

Parent, Giffen shine in Lions' rout of Newport Cubs

CG racks up over 250 yards through the air and dominate in its opening matchup in a 59-7 dismantling of Newport

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

With Blake Sentman still unavailable for play, Head Coach Gary Roberts made another switch at the quarterback position, putting senior Kory Parent behind the center. While Juice Claffin gave a strong demonstration of his running abilities at the Jamboree, his passing game was not yet at the level to perform strongly at the varsity level.

Instead, it was Parent who showed the Lions how it's done. The star athlete threw for over 300 yards and five touchdowns on Friday night in a dominant 59-7 win over the Newport Cubs.

It was a demolition of the Cubs' defense from the beginning. On the first drive, the Lions drove down the field and scored a touchdown to Eric Giffen, a sophomore receiver. On Newport's following possession, a fumbled snap resulted in a Cottage Grove recovery in the red zone and an ensuing field goal, giving the Lions' an early 10-0 lead.

Newport's next possession ended in a three-and-out and a punt. Giffen made another statement, avoiding would-be tacklers and taking the Cubs' special teams squad from all the way to the left of the field to the right in an over-50-yard return for a touchdown. At 17-0, the onslaught was on.

On the next possession for Cottage Grove, it seemed Newport found somewhat of an answer to slow down the Lions, that is, until Parent threw a dart over the middle to Giffen who then carried the rock the rest of the way for a 54-yard touchdown. At 24-0 midway through the second quarter, there was no looking back.

Before the first half ended, however, Newport was able to take advantage of a costly Cottage Grove turnover. A Newport defensive end managed to pick off Parent's option pitch (which counted as an interception because the pitch was forward) with nothing but green in front of him. But Parent's speed took

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Erick Giffen (Soph.) sprints to the end zone during a 54-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter.

Photo by Sam Wright



Athlete of the Week

Sophomore Erick Giffen scored two receiving touchdowns and a punt return for a touchdown, adding flair to the Lions' win

Volleyball starts off season 3-0 after opening week

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Up against formidable opponents, the Lions' volleyball team has found itself on a three-game winning streak to start the season. Last Tuesday marked the beginning of the season, where Cottage Grove hosted a double-header against North Valley and North Bend high schools.

North Valley suffered the most in the double-header, losing 3-0 to both Cottage Grove and North Bend back-to-back.

North Valley attempted to stay with the Lions during each set, but many offensive attacks were severely disrupted by defensive put-backs or strong counters. The small but coordinated Kalea Borrelli helped prevent multiple kills with several digs that

ended in a strong spike by Cottage Grove.

After seeing North Bend perform very similarly against North Valley in the preceding game, it seemed that Cottage Grove would face a more difficult North Bend team.

And they did. North Bend kept the score much closer in individual sets, but Cottage Grove's tenacity prevented the Bulldogs from taking any sets and sent them home with a 3-0 loss.

The team's schedule then took the Lions to Coos Bay, where they played Marshfield, a school that was 3-0 going into the game and went 22-3 and finished third in the state last year. The Lions handed the Pirates a 3-1 loss, Marshfield's first loss of the season.

A 3-0 start puts the Lions in a much better position than the previous year, where they started 1-2 with the only win in the first three games came over North Bend. Cottage Grove ended up going 9-13 overall and finished with an OSAA ranking of 18. Right now, Cottage Grove finds itself undefeated and ranked number one in OSAA 4A classification. To hold onto that position, Cottage Grove will have to beat South Umpqua, which sits at 1-1 (pending results from Tuesday's game against Hidden Valley). The Lions struggled against South Umpqua last year, losing in three straight sets. However, with what has been done on the court in the first three games, Cottage Grove will be taking all of the momentum into the matchup.



The Lions made easy work of North Bend and North Valley, beating each team 3-0.

Photo by Sam Wright

CG XC travels to Tillamook to compete in 'Ultimook' run

BY JIM SETTELMAYER
For the Sentinel

A mud pit and two river crossings entwined in a classic 3.1 mile running trail made the first full 5K of the Cross Country season for the Lions one to remember. The times were not fast, but the struggles were real (though sometimes "enhanced" with the enticement of the mud pit). Sabrina James (26:16) and Jimmy Talley (21:00), two freshmen, were the fastest Lion finishers this week.

The early season conditioning continued this past week with the exploration of two "new to the team" hills. The team spent extended time together during the morphed two-day team camp showing talents such as meal preparation and bark-moving abilities, as athletes continued work to rejuvenate the Neely fitness trail and tackled the challenge of supplying each other's meals and snacks.

Next week the Harriers travel to Tualatin to run in a meet they have never participated in. It should be a good early indicator of how ready for a more traditional 5K race.



Konnor Owens and Lake Fultz splash their way through the fun of the Ultimook mud pit.

Photo courtesy of Jim Settelmeyer

Boys' soccer opens season with win

Lions spark second half comeback over Philomath

It wasn't looking all that great for the boys' soccer team after its first half of play this season. The Lions found themselves down 1-0 at halftime against the Warriors on the road. But Head Coach Vern Stewart told his players not to panic and to trust each other.

"They're not completely used to the new system, so I told them to calm down and let what we've been practicing work for us," Stewart said.

And that's exactly what they did.

As the game wore down the Philomath team, the Lions were able to form several counter attacks that ended in two second-half goals to secure the victory over the Warriors.

"We were in better shape than Philomath," Stewart noted. In the first half, Cottage Grove wasn't putting in enough hustle to get to the ball first, making possession a concern. But in the second half, Jesus Chuy "Chewey" Urenda pushed forward with a goal that tied the game, and

Garrett Woodcock "Woody" put the Lions ahead with another goal later in the game.

The new implementation of the 4-2-3-1 formation allows the team to be able to take a lot of pressure from an opponents' attack and then quickly snap back for a counter-attack, which is how Cottage Grove took its lead.

With the lead intact, Stewart then tightened up the defense.

"We tightened everything up and just played defense for about the last eight minutes," he said. Goalie Zachariah Stewart had 15 saves on the night, some of which his coach described as "spectacular."

The Lions travel to Phoenix and to North Bend this week. Stewart was able to scout Phoenix while they visited for their jamboree (though CG and Phoenix didn't play each other), and says they are also vulnerable to the counter-attack. The Lions move forward looking to sharpen their teamwork and to play the ball more aggressively.

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