



Roberts to take over as CGHS Athletic Director

By next school year, the Cottage Grove High School athletic community may sense a big absence. Athletic Director Dave Presley will be stepping away from Cottage Grove High School as his son will be graduating and heading off to college. Presley has been the athletic director of Cottage Grove since August of 2000.

He started teaching in 1986, where he lived in the small town

of Lone, a town of only 250 people. Presley was the head football coach as well as the social studies teacher, teaching grades seven to 12. After six years, Presley moved to John Day in 1992, where he taught and coached football for eight years at Grant Union High School until coming to Cottage Grove. Presley says that he isn't so much retiring as much as transitioning and looking for other options of

employment where he can also watch his son play baseball.

"I love working with people, and I'm not ready to stop a regular work routine yet," he said.

With the leave of Presley, Head Football Coach and Dean of Students Gary Roberts will be taking his place (and remaining the football coach). Roberts has been in Cottage Grove since 2007, where he coached football and taught social studies until

2014. He came from an eight-year coaching career at Sheldon High School in Eugene, where he coached football and wrestling.

Roberts was brought on to coach football to increase the richness of the football culture around Cottage Grove.

"I went to Marshfield, which has a very rich athletic culture around Coos Bay," he said. "I was hoping to bring some of

that culture and enthusiasm to Cottage Grove."

And that he did. Roberts has the best winning record of any Cottage Grove football coach, sending the Lions to a state final in 2013.

As the new athletic director, Roberts hopes to carry over that culture of football to all the sports. He recently joined the Rotary club and plans to give speeches at the Lions club.

"I also want to promote more three-sport athletes; it's really important for the kids and the success of our programs that we don't have kids who focus purely on one sport," he added.

With Roberts behind the wheel, it will be interesting to see what adjustments and improvements can be made to the great legacy of Cottage Grove athletics that Presley has already helped create.

Buzzer-beater sends Lions to quarterfinals

Kory Parent didn't lead the team in scoring this time around, but his gameplan-defying layup gave his team the win as time expired

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

It wasn't easy, but the boys' basketball team fought off a relentless Baker squad, winning 71-69 to earn the Lions a spot in a 4A quarterfinal match. It was junior Kory Parent who once again saved the day with a buzzer-beating layup that gave the Lions the win.

It's been the story of the season: the Lions have been in at least five games where they have come out with the win by only four points or less. The team has been able to survive in high-pressure situations and shine brightest when the game is on the line.

"They've consistently been able to pull it out in the end; they never stop pushing," Head Coach Donn Pollard said.

Cottage Grove took an early and comfortable 9-0 lead in the first quarter, but it didn't last long as Baker came out hot from beyond the three-point line. The Bulldogs shot an astonishing 47 percent from the line, but even the Lions shot a solid 43 percent. These numbers that are more commonly paired with the Golden State Warriors and Stephen Curry rather than high school games.

Baker's offense proved just as dominant as Cottage Grove's as the Lions couldn't quite pull away. Their lead never extended seven points in the second half.

Cottage Grove hoped to go into the half with a 39-35 lead, but Baker's Grant Berry pulled up from nearly halfcourt and drained a long three pointer as time expired, shrinking the Lions' lead to one.

The second half was no different: a constant back-and-forth battle of basket after basket,



After scoring the game-winning shot, Kory Parent was swarmed by his teammates and fellow students in an uproar of celebration.

Photo by Gary Ordway

turnover after turnover kept the score tight. The Lions extended their lead to seven at one point, but Baker wouldn't be held down for long.

With time running out, the Bulldogs attacked the basket with leadingscorer Logan Sand and tied the game 69-69 with less than five seconds left, and the visiting crowd and bench

jumped into celebration assuming overtime was about to come next.

However, what would come next shocked the Bulldogs and their fans and left a sting that would permeate the athletic community for weeks.

With four seconds left, Cottage Grove in-bounded the ball from their opposing baseline.

Blake Sentman threw a lob to Parent, who took almost exactly four seconds to sprint from the half-court line to the hoop and finished with a left-handed layup as time expired. Parent was subsequently rushed by his teammates and tackled to the floor in a riotous celebration.

But the story of the final shot of the game was more interesting

than a prayer being answered. Parent actually defied Pollard's play call. He was supposed to receive the in-bounded ball and immediately call a timeout so the Lions could set up a better play, but the lane was open and the result was to Pollard's delight. In fact, Pollard said it may have been the more favorable play.

"You're not really going to have anything," Pollard said of the original idea of taking a timeout.

Please see, **PLAYOFFS** Page 3B

Big turnout at Cottage Grove Half Marathon

Oregonians from all over the state flock to compete in Cottage Grove's longest footrace



Dino Goetz approaches the finish line, earning first place out of 143 racers.

photo by Sam Wright

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A marathon is roughly 26.2 miles (the distance from Athens to the Battle of Marathon in 490 B.C.), and this year Cottage Grove began a tradition, initiating the first-annual Cottage Grove Half Marathon on Saturday. That means roughly 143 people from all over Oregon and even one from Boise, Id, came to run 13.1 miles starting at Dorena School and ending at Trailhead Park. The event featured run-

ners of all ages between 13 and 73. The youngest was Sabrina James, a 13 year old from Cottage Grove, and the oldest was Judy Harold, a 73 year old from Springfield who made some of us non-participants (especially this 22 year old sports journalist) feel desperately unhealthy.

Out of the 143 people racing, the fastest was 28 year old Dino Goetz from Bend, who finished the race in an incredible 1:10:35.22, 12 minutes behind the world record (0:58:23).

The second place finisher was Thomas Hesselgesser, 24,

of Eugene, who finished with a time of 1:18:13.98 and third place went to the first female finisher, Camelia Mayfield, 23, with a time of 1:20:13.62.

There were a total of 23 runners representing the local community of Cottage Grove. Of those, the top finishers from Cottage Grove included Miriam Udosenata (finishing 11th overall) with a time of 1:30:38.21 and the Sentinel's own Jon Stinnett (28th overall) finishing in 1:41:07.86. Ben Keppler, 36, finished in 1:47:01.02 as the next Cottage Grove racer and it

was Glenda Koyama, 65, who brought up the rear but showed outstanding perseverance as the penultimate walker.

As for the youngest and the oldest, Sabrina James (13) finished in 54th place overall in a time of 1:53:06.32 and Judy Harold (73) finished 90th overall in 2:06:57.55.

With 143 participants, the half marathon should be considered a success, but next year, the half marathon hopes to fill its 500 spots for March 11, 2017.



Athlete of the Week

Sentman scores 28 to lead Lions to Quarterfinals



Blake Sentman took control of his team Saturday night. While it was Kory Parent who hit the buzzer-beater to win the game, Sentman kept his team from succumbing to the Bulldogs, hitting four three-point shots.

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