

## Boys take first, girls third in Stayton Twilight

Howard, Geisler, Weybright and Wright all set personal best during Friday's meet



Photo courtesy of Ricky Knutson

The boys' track squad gathers to celebrate their win in getting first place out of 23 competing teams.

**BY SAM WRIGHT**  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

It was an outstanding night for both the boys' and girls' track and field squads on Friday. Cottage Grove traveled to Stayton to compete as one of the 23 teams in the annual Stayton Twilight, and the boys topped the scoreboard while the girls finished in a solid third place.

The night saw a few season-best times from the girls' team with Hudson Weybright and Breanna Wright in the 3000-meter race with Wright coming from behind in what head coach Ricky Knutson called a "brilliant race." Wright would come from behind to take first place. Wright overtook McKay's

Anika Rasubala to finish with a time of 11:16.22, and Weybright finished third with a time of 11:43.45.

On the boys' side, Connor Howard shone in his sprinting performances. The senior tied for fourth place in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.22 seconds and took first place in the 200-meter with a time of 23.14. Howard's 100-meter time is a lifetime best for him and is the third-fastest time in Cottage Grove history. It places Howard seventh on the list due to several predecessors tying in second with 11.14 seconds. For this meet, Michael Tharpe rested and opted out of the 100-meter dash.

"He decided that he just

wanted to focus on hurdles this week," Knutson said. "With the end of the season coming up, we want to make sure everyone is healthy and ready," he added.

Tharpe ran a fast 110-meter hurdle time, although he still stayed outside of his personal best of 15 seconds flat, which he set several weeks ago. He finished in first place with a time of 15.31, which is definitely nothing to fret about. However, Knutson notes that there are several hurdlers in class 4A that have broken 15 seconds, and Tharpe might have to shave a few tenths of a second off of his time in order to win a state title this season. Sophomore Hayden Glenn took ninth place overall with a time of 17.11. Glenn has had a

few top-five finishes this season and appears to be the next one to step up on the hurdles after the departure of Tharpe.

Tharpe fell to Elmira's Nicholas Boykin and ended up taking second place with a time of 40.48 seconds.

Hannah Albrecht came out again with another strong performance, this time in the 100-meter dash. Albrecht tied for third in 13.18 seconds, a personal best for the junior. She also placed second in the 200-meter in 27.51 seconds.

On the field events, Brad Geisler came away with first and second-place throws in the discus and shot put events. In the

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## Athletes of the Week

Hudson Weybright and Breanna Wright top long-distance runners



In the 3000-meter race, Wright (12) and Weybright (11) finished a spectacular race in first and third place. Head Coach Ricky Knutson says that Wright ran "a brilliant race" after coming from behind to steal first place, and Weybright finished strong in third place.

## Loss to Junction City not enough to unseat Lions

A disappointing 7-6 loss puts Cottage Grove at 8-2 and still atop the Sky-Em standings

**BY SAM WRIGHT**  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Four games and less than a week and a half of play is all that is left in this year's regular season for baseball. The Lions sit at 13-6 (pending the results of Monday's game against Junction City).

Cottage Grove was on an eight-game winning streak through the beginning of April until Sisters handed the Lions a 6-0 loss on April 15. The Lions then won three in a row until traveling to Junction City this past Friday, where the Tigers handed the Lions a 7-6 loss. Yet two weeks earlier, Cottage Grove dominated Junction City in a 12-2 loss.

"Baseball is sometimes one of those sports where anyone can beat anyone on any given day," Head Coach Dan Geiszler said. He attributes the loss to not necessarily bad luck but a bad day.

"Junction City played really well and we made a few mistakes," he said. The loss is a set back, but Cottage Grove still holds the top of the Sky-Em League and is 9-0 at home (again, pending the results of Monday's game). Elmira (13-5, 7-3 Sky Em) sits just behind Cottage Grove in the league standings but is still five spots ahead in the state rankings at number four. The Falcons have already been beaten by Cottage Grove, so it is very likely that the Lions will win at least one more in the two upcoming meetings between these teams.

But while the Lions have so far done better in league play than against preseason oppo-

nents, the competition grows thicker as they go deeper into league play.

With league opponents facing each other three times per season each year, teams are able to get very familiar with each other's tendencies and strategies.

Cottage Grove still boasts the most stolen bases, but their rate of stealing has slowed as opponents have learned about (and paid for) the Lions' aggressive baserunning. But that doesn't mean the Lions aren't looking for chances.

"We're still going to try to play aggressively and do as much as we can," Geiszler said.

