

# TOURNAMENT

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The Lions were on the mark this time, sinking an even 50 percent of their field goals. Parent went from shooting 2-for-12 to shooting five-for-six and three-for-three from the free-throw line. But the real story of this game was the break-out performance of Jayden Tucker. Tucker was 5-for-12 on field goals but sank three out of five three-point attempts and was two-for-two on free throws, giving him 15 points, leading the team alongside Parent. He went on to be the Player of the Game for the Lions.

The win sent Cottage Grove back to Hillsboro to play for fourth place against Astoria, where the Lions didn't necessarily end the season as they had hoped.

Cottage Grove led for most of

the game and went into the locker room at halftime up by three in a tight 27-24 contest.

After a long third quarter of fighting off the Fishermen and preventing them from taking the lead, the Lions unraveled and were outscored 20-9 in the fourth quarter, losing 55-46.

"It's hard to say, we just had some very uncharacteristic turnovers," Pollard said. Although Cottage Grove had great efforts with 16 points from Blake Sentman and another 15 from Parent, the Lions were unable to finish off Astoria and finished in sixth place.

Tournaments can be frustrating. Although the team should be proud of placing sixth, the potential to win a state championship was right there. In fact, it was Philomath who entered the tournament as the number one seed, and it was Philomath

who took home the state championship. Yet it was also Cottage Grove that gave Philomath its first loss of the regular season. But it's never good to end on "what ifs."

The Lions managed to completely turn around their program after last year's 5-19 season. Although they will lose their big man when Hopkins graduates, a more experienced starting squad will return with Parent, Sentman, Tucker Porter and Hunter Gipson most likely leading the way. Cottage Grove will also hopefully see the return of Jordan Hagewood, a sophomore whose six-foot-four figure could replace Hopkins at the post position. It will be interesting to see what next year has to offer.



Photo by Sam Wright

Kory Parent shot 60 percent from beyond the three-point line on Friday.



Chance Hopkins jumps for the basket in his final win as a Cottage Grove Lion.



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