

# Lions take second place with grace

Despite not taking a state title home, the Cottage Grove football program gave the state champions the toughest playoff game this season and gracefully received the runner-up trophy

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Reminiscent of the 2013 football season, the Cottage Grove Lions' football team ended a spectacular season in a heart-breaking ending in the State Championship game. The undefeated Lions traveled to Hillsboro just one week after dismantling the Cascade Cougars in a 48-20 semifinal win at the same stadium.

The Lions weren't so fortunate this time around, and the team took its first loss of the season at the state final, 35-21, to the top-ranked team in the 4A class.

The North Bend Bulldogs breezed through the first-three rounds of the playoffs, beating La Grande 69-13 in round one, Banks 40-7 and Estacada 49-26. The 35-21 victory over the Lions was by far the closest playoff game the Bulldogs played, and even the score falsely represents just how close the Lions were to an upset.

The Lions elected to receive the ball on the opening kickoff and were able to score on their opening drive to start the game off with a 7-0 lead. Within the first series, however, it seemed like the Lions were going to struggle moving the ball until quarterback Blake Sentman hit



Photo by Sam Wright

**Juice Clafin attempts to push his way into the end zone. The Lions were able to move the ball against North Bend but were stopped in the red zone on multiple occasions.**

Kory Parent for a 30-yard completion on a third-and-10 situation. After that, running back Zane Levings was able to punch the ball in for the score. Cottage Grove was then able to hold the strong rushing attack of North Bend, forcing a punt. But the Bulldogs tightened things up, and North Bend soon was able

to score 14 unanswered points. The Lions refused to be pushed aside so easily and answered with a touchdown pass from Sentman to Jacob Woods to tie the game.

The Bulldogs received the second-half kickoff with a 21-14 lead over a tenacious Cottage Grove team. The Lions made a

key fourth-down stop and got the ball back to begin the second half. Both teams came close to scoring, but big defensive stops kept both offenses out of the end zone. In an attempt to shake things up, Cottage Grove called a play that had Parent take the ball on a jet sweep to the left, only to pull up and find

Sentman wide open on the right side of the field, giving Cottage Grove a first-and-goal situation. But the third quarter saw a stalemate between the two teams as North Bend made a huge defensive stop on fourth-and-goal to barely hold onto their lead entering the fourth quarter. Cottage Grove was able to make yet

another defensive stop and got the ball back in the beginning of the fourth quarter. They then struck quickly with a deep pass from Sentman over the middle to Woods, splitting the safeties and taking the ball all the way into the end zone to tie the game

Please see STATE, Page 3B

LES SCHWAB

## Athlete of the Week

Blake Sentman proves he can do it all

Despite a loss in the 4A State Championship game against North Bend, Blake Sentman boasted a strong performance like he's done all season long. The senior quarterback completed 24 of 44 passes for 386 yards. In the third quarter, Sentman also caught an 18-yard pass from Kory Parent on a trick play to put the Lions in scoring position.



## Macauley, Miller, Hendricks earn gold in Vegas

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove's Andrea (Andi) Macauley once again traveled to Las Vegas to compete in the World Bench Press and Dead Lifting Championships presented by the World Association of Benchers and Dead Lifters. In 2015, Macauley earned a first-place finish in her age and weight division. That gold medal wasn't her first and now isn't her last, as she once again came away with a gold medal.

But this time, Macauley didn't go on her own. She brought along her friends and fellow members of the Emerald Fitness Club, Chet Hendricks and Chelsea Miller. All three contestants

brought back a gold medal. Macauley once again entered in the Master Women's bench press in the 148-pound weight class for the 47-53 age group. She hit a personal record twice in the competition: once at 170.6 and then again at 176.2—the personal record that gave her the gold.

Hendricks participated in the Class I Men's division in the 242-pound weight class. He took first place by benching 352.7 pounds.

Miller received two medals over that weekend. She first competed in the Open Women's 148-pound weight class, where she took home a bronze medal. But her crowning achievement

Please see WEIGHTS, Page 3B



Courtesy photo

**Left to right: Chelsea Miller, Chet Hendricks and Andi Macauley traveled to Las Vegas to compete in the annual World Bench Press and Dead Lift Championships.**

## Youth football team takes second place in Vegas tournament



Courtesy photo

Local football stars Corbin Hoover, Chandler Houck and Nathin Lemmon were selected to join a team representing the Lane County area in a National tournament in Las Vegas over Thanksgiving Weekend. The athletes were accompanied by coach Brent Hoover who coaches the Cottage Grove Pee Wee Football team. The teams were placed in a double elimination bracket and the local team took second place in the entire tournament.

This was the first year kids from Cottage Grove were given the opportunity to compete on such a wide scale level. The state of Oregon produces one of the lowest amounts of Division I athletes in the country and therefore doesn't get much consideration for national tournaments such as this. Coach Hoover says that the experience challenges the kids in a way the local level cannot.

Find everything you need this season without leaving town

shoppelocal.biz

Cottage Grove Sentinel

shoppe Keep it local.