

## Girls win, boys fall short as Aqua Lions resume

The girls triumph over North Eugene and the boys shortcomings are not from a lack of winning races

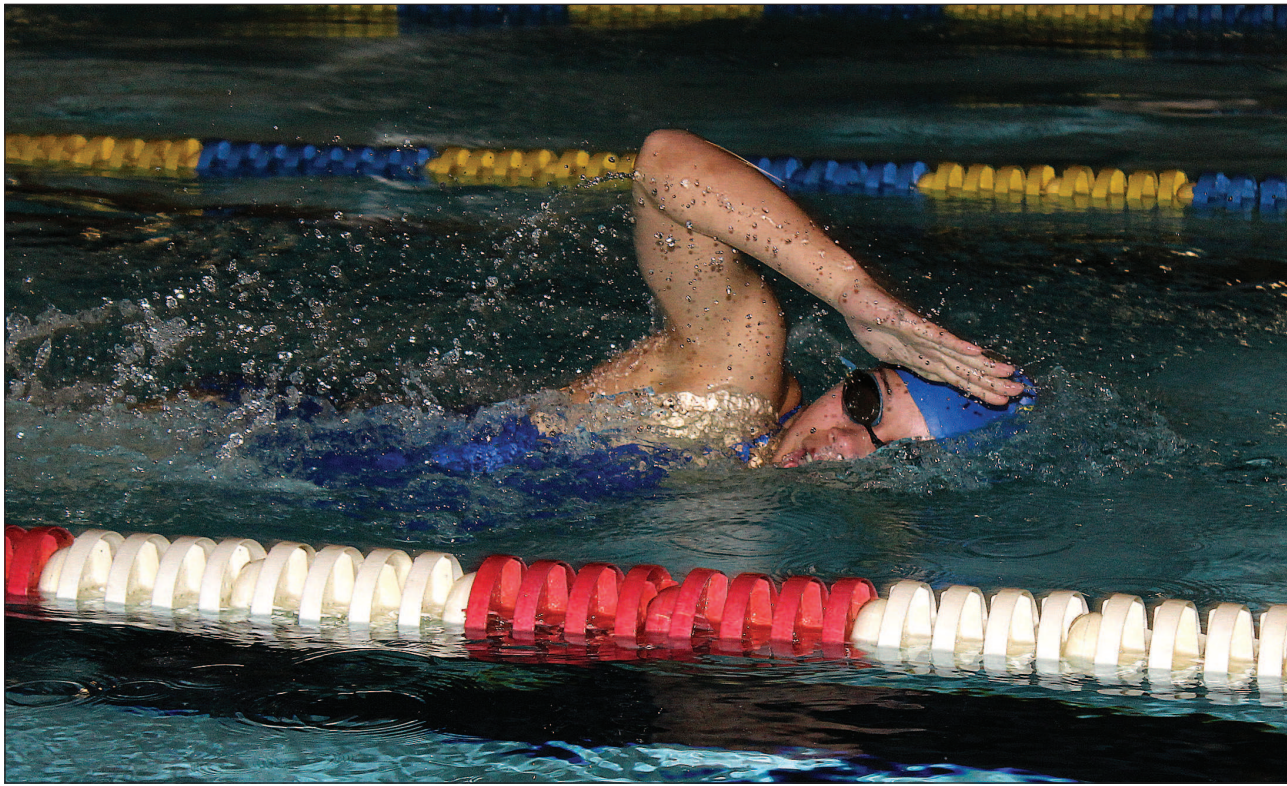


Photo by Sam Wright

**Brianna Allen swims freestyle against North Eugene on Friday.**

**BY SAM WRIGHT**  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

The girls' swim team is performing at a very high level. On Jan. 15, the Lions hosted North Eugene at the Daugherty Pool and beat them by a solid 24 points. Junction City brought two swimmers to compete in a friendly fashion.

The boys, however, found themselves in trouble, but it wasn't for a lack of skill or speed in the water. The boys' team just seems to be a bit short-handed.

"It's tough because it's not like we're not winning races, we're just short one or two boys," said Head Coach Tyson Pilling.

In specific races, the boys found themselves outnumbered, and therefore didn't have as much potential to create points for their team.

However, the girls did not have that problem this week and were able to come out victorious.

At the beginning of the meet, Pilling put in two groups for the 133-meter medley relay. The first group included Amelia Phillips, Clover Rudicel, Madisen Kelty and Sophia Edelbute.

The other group featured Tori Raade, Karli Isaacs, Emma Meyers and Rose Witt. The former group took first with a time of 3:23.43 and the latter took second with a time of 3:36.97. In this case, the Lions found themselves in a personnel advantage as North Eugene only had one group.

The Lions took first place in seven out of the 11 races, giving them an insurmountable lead over the Highlanders.

In the 200-meter freestyle, Raade found herself taking first place with 2:13.65, while Edelbute finished third (out of four) with 2:21.90

The Lions then had Phillips and Rudicel take first and second respectively in the individual 133-meter medley with times of 1:44.40 and 1:47.64.

One of the races that the Lions didn't finish in first was the 66-meter freestyle, where Meyers and Brianna Allen took second and fourth place respectively, however they finished with the respectable times of 45 and 52 seconds.

Directly afterwards, North Eugene found themselves taking first place again in the 100-meter butterfly while Meyers (1:25.12) and Kelty (1:33.62)

took second and third. However, a second and third-place finish gave Cottage Grove four points and three points, making North Eugene's single first place win inadequate with 6 points.

Eventually, the Lions defeated the Highlanders 85-61. Other decisive victories came from the 100-meter backstroke, where Phillips (1:17.50) and Raade (1:18.53) took first and second place. Raade, Phillips, Edelbute and Rudicel raced together in the 266-meter freestyle relay, placing first with a time of 2:58.19.

Another impressive performance was in the 500-meter relay, where Witt finished second with a time of 6:22.15.

The boy Aqua Lions found themselves in a similar position as the girls from North Eugene. In certain races the Lions were a few bodies short, making a first-place win sometimes not enough to gain the edge. The results from the boys' meet will be released next week. In the mean time, Pilling will have to make some adjustments to ensure there are enough swimmers in each race to give the Lions a chance to win.



## Athletes of the Week

Bowling champs!



Audrey Wardwell, Raelene Ames, Callena True and Fran Rothauge of Cottage Grove brought home the Oregon State USBC Division 2 Team Event Championship this past week.

## Wrestling Results



170 Andrew Bordeaux (Cottage Grove) over Nick Payton (Elmira) (Fall 0:02)  
182 Levi Hanson (Elmira) over Jason Stalder (Cottage Grove) (Fall 0:01)  
195 Kevin Dennis (Cottage Grove) over Unknown (For.)  
220 Elijah Farrell (Cottage Grove) over Logan Schmidt (Elmira) (Fall 3:00)  
285 Adam Lamb (Cottage Grove) over Dale Miller (Elmira) (Fall 4:52)  
106 Chance Ralston (Cottage Grove) over Unknown (For.)  
113 Hunter Davis (Elmira) over Richelle Rolfe (Cottage Grove) (Fall 1:47)  
120 Logan Walker (Elmira) over Unknown (For.)

126 Tony Winders (Elmira) over Chan Kripeerapan (Cottage Grove) (Dec 5-2)  
132 Scott Sanders-Anderson (Elmira) over Saul Martin (Cottage Grove) (Fall 1:21)  
138 Rodney Chamberlain (Cottage Grove) over Zach Russell (Elmira) (Fall 2:56)  
145 Brandon McElhose (Elmira) over Tyler Woertink (Cottage Grove) (Dec 7-6)  
152 Mason Walker (Elmira) over Nathan Farrell (Cottage Grove) (Fall 1:13)  
160 Alan Bordeaux (Cottage Grove) over Ethan Agnes (Elmira) (MD 18-6)  
Straps down on mat (106)-1.00 (CG)  
Team Score:  
CG: 39

## Hello from the top five, sing Lions

Two more wins bring the Lions into the top five as they climb to the top one game at a time

**BY SAM WRIGHT**  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Two more wins over Brookings-Harbor and Elmira have now put the Lions at number five in the OSAA rankings, jumping Junction City (who moved down to number eight).

Cottage Grove kicked off its league play against the Falcons on Saturday, Jan. 16 and took care of business once again against a tenacious Falcons team.

After being down in the first quarter 20-15, the Lions bounced back to take control before halftime as the game was neck and neck at 34-32 and tied at 49 going into the fourth quarter.

Cottage Grove turned on the heat and went on a 16-8 run in the fourth to overcome Elmira 65-57.

The Falcons and Lions were both 50 percent on field goals, and Elmira even sank three more than Cottage Grove. But what separated the Lions from the Falcons was the daunting statistic of shooting 55 percent from three and 64 percent from the free-throw line. The team also showed great ability in passing, totaling 13 assists compared to Elmira's one.

It was another high-scoring game for Cottage Grove's starters. Junior Kory Parent led the team with 19 points and five assists, the second-highest game Parent has had all season, behind a 26-point game in the



Photo by Sam Wright

**Tucker Porter jumps for two against Elmira on Saturday.**

Lions rout against Creswell. Parent was also two for two on three-pointers, something we've seen him getting better at each game. Chance Hopkins finished the game with 17 points, one assist and four rebounds (a fairly low number considering the rebound numbers Hopkins usually achieves). Junior Blake Sentman was the last double-digit scorer

with 14 points, six rebounds and one steal.

It was the Lions' accuracy and slight edge in the rebound game that allowed them to pull away in this matchup. Cottage Grove struggled with 12 turnovers to Elmira's six, although the Lions did have six total steals and the Falcons only had one. Elmira also racked up 20 personal fouls

and the Lions shot a total of 28 free throws, sinking 18 and giving the Lions a big edge as Elmira only sank six free throws of 20.

The Lions now hold a spot as the fifth ranked team in the state and will work viciously to maintain or improve that position as they set to face 14-ranked Sisters and Junction City, which

leers over Cottage Grove at number eight. At 10-3 the Lions will look to defeat the Outlaws and the Tigers twice, and from there the road should be easy, as Sutherlin is ranked 21 at 9-6 and Sweet Home is last at number 40 at 1-11 on the season.

## Endurance and tenacity

Girls' basketball is down but not out as they suffer through two more losses entering league play

**BY SAM WRIGHT**  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Last week, the girls' basketball team won two games in a row and was seemingly on a road toward improvement. However, the past two losses to Brookings-Harbor and Elmira stand to potentially undo the turning point and the direction for which the Lions would like to be headed.

But the losses aren't going to deter Cottage Grove from their continuous and hard-working search for answers this season. While the two losses were hard, they were delivered by teams that are ranked much higher than Cottage Grove, and the Lions still managed to put up a strong fight.

The first loss came on Tuesday, Jan. 12 against Brookings-Harbor (11-4). The Bruins came into the game ranked in the top ten and now sit at fifth in the state in the OSAA rankings. The Lions (now 3-12) are ranked 32, a position they have been stuck at for a few weeks. With the Lions track record this season, one would definitely expect a blow-out and another loss by over 20 points for Cottage Grove. Yet it wasn't the case for the Lions, who fought hard, eventually losing 63-47, and the score doesn't exactly reflect the closeness of the game.

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