

## A warm welcome for the newest members of Cottage Grove football

*Jordan and Marty Johnson have been hired as assistant coaches for the Lions, furthering the prestige of the program*

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove High School football team has recently acquired two strong additions to the coaching staff. The father-son combination of Marty and Jordan Johnson will look to optimize the offense at CGHS.

Jordan Johnson had been searching for a teaching and coaching job all around the state of Oregon, and it was fortunate for the Lions that he chose Cottage Grove.

"Cottage Grove just seemed like a perfect fit for me," he said. The new coach accepted a position to teach math and coach the football team in April and arrived in Cottage Grove in June. The opportunity opened another door for his father, Marty, to coach again.

"My dad and I had always talked about coaching together, and when I got the job offer, Gary Roberts was nice enough to bring him on as well," Jordan said. According to Jordan, his father had just recently retired from a long teaching career. But as one career ends, another begins. Roberts said that he spoke

with Marty when Jordan accepted the job offer.

"He told me he wanted to be where Jordan was and coach with him if someone will take him," Roberts said.

Marty had previously coached Sheldon High School in Eugene, where his son played for him. In 2009, Jordan's senior year, the Irish went 14-0 on the way to a state championship. Jordan was the 6A player of the year at quarterback that year and finished his Sheldon career with 11,337 yards of total offense and 134 touchdowns. Jordan then moved on to Montana, where he was voted All-Big-Sky quarterback one year and went 28-11 in his college career. He is currently ranked third in team history for touchdown passes (78).

As for Marty, the former head coach holds a 137-27 record at Sheldon and took the school to nine conference championships and three state championships (2002, 2007 and 2009). He coached the Irish for 14 seasons until resigning in 2010. Sheldon's playing field is now named in honor of Marty Johnson.

Roberts said the decision to

hire came easy, as he has known the Johnsons for years.

"We're always trying to look for good people and these are people that we really know," he said. When the opportunity came for Roberts to bring on Marty as well as his son, it was a no-brainer.

"When you have the chance to get someone who is probably one of the top-ten coaches in Oregon high school football history, you definitely take it," he said. Roberts says he is extremely excited to add the Johnsons to the school and to the community.

With both coaches having such impressive resumes, the anticipation of the upcoming season grows even larger. Jordan will be coaching quarterbacks and defensive backs, while Marty will be the offensive coordinator. Head Coach Gary Roberts says that the team is going to stay with its original spread system and there shouldn't be too much change with how the offense is run.

Last year, the Lions totaled 3,727 total yards on offense. About 2010 of those yards came from quarterback Blake Sent-

man in the passing game. Jordan believes Sentman fits perfectly in the system.

"He's a really talented, and I think he's a great 4A quarterback," Jordan said of Sentman. As a junior, Sentman had a total of 24 touchdowns and a 63 percent completion rate.

The quarterbacks coach has not yet delved deeper into developing a replacement for Sentman, as this will be the starting QB's last year.

"I haven't really been here all that long, so we've just been focusing on being the best team we possibly can this year," he added.

Roberts, who is the athletic director as well as the football coach, says that these hires are another step in the right direction for South Lane School District.

"It's a testament of our ability to recruit great teachers firstly, and also a testament to our ability to recruit top athletic staff," he said.

The Lions kick off the season with their first home game on Sept. 2.



Courtesy photos  
Marty Johnson (top) will be the offensive coordinator for the Lions, and his son, Jordan (bottom) will be the new quarterbacks coach.

CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

## WOE's Lumberjack Show returns this month during fair

The famed Gene Campbell Memorial Lumberjack Show will yet again be one of the most popular attractions at the Western Oregon Exposition Heritage Fair

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Each year during the Western Oregon Exposition Heritage Fair, loggers from all over the country come to compete at the annual lumberjack show held right on the fair grounds. To many, it may seem like a casual event for rural residents to enjoy, but on the contrary, the competition is intense. National champions and record holders come from as far as the East Coast to compete in this show, and sometimes records are broken at the show.

One of the most well known lumberjacks, Melvin Lentz (known as "the King of the Lumberjacks"), usually makes the annual trip to Cottage Grove all the way from West Virginia. Last year, Lentz was beat in the cold-start three cut event by Washington's TJ Bextin, nearing a world record for time. Bextin also swept the rest of the events he participated in.

Bextin is known to be a very consistent competitor. From March to October, many lumberjacks are competing on a weekly basis, and people like Bextin and Lentz compete in world championships.

Event coordinator Kevin Dunnavin explained why these renowned athletes come to com-



T.J. Bextin has won the Gene Campbell Memorial Lumberjack Show several times already.

pete in Cottage Grove.

"We have a good solid base of sponsors that put a lot of cash into the event, and it's all around just a good show," Dunnavin said. While Dunnavin has a personal relationship with most of the contestants (as competitors and friends) he still puts effort into marketing.

"You always have to nurture and facilitate," he added. Not only do people come from all over the country, but Dunnavin

says there are contestants coming from as far as Australia and New Zealand.

Gil Lane, from Auckland, New Zealand, is one of those competitors. Lane has often spent summers competing in logging shows around the United States.

While the show usually features the same crop of athletes, new competitors still step up to test their odds.

"I'm always very willing to

accept newcomers. Whether they're novices or top professionals, all are welcome," Dunnavin said.

Over the years, Dunnavin has gotten great feedback about the show. Many competitors say that it's the "biggest little lumberjack show" they have been to.

Dunnavin does not forget what the sponsors do for the show. Many vendors donate the wood that will be cut as well as

put up money for the cash prizes. Thanks to a group of over 25 sponsors, Dunnavin is able to host an entertaining show where world-class athletes will compete for prizes that can reach up to thousands of dollars.

The show will begin at 6 p.m. on Aug. 15 and 1 p.m. on Aug. 16 during the WOE Heritage Fair.



## Athlete of the Week: Selivanova represents at swim meet

Nine-year-old Sophia Selivanova qualified for six events at the 2016 Speedy 10 and Under Championships in the Albany on July 23. The young swimmer managed to place in all of her events except one, the 200-meter medley. Selivanova also qualified to compete in the 100-meter breast stroke, 100-meter backstroke, 200-meter freestyle, 50-meter backstroke and the 100-meter butterfly. Her best performance came in the 50-meter backstroke, where she took seventh place with a time of 44.37 seconds. In the 100-meter butterfly she seized an 11th place finish with a time of 1:59.34. Her 200-meter freestyle time of 3:21.38 got her in 14th place, in the 100-meter backstroke she finished in 16th with a time of 1:41.67, and finally she placed 21st in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 2:05.62. Being the only swimmer representing Cottage Grove at the state championship meet, Selivanova stood out among Cottage Grove athletes.

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