



Bordeaux second, Lions finish 13th overall at OSAA state tournament

The boys finished in a decent position overall, and the team saw a first-place win from its female participant

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove wrestling team sent seven boys and one girl to the OSAA state tournament this past weekend after finishing fifth in the district tournament.

It was a highly anticipated tournament, since last year Andrew Bordeaux finished in fourth place and his brother Alan finished in sixth place while the team finished 12th overall. The Bordeaux brothers were hunting for state titles in their respective weight classes and unfortunately fell short once again, but not without significant improvement.

In the 182-pound weight class, Andrew Bordeaux swept three of his opponents to make

it to the final round. However, in a tough battle against Josh Hammers of Mazama, Bordeaux lost in an 8-4 decision and ended his high school career with a second-place finish. In the 170-pound weight class, Bordeaux's brother Alan found himself with a little less success than his sibling but still performed well overall.

After losing his first match in the finals, Bordeaux went on to beat three opponents in a row to qualify for the third-place match, where he lost in a close 6-3 decision to Justin Knight of Phoenix.

Aside from the boys, however, the one girl competing for the Lions took advantage of her position and came away with a first place victory in the girls' 170-pound weight class. Katherine Dennis pinned her way to a state title. After pinning sophomore Noemi Mosso of Bend within the first half of the first round in the semifinals, Dennis faced off against Aniseta Acosta of North Medford. Dennis once again pinned her opponent, only this time in the second round.

Although the Bordeaux brothers were the top finishers from Cottage Grove for the boys, that isn't to say other participants didn't find success.

In the 126-pound weight class, Bryce Allen found himself battling for fifth place against Austin Weeks of Tillamook. Allen was pinned in the early parts of the second round but still walked away with a sixth-place seed.

Notable efforts came from Aaron Boitz, who lost two in a row and finished 14th in the

113-pound weight class. Rodney Chamberlain also lost two in the finals bracket but placed ninth in the 138-pound weight class. Two losses excluded Chance Rolston from the top eight, but he still secured 10th place out of 16 in the 106-pounders.

The heavyweight of the Lions was Elijah Farrell in the 195-pound weight class. After losing to second-place finisher Trace Vega of Phoenix, Farrell defeated Bret Couch from Scappoose, only to lose to Clay Pena of Banks and finally place 15th.

Cottage Grove ended up placing 13th overall out of 35 teams. While they fell one spot from last year, some individuals improved, coming close to winning a state title, and of course, Dennis winning her state title.

Cottage Grove track stars invited to prestigious Indoor Classic

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

As many track and field enthusiasts may already know, the World Indoor Track Championships will be taking place in Portland later this month. However, before the professionals take the stage, several lucky track athletes from Cottage Grove will be able to compete at

the Portland Indoor Track Classic, an invitational event that brings high school athletes from Oregon, Washington and Idaho to compete unattached to their school.

The competing athletes from Cottage Grove were selected based on their skill set shown from previous seasons and competitions. The five from Cottage Grove are Hudson Weybright,

Michael Tharpe, Connor Howard, Trevor Layne and Tyler Ledford. Head Coach Ricky Knutson will bring his five athletes to Portland on the weekend of March 11 and 12.

"It's really a once in a lifetime experience for these guys, once it's done, the facility will be moved, so it's a really rare opportunity," Knutson said. The World Indoor Championships

haven't been held in the United States since the early 80s, making this competition all the more uncommon.

On the same days of the high school competition, the USA Track and Field championships will be taking place to decide who will be on Team USA to compete in the International Association of Athletics Federation World Indoor championships.



Athlete of the Week

Katherine Dennis takes first place at state wrestling tournament



The senior freestyle wrestler took first place in the 170-pound weight class. Dennis is also a cheerleader and an equestrian, maintaining a high GPA while competing in different sports.

Player of the Year, Coach of the Year comes with Sky-Em Championship

Before playoffs begin, the Lions were awarded with many Sky-Em League accolades, including Kory Parent and Donn Pollard as player and coach of the year

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

With the boys' basketball team going 18-5 in the regular season and winning the Sky-Em League, it was expected that the team would receive a lot of post-season awards this year. For starters, Head Coach Donn Pollard received the Coach of the Year award for the league, an award he has earned once before in the 2013-2014 season.

