



## Ward, Harris, Presley all make All-Star series, Presley honored at SportsTown awards

Three seniors from the Cottage Grove baseball team will play in the annual 4A All-Star series under their very own Dan Geiszler



Photo by Gary Ordway

Hunter Harris gets the forced out on first base against Baker in the first playoff match.

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The 4A baseball All-Star series will take place in Roseburg on June 18 and 19, giving Cottage Grove baseball another chance to shine.

The Lions will be represented by three players and head coach Dan Geiszler, making Cottage Grove tied with Henley for the most represented team on the roster.

The South team's roster will have the privilege of hosting Hunter Harris at first base, Payton Presley on an undecided position in the infield and Lucas Ward at an undecided position in the outfield.

Although Brett Ollivant won the Sky-Em's Pitcher of the Year award, the star junior unfortunately didn't qualify. The pitchers for the south will be Trevor Bennett from Baker, Hunter Buchanan from South Umpqua

and Brad Haga and Tyler Laskey from North Bend.

Each team (North and South) hosts 18 players each along with two coaches. Geiszler will be coaching alongside Tim Cleland of Henley, the head coach of the team that won the 4A state championship over Estacada.

The series will have a total of three games between the North and the South. One nine-inning game will be played on June 18, followed by two seven-inning

games on June 19. The All-Star series will mark the end of the high school baseball careers of Harris, Ward and Presley, and Geiszler will be taking a break from summer league practice to participate. However, this won't mark the end for the baseball careers for players such as Presley. Come fall, Presley will be attending Pacific University where he will continue to play baseball in the spring.



## Athlete of the Week

Presley is SportsTown Athlete of the Year



The first annual SportsTown awards were hosted by Eugene Cascades and Coast Sports Commission, a marketing organization under Travel Lane County. Payton Presley was presented the male Student Athlete of the Year award for his athletic ability and his dedication and volunteer work with South Valley Athletics to help organize, coach and referee the youth of Lane County.

## Hidden Valley Men's Club gives golf course a fresh new look

McKenzie River Golf Course provides fresh sod for Hidden Valley

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Avid golfers around Lane County may already know that the McKenzie River golf course in Springfield has been closed for a few weeks now. The closing is due to owner Rod Omlid selling the land to developers, who plan to construct a 27-home subdivision.

But Cottage Grove Golfers of the Hidden Valley Men's club saw this as an opportunity to help out their own greens.

Due to a streak of extremely hot weather a few weeks back, some of the green at Hidden Valley was withering and didn't hold its usual lush appearance as it usually does.

That's when the men's club of the golf course took a total of eight members to the closed McKenzie River Golf Course, where they received permission to take as much sod as possible and transfer it to the less-healthy areas of Hidden Valley.

The group provided their own sod cutter and stripped the greens before rolling it up into several trailers and bringing it to Cottage Grove. The whole process took several days, as the entire men's club, not just the eight who cut the sod, put in effort and support to the project. The men transplanted the sod onto their own course.

Dan Nord of Hidden Valley Golf Course praised the efforts of everyone involved.

"I'm just so grateful to have a men's club that cares about the greens so much," Nord said. "It speaks volumes to their dedication and care for the facilities."

Nord says that the course now looks "awesome." The efforts of the eight men who were able to do the physical labor were supported by those who couldn't.

"It probably would've taken an entire maintenance crew a week to do what they did," Nord added.

With the newly added sod, Hidden Valley is back in top form in appearance and in golfers. The dedication and hard work of the men's club saved the course a lot of aesthetic grief along with maintenance costs.



Photo courtesy of Dan Nord

Craig Royce, Steve Pratt, Cliff Vincent, Dale Martin, Dale Mukavetz, Herb Williams, Donn Pollard and Jerry Avery all helped to transplant sod from McKenzie River golf course.

## Dills, Brewster, Frisbie, Williamson, J. Corley and Martinez earn wins At CGS

BY BEN DEATHERAGE  
For the Sentinel

A full pit area of over 90 cars were in attendance at Cottage Grove Speedway on Saturday, June 11 for the prelude to the Wallbanger Cup. A whopping six classes were on the card, featuring the Clark Printing Extreme Sprints, Late Models, IMCA Sports Mods, Street Stocks, Quality RV Repair Hornets and Dwarf Cars.

Cottage Grove's Patrick Dills, stormed to the front and captured the lead on lap two in the Clark Printing Extreme Sprints. Dills was briefly bottled up in lapped traffic but remained in the coveted position. It was the second straight victory for Dills and the team.

Darren Coffell from Bend led the opening circuits of the Late Model main. He was then

passed on lap four by fellow central Oregonian Ron Brewster. Brewster would remain in the top spot the rest of the distance to put his vehicle in the winner's circle.

The IMCA Sport Mod feature was a caution-plagued affair. Despite having to deal with several restarts through the course of the race, Vancouver, Washington's Chris Frisbie was the car to beat. Frisbie blazed the trail for every single lap to win his first career race at CGS.

It would take Corvallis chauffeur Kevin Williamson eight laps to get in the top place position in the Street Stock main. Williamson then took care of business and distanced himself from the main body of the pack to win the race. It was the first feature win for his team in 2016 at Cottage Grove.

Westfir driver Josh Corley re-

turned to top form in the Quality RV Repair Hornets. Corley got to the front on lap five and stayed there for the remainder of the distance. It would be the fourth win of the current campaign for Corley.

Last but not least was the Dwarf Cars. Obtaining the lead late in the feature on lap 22 was Ryan Martinez, who would take off after that point. The Portland driver eventually claimed the victory in the Dwarf Cars race.

Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14 saw Cottage Grove Speedway host the Wild West Modified Shootout. There were some of the best IMCA Modified drivers in the country, as well as Canada, that made their way to Cottage Grove for two nights of racing. Results can be found on the Speedway website.



Courtesy photo

Ryan Martinez speaks with a commentator after his big win on Saturday.

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