

Lions place third at district tournament

Allen, Bordeaux Brothers propel Lions into top three with first-place finishes

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel



Photo by Sam Wright

Andrew Bordeaux gains control of his opponent on the mat in his semifinal match.

In a strong performance at Elmira, the Cottage Grove wrestling team showcased its ability to place well individually and as a team. This weekend, the Falcons hosted the 4A Special District Two wrestling tournament, with Cottage Grove finishing third overall out of 13 attending teams.

The Lions stole the spotlight with first-place wins in three different weight classes. Bryce Allen dominated Brandon Gibson of North Marion through all three rounds, winning by decision 7-0 in the 126-pound weight class. Alan Bordeaux snuck out a win in a 7-4 decision against Levi Hanson of Elmira in the first-place match of the 170-pound weight class. His brother, Andrew Bordeaux, triumphed by pinning Hayes VanDeHay of Cascade in the first-place match of the 182-pound weight class. Bordeaux seemed to be in control the entire match, and in the second period, he was able to bring VanDeHay to the ground and pin him in the final minute of the second period. By halfway through the second day, Cottage Grove was ranked fifth. Allen and the Bordeaux brothers propelled their team into third with their wins.

Although there were no other first-place finishers, the Lions had many that came close, which helped with maintaining a place in the top five.

In the heavier weight classes, Elijah Farrell beat Chris Martinez of Yamhill-Carlton High

School in the quarterfinals with a quick pin in the first period of the 195-pound weight class matchup. However, Farrell was beaten in the semifinals by Sutherlin's Andrew Smalley, who pinned Farrell in the first period.

In the 285-pound weight class, Adam Lamb won his quarterfinal match against Joseph Legrende of Junction City in a very close 9-8 decision.

Lamb was seconds away from advancing to the finals until his semifinal match was swept out from underneath him by Elmira's Dylan Porter. Lamb and Porter exchanged points consistently throughout three periods.

As the third period was ending, Lamb found himself up 10-9 until Porter escaped his grasp and tied the match at 10 just as time expired. In overtime, Lamb was overwhelmed with exhaustion and succumbed to Porter, who escaped Lamb's grasp and took the match 11-10.

With a third-place finish, Cottage Grove now looks to the State Championship tournament this weekend, where the team finished 12th overall last year. The Bordeaux brothers will try again for a first-place finish after falling short (Andrew finished fourth and Alan finished sixth). Last year, Andrew Bordeaux lost to two state

champions in the semifinals and consolation finals rounds at 160 pounds. However, this year Bordeaux has been competing at 180 pounds. Even more so, Andrew was just a junior last year.

"Two state champions will have graduated, which puts Andrew in a good position this year," Head Coach Kyle Temple said. The team's overall goal last year was to place in the top 10. With the Bordeaux brothers having fair chances to place even higher than last year, the Lions may find themselves in the top 10 at the state tournament.



Athlete of the Week

Andrew Bordeaux takes first place in his weight class



The senior star wrestler gained momentum this past weekend by winning the 180-pound weight class at the district tournament in Elmira. Bordeaux will take this momentum to the state tournament this weekend to try and win a state title, something he fell just short of doing last year, losing in the semifinals.

Girls' basketball ends on an upside

After a season full of struggles, the Lions end their season positively

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The girls' basketball team ended its season going 1-1 in their final games, finishing 4-6 in the Sky-Em League and 7-17 overall. The final win put the Lions at fourth in the Sky-Em League and ranked 30th in the state. It was not the season Cottage Grove had hoped for but a necessary season to begin building a stronger program.

It was Head Coach Kevin Yoss's first year coaching the girls' basketball team, and while he has had coaching experience

before, this was his first time coaching the girls' team.

"It's definitely a different game," Yoss said at the beginning of the season. "There are different strengths and weaknesses, and the pacing is different."

It's a tough turnaround to go 7-17 after taking second place in the Sky-Em League last year, but the new coaching and loss of talent put the Lions in an awkward place. The team was riddled with injuries, totaling seven concussions, a broken nose and other various injuries. However, that is not to say that

there weren't any triumphant moments. Even with only seven wins, the Lions still dominated in the rebound game, came close to upsets, and shined with high-scoring runs from time to time.

