

Lions' full potential unleashed on Sweet Home

After a five-game losing streak, the girls' basketball team annihilated the Huskies, 52-15



Photo courtesy of Gary Ordway photography

Melissa Thielman drives to the basket against Sutherlin last Tuesday.

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

If you found yourself around Cottage Grove High School this weekend, there was an extremely pleasant scent in the air. The smell of sweet, sweet redemption permeated through the high school's main gymnasium on Friday night after the girls' basketball team swept up the chaos that was the Sweet Home Huskies, winning a 52-15 blowout.

But the triumph did not come without some disappointment. Before the Sweet Home game, the Lions racked up their fifth loss in a row against Sutherlin on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 57-31.

It was a game that head coach Kevin Yoss saw as their most challenging opponent all year. "Sutherlin was the best team we've played all season by far," he said. "We actually played them a little better than any other league opponent." During the summer league, the girls were able to score only four points against Sutherlin, making this game a huge improvement.

The Lions sank only a quarter of their attempted shots from the field (10 of 40), making accuracy an issue throughout the game. The best shooting percentages came from sophomore

Keara Murphy, who shot four-for-eight on field goals, and Hanna Arnold, shooting two-for-four and sinking one out of two free throws, giving her five points on the night. Murphy missed all three of her free throws that night but was still a leading scorer for the Lions, tying Taylor Harsh at eight points. Harsh was two-for-10 on the night, but both of her field goals were from three-point range, and she was two-for-two on free throws. Senior Melissa Thielman finished the game with six points and two steals.

Other contributors were Tara Child and Delia Nichols-Ferguson with two points each.

The defeat brought about their fifth loss in a row and the teams eighth loss by 20 points or more this season. The losing streak was second to the longest streak this year by the Lions, starting off the season 0-6. Cottage Grove now has losing streaks of four, five and six games this year.

But the one thing the team has shown all season is tenacity. For the love of the game, the Lions refuse to tone down their enthusiasm and confidence before each game and coming off of a loss, and this week it finally paid off.

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Athlete of the Week

Keara Murphy shoots a perfect game against Sweet Home



In Cottage Grove's dominant performance against Sweet Home, the sophomore was four-for-four on field goals and three-for-three on free throws, giving her 11 points total. Murphy also had eight rebounds, four deflections and a steal on the night. She tied for the leading scorer in both games this past week.

Boys rise in rank after two more wins

After taking care of Sutherlin and Sweet Home this week, the Lions find themselves ranked No. 4 in the state



Photo by Gary Ordway

Hunter Gipson jumps for three against Sutherlin.

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

If the OSAA playoffs were as exclusive as the two-year-old College Football Playoff system, the Lions would still be in control of their own destiny and would make the cut at this point

in the season. Cottage Grove (14-3) defeated Sutherlin 54-40 on Tuesday, Jan. 26 and then dominated Sweet Home 78-48 on Friday.

Please see RANKINGS, Page 2B

Girls' bowling takes first place, boys' third at 'District 4 Championship' tournament



Courtesy photo

The girls' show off their trophy at the District 4 Championship. The girls' roster is as follows: Kim Smith, Olivia Perkins, Faith Stewart, Melissa Miller, Kayley Davis, Nikki Allen, Kevin Carver (Head Girls Coach), Vince Fiatarone (Assistant Coach), Byron Renfrow (Assistant Coach)

COURTESY STORY
For the Sentinel

Sunday, Jan. 24 the Oregon State District 4 Championship High School Bowling Tournament was held at Firs Bowling in Eugene. A total of six girl high school teams and eight high school boy teams competed. The girl teams were from Cottage Grove HS, Springfield HS, Willamette HS, Marshfield HS, North Bend HS and Siuslaw HS. The boy teams were from Cottage Grove HS, Springfield HS, Willamette HS, Marshfield HS, North Bend HS Siuslaw HS, Thurston-1 HS and Thurston-2 HS. Each team played a total of 20 preliminary and 10 semifinal baker format games. The top three finishing girl teams were, North Bend, Cottage Grove and

Siuslaw then bowled two head-to-head games. Siuslaw finished taking third place. North Bend and Cottage Grove bowled each other for the District Championship, with the Cottage Grove girls winning first place.

Cottage Grove boys won third place at District; qualifying them to play at the upcoming Oregon State High School Bowling championship.

Out of a field of 34 girls competing for this year's District 4 All Star Honors, Cottage Grove finished with three girls in the top 10 listing. Faith Stewart won first place and was awarded this year's MVP for the girls'. The top three finishing teams from the girls and boys teams will compete Feb. 27 and 28 for the Oregon State Championship being held in Klamath Falls, OR.

Lincoln Middle School wrestlers take second at regionals

The wrestlers now look to their district tournament

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Lincoln Middle School wrestling team is drawing attention to itself from around the state. Over the weekend, the wrestlers attended their regional tournament, taking home second place and only 12 points away from winning the entire tournament. Head Coach James Deatherage explained that there were some "dark horses" that emerged from his team, winning their matches in the finals.

Nathan Boxberger, Christian Aldridge and Chris Nelson all won their final matches.

"We had a lot of kids make it to the finals," Deatherage said. "Some of them we didn't expect, so that's always good."



Photo courtesy of Jamie Nelson

The Lincoln Middle School wrestling team gathers around their second-place trophy at the regional tournament.

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CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK