



## Boys' soccer bounces back

After two losses in a row, Cottage Grove corrects itself against Marshfield and avoids a loss to Elmira

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The week before last was not the smoothest for Vern Stewart and the Cottage Grove boys' soccer team. The Lions faced a lot of trouble on the road and lost 6-0 twice in a row against Phoenix and North Bend. But the story was that they were not deterred and the team stood confidently behind its seasoned coach.

Cottage Grove avenged its losses by blazing through Marshfield in a 7-1 rout and then played one of its most physical games of the season against Elmira.

Garrett Woodcock, Kyle Browning, Kyle Conley and Jesus Urenda all found the back of the net last Tuesday as they led their team to its biggest victory margin of the season.

But the true test and game of the week came on Thursday, when the Elmira Falcons came

to Cottage Grove.

"Elmira is a lot better than they have been in previous years," Stewart said. The game was at a deadlock during the first half. Neither team was able to score as the game kept getting more and more physical.

"The refs really let both sides get away with a lot," Stewart added.

In the second half, the Lions showed life when Woodcock scored off of a corner kick, giving Cottage Grove the lead.

But with under five minutes left to play, a worn-down Cottage Grove defense allowed the Falcons to sneak a goal in and tie the game.

"We should've cleared the ball a lot earlier," Stewart said of the last goal. The sheer physicality of the game had exhausted both sides.

"I told them that we really only played 75 of those 80 minutes," he added. In the last five minutes, Cottage Grove just



Photo by Sam Wright

Garrett Woodcock (left) attempts to head the ball to Jesus Urenda during Thursday's match against Elmira.

seemed to break down, but so did Elmira. The Falcons were just a little more desperate for a goal.

Though they tied, Stewart says the team played a lot better against Elmira than they did in their win over Marshfield.

"Our passing was great and

we moved the ball across the middle really well," he said. Cottage Grove now faces Sutherlin and Junction City this week, and Stewart wants to make sure his team is in shape.

"I ran them quite a bit on Friday, which I don't usually do right after a game," he said. He

added that in preparation for the game, he has been telling the players "we cannot play down to the level of whoever we play," and that the team needs more outside shots to happen.

## Water polo starts off hot

Girls rout Medford and Churchill, boys grab two wins and a tie

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove water polo program has had a hot start to the season. The boys started off with a game last Tuesday against Willamette, where the Lions came away with a dominating 15-2 victory.

On Saturday, Cottage Grove hosted Medford and Churchill/Springfield, where the Lions (especially the girls' team) truly showed their dominance in the water.

The boys crushed Medford 12-0, but even that performance was overshadowed by a 23-5 victory over Medford by the girls' team. The girls then shut down Churchill/Springfield 10-2, while the boys were stuck in an 8-8 deadlock.

The girls' water polo team was strong last year, but this year it seems they've reached a new height. Head Coach Tyson Pilling says it's because of the strong senior group.

"A lot of these girls have been playing together for four years now," Pilling said. The team features six seniors out of the nine players on the roster.

Seniors Tori Raade, Clover Rudicel and Emma Meyers hold leadership positions that have directed the Lions to their current success.

"They have really great leadership qualities, but they're also just really strong swimmers," Pilling said.

While the girls' dominance was already in the making during previous years, it's not so much the case with the boys' team. The boys sit at a 2-0-1 record, a much better start than last year.

Pilling says the success can be attributed to the boys playing more as a team.

"They weren't quite clicking last year as well as they are this year," Pilling said.

Seth Chambers leads his team alongside freshman Jeremiah West, who has emerged as a team leader himself. The addition is a welcome one, as the Lions have only seven players on the team's roster. This means that the Cottage Grove boys' team has a distinct disadvantage with the inability to substitute and rest its players. However, that doesn't appear to slow them down.

Both teams host Ashland this Friday.



## Athlete of the Week

An emerging leader in Urenda



Jesus Chuy Urenda, or "Chewie" as he's known by his teammates, is one of the soccer team's leading scorers. In a tough and exhausting battle against Elmira on Thursday, Urenda displayed a level-headed attitude with intense energy. The senior consistently communicates with his team, emerging as a team leader at the right-forward position.

## Getting up



Photo by Billie-Jo Miller

Fourteen year old Nathan Boxberger grabs some air at the local skate park. Cottage Grove hosted its first ever bike competition over the weekend. A variety of kids came out to the skate park to compete in a casual competition with multiple events. Local resident Jason Enarson organized the competition for the local youth.

## Cottage Grove holds off Scappoose to stay undefeated

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

As predicted, the Lions have started the season off with three wins in a row, carrying a world of momentum into upcoming Sky-Em competitions. The most recent contest was not as easy as the first two games.

Scappoose, a team that made it to the 4A state championship last year, came to Cottage Grove on Friday night to disrupt the strong start of the Lions' season, and they almost did it, too.

The Indians put together a strong opening drive that resulted in a touchdown but missed the extra point.

Cottage Grove was able to bounce back with Blake Sentman throwing to a wide-open Erick Giffen, taking a one-point

lead.

A few mix-ups, and turnovers stalled the Lions offense from time to time, but in the second quarter it seemed that Cottage Grove had figured Scappoose out. On a very sneaky play call, Sentman faked a reverse, causing defensive backs to step up and leaving Jacob Woods uncovered near the goal line, where Sentman threw and scored his second passing touchdown of the night.

A stout defense nearly kept Scappoose scoreless in the second quarter and prevented the Indians from taking advantage of turnovers. Sentman threw one more touchdown pass to Kory Parent before halftime, and Cottage Grove went up 21-6 in the second quarter.

A big kickoff return by Scap-

poose placed the Indians in good field position, giving them the opportunity to strike back. Scappoose capitalized on its field position and drove down the field through the air and managed to score before halftime, shrinking their deficit to a 21-13 score.

It seemed the state champ runner-ups might have found their answers against the Lions. Halftime turned the game into a nail-biter, and Cottage Grove couldn't maintain a solid drive or get into the end zone at all.

"They definitely made some good adjustments, but we also hurt ourselves with costly penalties and carelessness," Head Coach Gary Roberts said.

Scappoose's second half



Photo by Sam Wright

Jacob Woods dives into the end zone after catching a pass from Blake Sentman.

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BLACK  
YELLOW  
MAGENTA  
CYAN