But the first game of this past week wasn't so triumphant. The Lions traveled to Sutherlin, where they were routed 55-18, the worst loss of the season. Cottage Grove was without sophomore Keara Murphy, who had surgery due to a broken nose.

Melissa Thielman returned from a concussion and led the team with six points. Hanna Albrecht had four, Delia Nichols-

Ferguson had three, Hannah Arnold and Sierra Blomquist both had two, and freshman Tara Child appeared on the board with one point.

Cottage Grove held its ground throughout the first quarter but trailed 23-12 at the half after Sutherlin managed to hit a half-court buzzer-beater. After being outscored 15-1 in the third quarter, the game was out of reach.

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Aqua Lions swim at state

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Last week, eight swimmers from the Cottage Grove swim team earned a bid to compete at the state championship meet at Mt. Hood Community College. While the Lions did well at their district meet, the competition proved to be much thicker at the state meet.

Cottage Grove consistently found themselves excluded from the final rounds and were unable to place any of their strong swimmers in the top five of any event. The participants were made up of Sophia Edelbute, Tori Raade, Rose Witt and Clover Rudicel for the girls. The boys competing were Johnny

Witt, Seth Chambers, Ethan Burleson and Ian Dukes.

Last week, Head Coach Tyson Pilling said that the district meeting is not a good indication for what could happen at state. "Anything could happen," he said. And the results reflected that statement, although not in the way Pilling would have hoped. The best performance of the weekend was Johnny Witt, who placed eighth in the 200-yard individual medley race.

The lack of strong results does not deter the Lions, however. Pilling says he is proud of the entire team this season and has consistently taught his team to bring a "good culture" attitude to the sport.

Boys' Basketball secures Sky-Em with two wins; playoffs in sight

The JC win made it clear, but it wasn't until the victory over Sutherlin that the Lions would be the Sky-Em League winners

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Regardless of how the upcoming playoffs turn out, the boys' basketball team has done a complete 180-degree turnaround from last year. In the 2014-2015 season, Head Coach Donn Pollard and the Lions went 5-19 and did not have a prayer for making the playoffs. Now, the team just finished its regular season with an almost-reversed record at 18-5 and has placed as the fourth ranked team in the state and the winners of the Sky-Em League.

The Sky-Em League was pretty much sealed after the Lions beat Junction City after another nail-biter that came down to the last second. It was the second win over the Tigers for Cottage Grove, and after two wins in a row against Sutherlin and Sweet Home, they finished with a 9-1 league record. Although the Lions had defeated Junction City twice, there was still a possibility of having to share the league title had they lost their final two games and Junction City won theirs. But Cottage Grove needed only one win.

"It's right there, we just have to go get it against Sutherlin," Pollard said after the Junction City game. And get it they did. Cottage Grove went into Suther-

lin and came out victorious on Feb. 16, sealing their league title with a 63-53 victory.

The win didn't come as easy as Lions fans might have expected. The first time these two teams met, the Lions handled Sutherlin with a 14-point win. But the Bulldogs didn't want a repeat defeat and managed to stay competitive until Cottage Grove slowly pulled away.

By the end of the first quarter, it was only a one-point game (18-17). However, the Lions stayed consistent and with a few much needed three-pointers and managed to barely outscore the Bulldogs 15-11 in both the second and third quarters.

In the fourth quarter, Cottage Grove scored another 15 points to fight off a Sutherlin comeback and finally sealed their fate as winners of the game and the Sky-Em League.

Junior Kory Parent had a team-high of 20 points, 12 of which came from beyond the three-point line. Overall he was seven for 12 on field goals and four for six on three-point shots, one of his best long-range performances this season. The team made seven out of 13 three-point shots in total.

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Photo courtesy of Gary Ordway

Chance Hopkins embraces his teammates after downing Junction City, making the path to the Sky-Em title clear.

BLACK
YELLOW
MAGENTA
CYAN