

Defense, run game carry Lions to victory

The Lions had to make defensive adjustments with the Knight's tricky formations, but their strong running attack helped put the game out of reach

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove rolled past yet another opponent this past Friday, except this time in a game with higher stakes. Round one of the OSAA state playoffs took place over the weekend, and the Lions are going to see round two after sending home the North Valley Knights with a 35-17 loss.

In what initially seemed like a close defensive struggle, Cottage Grove was able to open up the game in the second half with a strong run game.

The game started off with an attack on the Knight's secondary when quarterback Blake Sentman threw a 49-yard touchdown strike to Erick Giffen before the game clock of the first quarter could hit 11:30.

North Valley responded with a threatening drive, but the Lions' defense made a crucial red zone stop to force a field goal.

Both offenses struggled through the second quarter, with several turnovers and punts forcing pressure on defenses. Junior Juice Claffin would have broken free on a touchdown run of over 50 yards, but a holding penalty brought the play back. The penalty happened 10 yards down from the line of scrimmage, so second down and eight yards to go was simply replayed.

The Lions were able to drive the ball down the field regardless, and Sentman fought his way across the goal line on a one-yard QB keeper.

The Cottage Grove defense then saw a much different look from North Valley once the Knights took the field again. The formation was similar to a Lonesome Polecat offense where an offense puts linemen out wide. In this case, North Valley resorted to three linemen in the center and then put three linemen in front of a wide receiver on one side, while two other receivers stood wide on the other side.

The formation attempted to open up the passing game, which it did, until multiple false starts from linemen out wide killed the Knight's drive. North Valley kept using the formation but didn't find a way into the endzone until the third quarter.

The run game kicked in on the Lions' opening drive in the second half. Senior running back Zane Levings had 57 rush yards on a 61-yard touchdown drive to give the Lions a 21-3 lead.

With the fear of Sentman's arm, North Valley only put five defenders in the box in a 3-2 formation, allowing the Cottage



Hayden Glenn (left) and Kory Parent (right) attempt to disrupt a North Valley pass on Friday night.

Photo by Gary Ordway

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Harriers meet expectations at state, more PRs set

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove boys' cross country team gave a strong performance at the state meet on Saturday. The team sent six boys to Lane Community College on a drizzling morning, but they weren't the only Lions at LCC that day.

In a display of great comradery and sportsmanship, a large majority of the rest of the team came out to support their teammates. The harriers even practiced with them over the days leading up to the meet.

Cottage Grove wasn't able to upset the rankings as they did during the district meet against other Sky-Em schools. Last week, the Lions were projected to finish third in the district, but they stole first place in a surprising performance. Despite a variety of personal records this week, the Lions finished with 207 points in ninth place, the same place they were seeded coming into the state meet.

Junction City was able to sneak past Cottage Grove and land a seventh-place finish with 198 points.

The Lions were one of 14 teams that qualified for a team score. Overall there were over 30 different schools represented at the meet.

Valley Catholic took first place with 58 points, followed by Seaside (79), Phoenix (121) and North Bend (147).

Cottage Grove may not have rocked the rankings, but the team still managed to beat a few schools known for successful athletic programs. La Grande was just out of reach in 10th place with 210 points. After that, the Lions finished firmly ahead of Philomath (11th place, 235 points), Marshfield (12th Place, 247 points) and Hidden Valley (13th Place, 321 points). Baker finished off the 14 team scores with 390 points.

Champion Valley Catholic didn't have a runner finish in the top eight. Senior Jamie Kawaguchi was the top finisher for

Valley Catholic in ninth place with a time of 16:51, and many of his teammates were close behind him to boost his team to the top.

Cottage Grove's top finisher was Jesse Ellingworth. The junior finished in 17th place with a time of 17:13, followed by Paesen Timm in 23rd with a time of 17:19.

Freshman Jimmy Talley finished in 18:16, and Konrad Raum finished in 18:23. The back end of the Lions' team was completed with freshman Justin Francis (19:22), sophomore Eric Cortes (19:32) and sophomore Konnor Owens (19:43).

Timm, Talley and Owens all set personal bests, and the rest were all within 15 seconds of their personal records, too.

The team met one last time on Tuesday for their awards ceremony. The cross country team can next be seen helping out with the Jingle Bell five-kilometer run/walk on Dec. 3.



Jesse Ellingworth and Paesen Timm run through Saturday's relentless rain at the state meet in Eugene.

Bass Pro Shops outdoor tips for November

Hunting Deer on Public Land
Deer hunters who have scouted well and prepared themselves do just fine hunting public lands. Find out how other hunters are coming into the woods so you can use that to your advantage. Keep in mind that if fellow hunters aren't familiar with the area, chances are they're going to wander aimlessly and end up spooking deer. There's plenty of land and no need to ruin each other's hunts by crowding one another. Most hunters will respect that and head off in other directions. Don't let hunting on public lands mess with your attitude or the way you hunt. If you do your best to stay scent-free, maintain a good positive attitude and don't fret over the other hunters in the area, you'll be able to harvest a nice deer. Some of the biggest bucks taken each year are taken on public land.

Knowing how different types of weather affects waterfowl can lead to more successful hunting trips. Ducks and geese don't like to fly in the low visibility of heavy fog. Occasionally they have to, and when they do, they become very vulnerable to calling. Waterfowl don't like to move in heavy rains either, but as the rains cease, they start looking for newly flooded areas. If it hasn't rained, waterfowl seem to sense where it has rained nearby and will leave to find the new water created by the rain. Find that water before they do and be there when they get there. It is well known that cold fronts push ducks and geese south, but this doesn't always occur. Sometimes, if they can still find suitable areas to roost and feed, they will stick around. Make sure where to find those areas.

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The Effects of Weather on Waterfowl



Athlete of the Week: Zane Levings

Senior running back Zane Levings made his presence felt on the field against North Valley Friday night. Levings ran for 164 yards on just 17 carries and one touchdown. 145 of his yards came in the second half, and on Cottage Grove's opening drive of the third quarter, he ran 57 of the 61 yards that drive, including a seven-yard touchdown run to take a 21-3 lead. During the regular season, the rushing attack wasn't the Lions' area of focus on offense. But Levings still managed 321 yards on 65 carries and three touchdowns. With tougher games approaching, a developing rush attack can prove useful to quarterback Blake Sentman and the rest of the Cottage Grove offense.