Pollard started his coaching career in Forest Grove, where he was a sophomore coach for the high school before moving to Sunset to coach junior varsity. He then moved to Cottage Grove to head-coach the Lions in 1981, where he would coach for 19 years straight. Pollard then stepped away from coaching basketball and became the high school principal for a number of years while his son, Bart Pollard, stepped in as head coach of the Lions. Pollard then came back in to assist his son with the Lions, and then once again became head coach after his son moved to Marist, where he is still coaching today.

Pollard humbly accepted the award and noted that the award comes with the success of his team's effort.

"It's an honor, but these awards usually come with win-

ning the league, and that's because of all of the players," he said.

The Lions improved this season, having gone 5-19 in the 2014-2015 season. And he notes that it wasn't so much his doing, but the players.

"They're all a year stronger, a year faster and a year smarter," he said. "Even when games got close, they were able to dig in and come out with the win, I'm really impressed with them."

Pollard gives all of the credit to his players, but some strategic adjustments from last year may have also had a role in the Lions' success.

Defensively, Cottage Grove used to put pressure up front on the outside lanes last year, but this year, they changed that strategy to defending the gaps down the court. It's difficult to definitively say that the strategy was much better, but from watching the games, the Lions' defense was a well structured and disciplined force that didn't allow many points inside the paint.

But Pollard is right, the skill set of his team has undoubtedly improved from last year, and that can be seen in the All-League rosters. Junior Kory Parent won the Sky-Em Player of the Year award. Just within league play, Parent scored 151

points in total with an average of 15.1 points per game. That all comes with his time of struggling with health issues during games he scored fairly low on.

Junior Blake Sentman was unanimously voted on the First Team All-League roster. Hayden Martinez and Josh Hutchinson from Junction City were also on the team, along with two others from Elmira and Sisters. Sentman had 136 points total in league play (13.6 point average).

Senior Chance Hopkins was selected for the Second Team All-League, a team with only seniors. Hopkins finished league play with a total of 130 points. Honorable mentions from Cottage Grove included senior Jayden Tucker and junior Tucker Porter, who had 60 and 39 total league points, respectively.

Now the Sky-Em champions look to play Baker in their first playoff match of the postseason, and Pollard is preparing each day.

"I'm always concerned with every team we play," he said. "But now we're down to the top 16 teams, so there's not going to be a team we play that isn't good." It will be an exciting time to watch the Sky-Em champions pave their road toward a state title.



Player of the Year No. 13 Kory Parent finished league play with 151 total points in just 10 games.

Varsity Chess finishes fifth, JV third

BY STEVE KILSTON AND TAYLOR WILHOUR
For the Sentinel

In the Oregon High School Chess Team Association annual competition, held last Friday and Saturday at Junction City High School, the Lions players each played five games with two-hour time limits, a strenuous effort but a great learning experience for five of the players for whom this was their first major chess tournament. Cottage Grove players were senior Ben Bauml, juniors Chris Glesmann and Justin Long, sophomores Spencer Falk and Alex Reimann, and freshmen Alex Istudor, Zeak Bray and Taylor Henry. In the tournament's

Open Division, the three Lions ninth-graders joined players from Pleasant Hill to form a shared team and captured the second-place trophy with a record of two wins and a tie out of five matches.

Cottage Grove tied its varsity match against Junction City but lost close hard-fought matches to Clackamas, Crescent Valley, Sheldon and Willamette. Alex Reimann achieved our team's best individual result, scoring three wins and a draw in his games. The state championship was won by an undefeated team from Portland's Lincoln High School. Coincidentally, that school will be the site of next year's state tournament.

For the first time our local

Kennedy Alternative H.S. fielded a team at the tournament too and finished with 1.5 points in the Open Division including a win over a team from Coquille and a tie with Clacklamette (a team comprised of players from Clackamas and Willamette).

At the end of the local Midwestern League season the Cottage Grove H.S. varsity chess team finished in fifth place out of seven teams with a record of two wins (against Junction City and Marist) and four losses (against South Eugene, Willamette, Pleasant Hill and Sheldon). In junior varsity competition, the Lions team finished in third place with a record of four wins and two losses (to Willamette and Pleasant Hill).



The joint Open team of Cottage Grove and Junction City stand by their trophy. The three players at left are Zeak Bray, Alex Istudor and Taylor Henry.