

Girls win and boys fall short in Churchill swim meet

The Aqua Lions showed impressive speed and technique in their first meet against Churchill on Friday



Photo by Sam Wright

Johnny Witt leads the way in his 100-meter butterfly event.

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Friday, Dec. 11 marked the Aqua Lions' first real meet against Churchill. Though the boys lost 100-67, the girls managed to pull out a win, beating Churchill 94-72. The meet started off with the 266 meter medley relay. For the girls, Emma Meyers, Clover Rudicel, Amelia Phillips and Sophia Edelbute raced together in one lane, finishing first with a time of 3:25.24. Tori Raade, Karli Isaacs, Madisen Kelty and Brianna Allen took third place

with a time of 3:38.82. The boys only had one group competing which included Seth Chambers, Ian Dukes, Johnny Witt and Chris Clure. The boys took second place in the relay with a time of 2:49.17. The girls were consistently first in every event except two out of the 11 (100 meter butterfly and 100m backstroke). Tori Raade and Sophia Edelbute took first and second respectively in the 200 meter freestyle race, earning times of 2:20.99 and 2:32.99. Next were Phillips and Kelty, again placing first

and second in the individual medley with Phillips finishing with 1:48.56 and Kelty with 2:02.77. Allen and Isaacs then earned first and third place with times of 0:49.91 and 0:58.53, respectively. Meyers and Phillips were looking for a higher placing in the 100 meter butterfly race but fell short, as Meyers finished third and Phillips finished fourth. But Edelbute set the Lions back on track with a first-place finish in the 100-meter freestyle with an impressive time

of 1:10.5, and Isaacs finished in fifth. The girl Lions maintained a comfortable lead throughout the meet, with the closest separation being six points (after the first relay). In the 500 meter freestyle, Rose Witt captured first place with 6:35.34 and Rudicel took second with 6:46.42. Witt, Kelty, Meyers and Raade then took another first place in the 266 meter freestyle relay finishing with 3:06.45, Please see SWIM, Page 2B



Athlete of the Week



Hunter Gipson breaks out in Stayton game

It was a game to remember for Gipson on Friday, as he racked up 14 points, three steals, four assists and five rebounds. Gipson had many clutch displays of athleticism in the paint during the Lions' thrilling overtime victory.

Lions win thriller in OT after hard loss

After losing to Marshfield, the Lions bounced back to beat Stayton in an intense overtime victory

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, the boys' basketball team traveled to Marshfield to take on the Marshfield High School Pirates. The game resulted in the Lions' first loss of the season, and it seemed to be heading that way by the second quarter. At the end of the first half, Marshfield was already up 42-25 and extended that lead to 58-32 by the time the fourth quarter began. However, the Lions finished well by going on an 11-4 run in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough to overcome Marshfield's lead. Cottage Grove struggled with a low field goal percentage of 35 percent compared to Marshfield's 58 percent.

Junior Blake Sentman led the team in points with 15 points followed by Kory Parent with 11, but the team saw strong performances by others. Jayden Tucker had nine points and made four out of the five shots he took. Hunter Gipson had six points but also had five rebounds and four steals (leading the team in both of those categories). It seemed that the loss came down to one team's ability to

rebound over the other. Cottage Grove had 10 total rebounds, but Marshfield had 24, which gave them 10 second-chance points while, the Lions had zero.

After the disappointing loss, the Lions rebounded when they hosted the Stayton Eagles, winning 63-59 in an overtime thriller. It was an offensive shootout, with Stayton and Cottage Grove each only hitting 35 percent of their field goals. This time, it was the Lions who found themselves winning the rebound battle with 40 rebounds overall against Stayton's 35. Again, the leading scorers were Parent with 17 and Sentman with 15, and also Hunter Gipson with 14. Chance Hopkins had nine points and led the team in rebounds with eight total. Tucker was also able to add seven points this game, along with five steals (most in the game). In fact, stealing throughout the entire game was rather one-sided. Cottage Grove took the ball away from the Eagles 12 times while Stayton only managed to return the favor once.

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Photo by Sam Wright

Ellie Brown speeds past a defender during Friday's game.

Girls basketball continues to struggle

The Lions start their season 0-4, and a significant injury isn't helping them

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The girls' varsity basketball team has started its season off in a rough spot. The Lions are now 0-4 after their most recent losses to Stayton, Marshfield and Astoria. The Lions struggled against Astoria on Saturday, Dec. 5, with only a 34.8 field goal percentage, losing 66-45.

Taylor Harsh led the team with 14 points that day, followed by Ellie Brown with 12 and Della Nichols-Ferguson for

six points. Melissa Thielman and Dana Caro had three steals apiece, and Thielman and Caro had four and three assists respectively.

The Lions were then met with an even tougher foe on Tuesday, Dec. 8, when the girls traveled to Marshfield and lost 58-28. Cottage Grove made only 10 out of 50 shots taken, giving them a season low of a 20 percent field goal percentage. The leading scorer for this game was Caro with seven points. The next highest scorers were Brown,

Hannah Albrecht and Nichols-Ferguson. On the bright side, the Lions out-rebounded the Pirates (something Head Coach Kevin Yoss has been trying to improve on all season) 38-36; however, it wasn't enough to overcome a 30-point deficit. Albrecht led the team in that category with eight rebounds, followed by Nichols-Ferguson with seven.

Cottage Grove looked yet again to bounce back from a tough start, and hosted the Stayton girls' basketball team right after the boys overtime

victory. The enthusiasm and energy could be sensed in the air when the Lions took the court, but they once again found themselves in a 30-point loss 60-30. Cottage Grove's field-goal percentage was another low with 26.8 percent. Thielman led the team in scoring this game with ten points, followed by Taylor Harsh, who had seven. Brown only scored two points this game but led the team with seven rebounds.

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