

# GIRLS' BALL

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But the story of the Lions' season this year has been about their tenacity and their strength in spirit. Not wanting to go out losing, the Lions traveled to Sweet Home, where some of the girls played their best games of the season.

The Lions clobbered Sweet Home 52-15 the last time they played, but the Huskies weren't so easily pushed around. After going up 9-1 early in the first quarter, the Lions got caught in a Husky run, and Sweet Home ended the quarter up 11-10. The Huskies continued their run to go up 21-10 (a 20-1 run) midway through the second quarter. But Cottage Grove responded with a

13-4 run as the half ended. The Lions were only down by two with a 23-25 halftime score.

The second half brought the Lions into familiar waters with the Huskies. Cottage Grove dominated the entire second half and outscored Sweet Home 37-21 and the Lions ran away with the game 60-46.

Thielman led the team again in points, only this time racking up a whopping 24 points, a season high. Harsh and Blomquist both scored 10 a piece, a season high for Blomquist.

There has been a large improvement since the summer, where the Lions were struggling in their summer league. Now finishing the season 7-17, Yoss expects that the team will be a

lot more potent next year.

"We'll all be more familiar with each other, and the girls now know my expectations," he said.

The All-League roster was released, where seniors Hannah Arnold and Thielman both made second team all-league and Hannah Albrecht and Taylor Harsh received honorable mentions.



Dana Caro pulls up for a shot against Sisters.

Photo courtesy of Gary Ordway

## Cheerleaders take second



The Lions took second place at the OCCA Cheerleading state championships over Valentine's Day weekend. The members of the squad are: Abigail Bunce, 11; Alicia Humphries, 9; Allison Thomas, 11; Cora Cook, 10; David Dunn, 12; Destiny Silke, 12; Faith Latta, 11; Japheth Minson, 12; Kathy Moreno, 10; Katie Dennis, 12; Tanin Minson, 9. Allison Thomas took first place for individual performance, her photo is featured on page 4B.

## BASKETBALL

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Chance Hopkins and Jayden Tucker were the next top scorers for the Lions with 15 and 13 points, respectively.

It was a good thing that Cottage Grove only needed one win, because the second one was

more difficult to secure against Sweet Home on Friday. The 6-16 Huskies came out swinging against the Lions, and the lowest ranked Sky-Em team looked to have a shot at upsetting the highest ranked Sky-Em team.

By halftime the Lions realized they were in a scrap, tied 21-21. Sweet Home then managed to outscore the Lions 15-11 in the third quarter, and Cottage Grove found themselves in trouble, down by four going into the final period.

But the Lions clicked and, like always, performed their best in crunch time and went on an 18-6 run and came out with another win 50-42. It was a fairly low scoring game for Cottage Grove that night. The Lions were only 34 percent from the field and went from shooting four of seven three-pointers to shooting four of 21.

For his last game of the regu-

lar season, Hopkins came out as the leading scorer for the Lions with 18 points. The senior was seven-for-eight on field goals and four for six on field goals.

Parent and Sentman had season lows in accuracy. Parent went three-for-10 from the field and Sentman was two-for-10. However, two of those for Parent were three-point shots (out seven attempts from beyond the line).

Cottage Grove now tops the Sky-Em League at 9-1 and the next contenders are Junction City and Sisters (both at 6-4). Since the Lions are ranked fourth in the state, they will be favored against their playoff opponent, which will be ranked 13. Pending the finalized rankings, Cottage Grove would face Sisters, which is currently occupying the number 13 spot in the OSAA rankings.

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