

## Despite two losses on the season, CG volleyball remains a strong opponent for many

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

After the first three games of the season, Cottage Grove was ranked at number one in the state for class 4A OSAA rankings. It was expected that—even if they kept winning—the position would fluctuate, as so many other teams were also performing strongly.

The Lions suffered their first loss in mid-September against Creswell and saw another slight drop in the state rankings, but they still remained in the top 10. Cottage Grove's second loss came from Sutherlin, which sits in eighth place overall. The loss was concerning in terms of how far the Lions would drop in the rankings, but Cottage Grove quickly bounced back against Junction City, Thursday, routing the Tigers 3-0 after a tough first set.

The first set did not come easy, and it seemed that the Lions were in for a fight. Cottage Grove and Junction City were neck-and-neck for the entire set, and it became a real nail-biter when the Tigers went up 24-21.

However, a felicitous timeout by head coach Jason Corwin allowed Cottage Grove to regroup, and they went on a five-point streak to take the set 26-24. The athleticism of sophomore Cassidy Herbert, combined with the height of freshman Reilly Kelty, were both accountable for a bundle of aggressive spikes and rejections at the net.

The first set then sent Cottage Grove into the next set with a head full of steam. Cottage Grove opened with a 10-point lead, dominating the second set and then similarly took the third set with ease.

Cottage Grove's now 6-2 record (pending the result of the

Sweet Home game) puts the team at 11th place in the OSAA rankings. Sweet Home (6-4) is right behind at 12th. After Sweet Home, the Lions play the top Sky-Em team, Sisters. The Outlaws are currently ranked third in the state with a 13-2 record. Should Cottage Grove come away with two wins this week, the Lions will definitely be propelled back into the top 10. A win against the Huskies and a loss against the highly ranked Outlaws will most likely keep Cottage Grove where it is.

Though Cottage Grove is a much better team than last year, it still may face a tougher season than last year because the Sky-Em is an extremely strong conference this year. Four out of its six teams are in the top 12 this year, presenting a lot of future challenges for the rest of the Lions' season.



Photo by Sam Wright

Sophomore Cassidy Herbert leaps for a kill in Cottage Grove's 3-0 victory over Junction City.

## Harriers take second with help of Raum

Girls' take fourth at CG's final home meet

BY SAM WRIGHT  
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Hundreds of runners gathered at Schwarz Park campground near Dorena Lake on Thursday afternoon to compete in the annual Harrier's Challenge. The run started off with boys' then girls' varsity runners, then a junior varsity race that was also open to any participant including parents, teachers or even just fans.

The runners went through a heavily wooded course throughout Schwarz Park that featured a few obstacles that could hinder the pace of the athletes.

Cottage Grove made do with its familiarity of the course, and the boys' team took a solid second place behind Jefferson High School.

Sophomores Konrad Raum and Paesen Timm took eighth and ninth place, respectively, with times of 17:56 and 18:04. Jesse Ellingsworth was close behind in 11th place, finishing in 18:22. The other Lions on the boys' squad that competed were Jimmy Talley (Fr.), Max



Photo by Sam Wright

Sophomore Konrad Raum has become a leader for the boys' varsity cross country team. Raum finished in eighth place out of over 90 varsity contestants at Schwarz Park on Thursday with a time of 17:56, propelling his team to second place at the Harrier's Challenge.



## Athlete of the Week

Konrad Raum is CG's best harrier

## A look at football halfway through the season

So far, only two teams have scored on Cottage Grove, which now sits at 4-0 halfway through the season, but how will the Lions fair over the next four games?

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Well, we started off very right in that it was predicted Cottage Grove would start off the season going 3-0 with an upset over the defending runner-ups, Scappoose. But then, this past Friday has proven the Sentinel's predictions very, very wrong. In the article published just before the jamboree, it was predicted that Sweet Home, who beat Cottage Grove by a touchdown last year, would do the same and escape with another victory over the Lions. Head Coach Gary Roberts and his team, led by Kory Parent and Blake Sentman, slapped that prediction in the face with a 42-0 rout of the Huskies. After the first three weeks of the season, it was a bit easier to see that the Lions would probably beat the Huskies.