Against Sutherlin, Jaydin Osban successfully stole two bases before a bad call put him out at third base. It was clear that Osban's foot reached the base before Sutherlin's third baseman began to swing his glove toward Osban's body (picture on page 2B), but the call ultimately did nothing to change the outcome.

Last Tuesday's game against Sutherlin displayed a strong defense as the Lions defeated the Bulldogs in a smothering shut-out, 10-0. Junior pitcher Brett Ollivant pitched five straight innings with only one hit against him. On the other side, Cottage Grove has improved its batting, but Geiszler says there is still work to be done.

"We've gotten better each game, but we're definitely not where we want to be in terms of hitting," he said.

The Lions hit a .348 average in that game, but on the previous game (also against the

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## Hibbard, Wauge, Braaten, Sine and Corley capture Cottage Grove Chamber Night victories

**BY BEN DEATHERAGE**  
*For the Sentinel*

After a weekend off due to bad weather, the Cottage Grove Speedway was excited to get back to racing with gorgeous conditions in the forecast on Saturday, April 30. The historic quarter-mile clay oval hosted Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Night and attract another great crowd along with a very full pit area. Five classes were scheduled for racing including the Clark Printing Extreme Sprints, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Mods, Street Stocks and Quality RV Repair Hornets.

When the Clark Printing Extreme Sprint feature got the green flag, it was all Dave Hibbard from the get-go. Hibbard, of Medford, was able to seize the lead on the initial start and go right to work on pulling away from the rest of the field. The only thing that would slow him down would be two red flag incidents that would bring everyone to a halt. But on the ensuing restarts, Hibbard would retain the race lead each time and stay out in front the entire distance to park in victory lane.

Allison Journey, now residing in Boston, Massachusetts, would place second, while finishing in third was Patrick Dills. Anderson, California teenager Chelsea Blevins crossed the wire fourth, followed by Don Waddell, from Roseburg, in fifth.

Hibbard started the night off on the right note by setting the fast time of the night, while Blevins was the Dot's Trophy Shop Trophy Dash winner. In



Photo courtesy of Dirt Monkey Productions

Mark Wauge stands with his family and his \$500 check after his victory on Saturday.

heat race competition the victors would be Blevins and Thurston's Ricky Ashley.

A full field of IMCA Modifieds were in the house for their third race of the year, and Mark Wauge would take full advantage of his front row starting position. Wauge successfully navigated the tricky track and build a sizable lead. Unfortunately for his sake, the intervals were erased due to so many cautions occurring in the feature. Nonetheless, Wauge managed to master each and every restart and went unchallenged to lead every single lap of the main event.

Steven Sturdevant of Springfield was the runner-up, while ending the night in third was Cottage Grove's Curtis Towns. The rest of the top five would be made up of Kreg Britton, also of Cottage Grove, finishing fourth, while grabbing fifth was

Jasper's Eric Ashley.

Wauge was the fastest in time trials, while the victor in the Dot's Trophy Shop Trophy Dash was Medford veteran Monte Bischoff. Heat race winners were Steven Sturdevant, Mark Wauge and Curtis Towns.

The IMCA Sport Mod main event would be an absolute barn burner. Springfield ace Daniel Ray would get the initial lead on the first lap. But Ray would get passed on the second lap by Andrew Mathers of Eugene. Mathers, only in his second career Modified race, would lead the charge for the majority of the race.

The feature came down to the final couple of laps as Central Point's Jorddon Braaten began to reel Mathers in. The two cars were neck-and-neck at the start/finish line at the drop of the white flag, only for Braaten

to edge Mathers out of the first set of turns. Braaten secured the lead on the back straightaway to come across the line in first to win his second straight feature in the class for him and his team.

Andrew Mathers was a respectable second place, followed by Cottage Grove's Shawn Hand in third. Gene Ashley, from Jasper, was fourth, while Ray ended his evening in fifth.

Mathers was the fastest qualifier, and Springfield's Jayson Nelson was the winner in the Dot's Trophy Shop Trophy Dash. Heat race victors included Braaten and Mathers.

A good crop of Street Stocks assembled for the night with several new faces making their 2016 debuts. Matt King, now

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Join us for Mom's Night May 7th  
Mom's only \$10.00

Late Models, Clark Printing Extreme Sprints,  
IMCA Modifieds, Quality RV Repair Hornets  
Gates Open at 4pm Racing begins at 6:30pm

BLACK  
YELLOW  
MAGENTA  
CYAN