 attempted) and it's no wonder the Lions ran away with the game. But the Lions' success was prevalent outside of their shooting. Cottage Grove had 43 rebounds compared to 29 by Creswell. The Lions had 11 offensive rebounds and 32 defensive rebounds. The Bulldogs had nine and 20, respectively. Those 11 rebounds on offense resulted



Photo by Sam Wright

Kory Parent sets up for a three-point shot against Creswell on Friday night.

in 10 second-chance points. The Lions also stole the ball a total of eight times compared to the Bulldogs' two times.

The top performers for the Lions on Saturday were Kory Parent and Blake Sentman. Parent scored nine out of 17 attempted field goals and made six of 11 three-point shots. He finished the game with a total of 26 points, three rebounds and

one steal. Parent led the team in scoring, but it was possible that Sentman had the biggest impact in the game. The junior made seven of 15 field goal attempts with two out of three free throws made for a total of 16 points. Along with his 16 points, however, Sentman also racked up a total of nine rebounds (one on offense and eight on defense). By the end of the game, Sent-

man had also managed to get in two assists and one steal.

Sentman's rebound game was matched by another Lion. Chance Hopkins had a more rounded ratio of four offensive rebounds and five defensive rebounds. He was also three for three in shooting: while only racking up three points, Hopkins had a 100 percent accuracy on the night. He also had two

steals.

Other mentionable performances came from Jayden Tucker who had seven rebounds (two offensive, five defensive) and two assists. Hunter Gipson led the team in steals with three and alongside Tucker Porter, led the team with three assists.

A dominating performance such as this one gives Head Coach Donn Pollard a lot of en-

thusiasm about his team.

"Having no seniors on our roster last year was possibly an issue in having experience on the team," Pollard said, "but this year, everyone is a year more experience and a year more skilled."

The Lions played Marshfield on Tuesday, Dec. 8, and will play their home opener on Friday, Dec. 11.

Girls' basketball starts with two losses

Although the Lions start the season 0-2, the team isn't discouraged by the way they played in both games this past week

The girls' basketball team played two nights in a row on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5. The Lions tipped off their season against Creswell but were unable to topple the Bulldogs, losing 44-50.

Cottage Grove hit 19 of 51 field goals and made three of eight three-point shots that night. The Lions field goal percentage of 37 matched Creswell's percentage; however, the Bulldogs made 20 of 53. Cottage Grove found themselves effective inside the paint, as they scored 24 of their 44 points inside the paint, and even with Creswell's 0 points inside the paint, the Lions were unable to pull off the victory. While losing the season opener, Head Coach Kevin Yoss remains more optimistic.

"It's important to consider how much the girls have progressed," Yoss said. The first time the Lions played Creswell during the summer, they were shut out in the first half and only amounted a total of five points in the entire game. The second time they played Creswell, the Lions only scored 12 points total, and both games were lost by

over 30 points. The Lions "were scrappy Friday night," said Yoss, noting the hustle displayed and the nine dives his team made on the ball. In fact, the Lions showed great energy after being down 13-4 early in the game and eventually got within one point during the second quarter. In the second half, the beginning looked gloomy again, and the Lions found themselves down 42-29 early in the fourth quarter. It was a late 15-8 fourth quarter run that fell short and gave the Bulldogs the win in the end. Cottage Grove seniors Taylor Harsh and Hannah Arnold led the team in scoring with 19 and 13 points respectively.

Harsh had an impressive 61.54 percent field goal percentage making eight out of 13. She accompanied those statistics with four rebounds, one assist and two steals. Arnold had a 46.15 field goal percentage, shooting 6 out of 13 with four rebounds and two steals.

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Hannah Arnold drives toward the basket.

Aqua Lions start off season with co-ed relay

The Cottage Grove high school swimming team had its first meet on Friday, and the Lions were three points away from first place

Friday marked the first competition of this year's swimming season, and the Lions' aquatic abilities proved to be strong. The team competed in a girls and boys mixed relay race against Marist and North Eugene high schools. Part one of the race saw a 200 meter medley relay, a 100 meter free relay and a 200 meter kickboard relay.

Juniors Seth Chambers, So-

phia Edelbute and Clover Rudicel teamed up with freshman John Witt for the first event, tackling the 200 meter medley relay in 2:10 and finishing first for that event. In the same event, juniors Emma Meyers and Rose Witt joined with senior Amelia Phillips and sophomore Ethan Burleson, finishing last in the heat with a time of 2:21.46. However, last place still award-

ed them two points that helped the first-place squad keep up with Marist, which took second and third.

Cottage Grove only entered one relay team in the second event. The Lions finished second in the 100-meter free relay with a time of 1:04.42, just a second behind Marist that finished with 1:03.50.

Phillips and Meyers then got

back together with junior Madisen Kely and sophomore Josef Pifer and completed the 200 meter kickboard relay in 2:52.48, taking first place again.

Part two of the meet consisted of three more events: a 25-50-75 free relay, a 200 meter relay, and a 100 meter back stroke relay.

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Athlete of the Week

Blake Sentman nears a double-double in basketball season-opener



Against the Bull Dogs, junior Blake Sentman racked up 16 points (seven for 15 on field goals and two for three on free throws) and nine rebounds on Friday. Sentman also had two assists and one steal in the Lions' 61-25 dominating performance.

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