It seems Cottage Grove has answers for a lot of adversity. Though they lack depth and an overall sizeable roster, the star seniors don't need to carry the team on their own since a lot of younger athletes have stepped up and made great performances. Due to such developments, the original predictions must change.

Sutherlin sits at 0-4 and should be easy pickings for Cottage Grove. And Junction City may be tough (fighting a close game against Elmira) but still should succumb to the Lions' tenacity.

It was also originally predicted that Sweet Home would be Cottage Grove's only loss. With the dominant performance against Elmira on the road last year, the article also predicted Cottage Grove could easily take care of business again, but now the Falcons also sit at 4-0 and are ranked two spots above the Lions. Elmira appears to be Cottage Grove's toughest opponent on the schedule, but even the upcoming game against Sisters can be dangerous.

The Outlaws sit at 3-1 and are only ranked 22nd, but their one loss has perhaps made the OSAA rank them a little harshly. Sisters lost 12-10 against Cascade, the defending state champions. They then dominated Crook County, 35-7 and demolished Sutherlin, 44-0. The team is also much larger, meaning they have more depth (a concern Roberts consistently addresses) and is also returning 11 seniors compared to Cottage Grove's six.

The only two games to truly worry about should be this week's matchup against Sisters and then the last game of the regular season against Elmira. But so far, only two teams have scored against Cottage Grove, and they have outscored opponents 188-28. The numbers so far seem to be on the side the Lions. But anything can happen when it comes to high school football.

## Adjustments and additions made for second half of the season

With star senior Kia Hemenway still out with a torn muscle, girls' soccer has made some adjustments and even recently added a new player

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The girls' soccer program has had a tough year thus far, but the goal of the team is to keep a positive attitude. Last week the Lions struggled when they tied 0-0 against Sutherlin and took a tough 1-4 loss against Junction City.

The Lions have been missing their star senior, Kia Hemenway, who tore one of her quadriceps during the 0-4 loss against Philomath. Hemenway was the Sky-Em player of the year in 2015 and one of Cottage Grove's biggest assets. Head Coach Samantha Shine says that Hemenway is expected to be out for another three weeks, meaning she may only get to play in the last few games of the season.

The frustrating aspect for the Lions against Sutherlin was that they couldn't finish. Cottage Grove dominated the entire game with tons of offensive pressure, but the team couldn't

find the back of the net. Hudson Weybright also missed a penalty kick.

"She was really down about that, but we don't like to put any hard feelings on her," Shine said of Weybright.

In terms of being unable to finish by scoring goals, Shine made an adjustment and brought mid-fielder Halle Petersen to a center attacking position in hopes of making it easier for the Lions to score.

The loss to Junction City was a tough loss, but the Lions are not deterred. The Tigers have a very strong team this year and are ranked seventh in the OSAA rankings.

Shine has also recently added a new member to the team. Taylor Mehan has gone from managing the team to actually playing on it. Though she has never actually played varsity soccer before, Shine is confident in her ability to assist her team.

"We're still refining her technical skills, but she's a really fast learner and did really well

when trying out," Shine said of Mehan.

As with the rest of fall sports, the regular season for soccer is halfway over. Shine says that she didn't have many expectations coming into the season as she came from out of state, but she also knew that she would have big shoes to fill by taking the place of Vern Stewart.

"I didn't really know what to expect in terms of how well we would do, but the team's talent definitely exceeded my expectations," she said. "With as many seniors as they lost from last year, this is kind of a fresh start for the team."

As Cottage Grove enters the second half of the season, Shine aims to keep things positive.

"I've bonded a lot with the team, and they've bonded with each other as well," she said. The head coach plans to keep doing what the team has been doing in practice and attempt to rediscover the taste for scoring.



Photo by Sam Wright

Sophomore and mid-fielder Sophia Reid helps push the ball toward Junction City's goal during Thursday's game against the Tigers.