



## Lions show tenacity despite lack of depth

Juice Claflin stepped in for Blake Sentman during Friday's scrimmage and showed off his quick feet with several rushing touchdowns

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove hosted a jamboree this past Friday in which three teams played a combined three scrimmages. Each team played 18 plays on offense and 18 plays on defense against the two other teams.

The Lions offense looked a bit different when the team came out onto the field for its scrimmages against Phoenix and North Bend. With Blake Sentman unavailable to play, junior Juice Claflin stepped in behind center.

Head Coach Gary Roberts says that given the situation, Claflin performed adequately at the quarterback position.

"Running is definitely his strong suit, but he needs to improve his passing game a bit to play at the varsity level," Roberts said. While Claflin and the Lions' offense didn't move the ball through the air very well, he definitely turned broken-down plays into decent-and at times even great-runs.

On the first snap of the scrim-

mage against Phoenix, Claflin ran a read option the whole way into the end zone. On the second snap, however, a fumble in the backfield resulted in a Phoenix recovery.

Despite some of the snap issues, Cottage Grove was mostly able to cut through the Phoenix defense, scoring several more times within the 18 plays.

The Lions were just as successful against Phoenix on the defensive side as they were on offense. After a frustrating jump offsides on a fourth-and-short situation, Cottage Grove still held Phoenix and prevented them from scoring on several drives that had potential to turn into scores.

"I think it was a pretty good first impression," Roberts said of his defense. But the Lions eventually struggled against a more stacked North Bend team.

The Bulldogs showed Cottage Grove the importance of depth within a team. Within the first nine plays, North Bend already scored twice. Their passing challenged the secondary of Cottage Grove.



## Athlete of the Week: Juice Claflin



Photo by Sam Wright

Juice Claflin bursts into the Phoenix secondary Friday night. The junior second-string quarterback gave an entertaining display on the ground game as he scored multiple rushing touchdowns.

"There are some issues we have to work on in terms of assignments," Roberts said. The Lions made a few stops during North Bend's 18 plays, but the Bulldogs scored several more times after the first two touch-

downs.

On offense, Claflin appeared to struggle a lot more with moving the ball. Roberts says that he wasn't "giving his teammates around him the chance for success."

North Bend is a team that has nearly 70 players on their team, while Cottage Grove's roster is only in the low 20s. While Roberts is confident with his starters, a lack of depth can hurt due to not being able to rotate a lot

of players and worrying about injuries.

The Lions kick off their season with a home-opener this Friday against Newport at 7 p.m.

## Girls have victorious debut, boys figure themselves out at soccer jamboree

The girls' soccer team routs Astoria in a 6-0 victory and the boys go 1-2 against opponents at their jamboree

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The girls' soccer team couldn't have asked for a better start to their season. In Head Coach Samantha Shine's debut game against Astoria, the Lions dismantled the Fishermen 6-0 on Saturday.

Kia Hemenway, last year's Sky-Em Player of the Year, racked up a total of four goals, one of which was assisted by freshman keeper Cameron Anderson.

Shine says that the team has begun clicking and working as a unit.

"They're really getting in the groove of learning to play as a team," she said. The game and Jamboree has also allowed Shine to figure out who goes where, though she's still in the process of making decisions. Hemenway is the obvious forward, and Shine says Halle Peterson is another obvious choice at defender.

The Lions host Philomath tonight (Aug. 31) and look for

ways to be just as successful against a tougher team.

The boys' team has yet to play its first game (which is also happening tonight in Philomath), but the jamboree on Friday has given Head Coach Vern Stewart a better idea of where to put his players on the field.

Cottage Grove played three half-games against Eagle Point, Brookings and Crater, defeating Eagle Point 2-1 and then falling to Crater and Brookings 2-1 and 2-0, respectively. Despite going 1-2, Stewart says that the jamboree was a successful one.

"I was looking to see how fast-paced they were and how well they transitioned," Stewart said. According to him, the team performed well.

Despite watching a sold 60 minutes of his team playing against other varsity competition, Stewart isn't convinced his lineup is set just yet.

"Some kids say they don't want to play a position and then they really shine at that position," Stewart said.

## Cross Country kicks off season with Two-Mile Trial

The young squad had its first run of the season in Cottage Grove. Many members of the team will experience their first five-kilometer run over the weekend

Nearly two hundred runners from 10 schools congregated at Cottage Grove Thursday morning to kick off the 2016 season. Athletes were able to dodge the recent high temperatures by starting at 10 a.m. and utilizing the wonderfully shaded "Spirit Trail" system across from the track for the majority of the race course. The event became a beginning season celebration as the teams lingered over a potluck lunch.

The racing generated a course record of 10:54 by Jacob Truitt from North Eugene in the boys' race in which Cottage Grove's Konrad Raum placed fifth. Shayla Solomon of Junction City won the girls' race in 13:41. Sabrina James was Cottage Grove's top women's finisher in fifth place.

In spite of this being a "training meet", 16 Lion runners set personal bests for their two mile effort — Erik Cortes (13:50), Jesse Ellingsworth (12:05),



Photo courtesy of Jim Settelmeier

Lexie Hall and Jenn Simons tackle the "Spirit Trail" during Thursday's race.

Justin Francis (14:23), Lake Fultz (15:51), Mitchell Johnson (16:29), Matteo Liserre (14:38), Adam Marsh (15:38), Konnor Owens (14:08), Konrad Raum (11:38), Braedon Rinck (17:57), Cody Smelser (15:05), Jimmy

Talley (12:18), Paesen Timm (11:43), Tatiana Baird (20:39), Sabrina James (14:38) and Jenn Simons (19:29).

The Lion Harriers travel to Tillamook this Friday and Saturday for the early season ob-

stacle race event named "The Ultimook". This will be the first 5000 meter high school run for many of the young runners on this year's team.

## Winebarger and Keefer collect CGS Fast Friday wins

The Cottage Grove Speedway returned this past weekend after taking a break during the W.O.E Heritage Fair

BY BEN DEATHERAGE  
For the Sentinel

Friday, Aug. 26 was a full house at Cottage Grove Speedway. The quarter-mile clay oval hosted the final Fast Friday of 2016 and all the fans were in for a special treat. Everyone through the front gate got in for FREE. Only two classes were in action during the night. They were the IMCA Modifieds and Open Comp 4-Cylinders.

Jasper's Eric Ashley was quick out of the box in the IMCA Modified main event.

Ashley paced the field until around lap 16 when he would be passed for the lead. The driver to make it around him was Colleen Winebarger, from Corbett. Winebarger led the rest of the way in the caution-plagued affair to score his fifth win of 2016 at CGS.

Eric Ashley was a respectable second, followed by Keizer's John Campos in third. Craig Hanson, of Albany, was fourth while finishing fifth was Jeff Lovell, out of Oregon City.

Kenny Keefer was the dominant driver in the Open Comp 4-

Cylinder ranks. Keefer, who is from Prineville, was able to take care of business and control the coveted position for much of the main. Keefer would pick up his first win of the year at Cottage Grove.

Junction City native Marcel Forte was second with Redmond's Chad Christensen behind him in third. K.C. Scott, of Springfield, managed to end the night fourth while Bernie Bryant, of Sutherlin, completed the top five.



Photo courtesy of Dirt Monkey Productions

Mike Winebarger took home a win in the IMCA Modified main event on Friday.

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