



Cottage Grove volleyball out of playoffs but team is on the rise

The Lions finished a successful season with a tough loss against Hidden Valley on Saturday

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

After the football and boys' cross-country teams won the Sky-Em League, the next best performance has been a comeback season for the Cottage Grove volleyball team. Last year, the team went 9-13 overall and 6-4 in the Sky Em. The Lions were 4-6 through their first 10 games, and first-year head coach Jason Corwin was just getting to know the team. This year, the Lions have finished 12-5 overall (7-3 in the Sky-Em, taking second place), started off with four wins in a row, and were 7-3 in the first 10 games and only dropped two more

losses after that. Their season earned them a play-in match against Corbett at home. The Lions gained momentum early with several aces by senior Carly Sand. From there, Cottage Grove managed to control the tempo of the game and swept Corbett, 3-0. The win earned the Lions a playoff spot against Hidden Valley. A win for Cottage Grove would send them to the state tournament in Forest Grove. However, the momentum didn't carry over from the previous game and the Lions' winning season came to a halt after falling 3-0 to Hidden Valley. With the departure of last year's seniors like Abigail Ladd

and Allyssa Ganchegui, there came questions surrounding whether Corwin had the roster to replace talented leaders. This year, the large shoes were filled by not only juniors and seniors, but by some underclassmen as well. Sand, for one, was a senior setter that was the backbone of the Lions' attack, delivering controlled balls to hitters up-front such as Sydney Boxberger. As a junior, she has shown with her athleticism and height that she can quickly turn sets into kills. Two of the most impressive players to breakout this season are underclassmen. Sophomore

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Photo by Sam Wright

Senior Carly Sand sets the ball for a teammate during last week's win against Corbett. The team moved on to play Hidden Valley for a spot in the state tournament, but fell short in a 3-0 loss on Saturday.

Boy harriers win districts

Jesse Ellingworth propels his team to an extremely close victory with a second-place finish at the Sky-Em district meet

The Lions went to the Sky Em district meet and surpassed expectations. The varsity boys' team pushed hard and won a very tight race where just 11 points separated first and fourth place. Junior first-year runner, Jesse Ellingworth had a breakthrough run with a 46-second PR to place second, pulling his team to the win. Konrad Raum (fifth) and Paesen Timm (sixth) accompanied Jesse on the podium with their finishes. Great efforts were also turned in by teammates Jimmy Talley, Eric Cortes, Max Gause and Justin Francis. The varsity women placed in fifth paced by freshman Sabrina James's 10th place finish. The JV women pushed through to win their competition paced by Emma Sexton, Kaitlyn Brooks, Tatiana Baird and Leslie Chacon-Romero all placing in the top 10. The JV men placed third as Konnor Owens placed second with his PR effort (19:53). This effort ended up earning Owens a spot on the State Varsity team after the dis-

covery late Friday that Senior Max Gause would be forced to withdraw due to conflicts with the SAT test he needs for his college application and scholarship work. The wet day on a course with a couple of climbs allowed the Cottage Grove harriers to use their advantage of training on hills to surprise the rest of the district and surpass their pre-meet expectations powered by 18 personal records. Head Coach Jim Settelmeyer says that the training for the state meet began in earnest on Friday, when 16 teammates showed up to bolster the state qualifiers with their positive energy, helping keep the atmosphere fun, supportive and friendly. The seven varsity men have a week to work beside their teammates and see if they can create the same kind of energy when they compete with the rest of the best in the state on the big stage Nov. 5 at 11:50 a.m. at LCC.



Athletes of the Week



Courtesy photo

A special congratulations goes to the boys' varsity team led by junior Jesse Ellingworth, whose second-place finish helped give Cottage Grove a first place finish overall. Konrad Raum and Paesen Timm finished in fifth and sixth place respectively. Even freshman Jimmy Talley finished 16th out of 40 participants. The girls' team ended in fifth but saw a strong performance by freshman Sabrina James, who finished the course in 22:21.9.

Lions' football to face North Valley in first playoff game

Cottage Grove enters the OSAA 4A playoffs ranked sixth and will look to topple the North Valley Knights to make it to the quarter finals

BY SAM WRIGHT
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It was a quiet Friday night at Cottage Grove High School this past week. The undefeated Lions received a bye week due to their perfect season and Sky-Em Title. But the team wouldn't know who its opponent would be until the weekend's play-in matches were complete. Last year, Cottage Grove's 4-4 record brought them to a close play-in match against Baker, where the Lions lost, 28-34. This year, the Lions earned a week of rest, though the ambition of the team had Head Coach Gary Roberts and his team take the bye week as a chance to have more time to prepare. After the Lions took down Elmira, Roberts told his team to celebrate their 8-0 finish on the season over the weekend, but come Monday, the team would consider itself 0-0 again. This past weekend gave Cottage Grove the answer that the team and fans have been looking for. The Lions will play host to the 11th-ranked North Valley Knights on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. The Knights made it to the playoffs after a close 29-25 victory over North Marion, a team that just finished 4-4 (their game against Philomath on Oct. 7 was cancelled). A lot can happen in high school football, making predictions more difficult by looking at who has beaten who, but it

can be a good starting point. North Valley went undefeated all the way until their last game of the regular season, where they took a 40-0 loss by second-ranked Mazama, a team that didn't allow a single point scored against them in its last four games. North Valley's one loss shouldn't boost the confidence of the Lions, but it does give insight into their defense. To allow a team to rack up 40 points is tough, and that team (Mazama) took a loss to Cascade early in the season. Mazama's defense has only allowed 60 points all season, four points less than Cottage Grove's stout defense. However, North Valley defeated seventh-ranked South Umpqua on the road, meaning they have the ability to pull off an upset. But the odds seem to be in favor of Cottage Grove. The Lions are carrying the momentum of an undefeated season with dominating numbers (outscoring opponents 359-64). The Lions will also have the home field advantage. Though Mazama is ranked higher and perhaps played in a tougher conference, it's not outrageous to think the Lions could do what Mazama did to North Valley. Cottage Grove's dominance throughout the entire season is a statement that the team can play with anyone in class 4A.

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Hidden Valley honors late Holley Gould



Photo courtesy of Marla Lewis

Pictured: Back - Standing: Jamie Parsons, Allene Parsons, Mary Jean Thomas, Carol Craig, Dahlia Morris, Don Gould, Sue Johnson. Front: Laurie Pratt, Marla Lewis and Diane Patenode. **Not Pictured:** Romeni Bechtold, Joeline Saunders, Cindy Arney, Ida Martin, Jeanne Hinojosa, Alair McCarty, Sally Langham and Judy Cawley. **On Wednesday, Oct. 26, several people attended a dedication in honor of Holley Gould.** Gould was a member of the Ladies Golf Club at Hidden Valley Golf Course. Gould passed away in late September this year. **A few ladies from the club got together to have a stone**

etched in honor and remembrance of the passionate golfer. The stone was placed at the base of the old oak tree in the middle of the fairway on hole four. Gould always had the goal of making it to that oak tree by the second shot, and many times she did just that: "there in two." Etched on the stone with Holley's name were the words: "Here in 2," her birth date, and her death date. The ladies golf club extends a special thank you to Dan and Molly Nord for allowing the stone to be placed on the course.