

LIONS UPSET DEFENDING STATE CHAMPS, BEAT JC TO TIE FOR SKY-EM LEAD

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Athletes of the Week
Lady Lions on fire with four-game winning streak

Cottage Grove is now on a four-game winning streak after topping Sutherlin and Junction City. The win over Sutherlin snapped a 55-game winning streak in league matchups for the Bulldogs

BY SAM WRIGHT
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It was a milestone moment for everyone on the Cottage Grove girls' basketball team last Tuesday. The Lions, a team that started the season 3-9, took down the three-time defending state champions in a massive upset and then took care of business on Friday against Junction City.

The Lions now find themselves on a four-game winning streak, but first, let's get to the game of the week.

It was neck and neck the entire way through. Cottage Grove and Sutherlin were deadlocked at the end of the first quarter at 10-10, but Sutherlin managed to take a slight edge over the Lions in the second quarter, gaining a 26-23 lead. The teams traded blow for blow in the third quarter, each scoring 10 yet again, and the Lions found themselves only down by three against the fifth-ranked team in the state. It was the height of two freshmen that took down the powerhouse of Sutherlin.

With around two minutes left, Ema Gardner sank a pair of shots followed by Reilly Kelty who sank one to give the Lions a three-point lead. An extra free throw from Hudson Weybright gave the Lions a two-possession lead.

Taylor Stricklin of Sutherlin hit a three-pointer with 12 seconds left. The Lions turned the ball over on the ensuing inbound pass, but the Lions had some fouls to give which helped

take time off of the clock without threat of scoring. The Bulldogs had one second left to inbound and score on their side of the court, but Cottage Grove managed to force a turnover and time expired with 52-51, Cottage Grove, on the scoreboard.

The win put the Lions on a three-game winning streak, the longest they have had since last year when they beat Sweet Home, Elmira and Sisters all in a row.

Cottage Grove was an outstanding 53.3 percent from the field (24 of 45 shots), but were still only 23 percent from the free-throw line.

The bulk of the Lions' points (44) came from inside the paint.

"We were able to get it into our posts and get some easy looks," said Head Coach Kevin Yoss.

Ema Gardner led the team in scoring with 14 points, followed by Kelty who had 12. The six-foot-one and six-foot-three

(respectively) freshmen accounted for exactly half of the team's points. Keara Murphy and Maria Pardee each scored eight points apiece. Pardee was four-for-four from the field. Hannah Albrecht had six points, followed by Sierra Blomquist's three points, and Hudson Weybright's one point near the end of the game from a free throw was exactly what Cottage Grove



Photo courtesy of Michael Sullivan, The News Review

Keara Murphy and Hannah Albrecht surround Sutherlin's Taylor Stricklin. The Lions snapped a 55-league-game winning streak for the Bulldogs.

needed to stay ahead. Kelty and Murphy led the team in rebounds with eight each.

The win ended a 55-league-game winning streak and only the second time in three years that Sutherlin has lost to a 4A school. Last year, Sutherlin went 27-1 and 28-0 in the two seasons before that.

The Lions carried their momentum back to Cottage Grove to host Junction City, and they

once again took care of business.

Like on Tuesday, Cottage Grove found itself neck-and-neck with the opposing team. The Lions held a 14-12 lead at halftime against Junction City, but the Tigers managed to tie the game by the end of the third quarter at 26 apiece.

But the Lions would not be shaken and pulled away near the end of the fourth quarter to

take a 40-33 victory over Junction City.

This time it was Kelty who led the Lions in scoring with 12 points (and 13 rebounds). Gardner finished with 10.

This now marks a four-game winning streak, something Cottage Grove was unable to do last year.

"We are starting to get together just at the right time," Yoss said. "The win at Sutherlin was

a huge boost to our confidence and it was nice to validate that by beating Junction City."

The win over the Tigers marks the end of the first round of league play, where the Lions are now 4-1 and tied for first place with Sutherlin. The only league loss came to Elmira, the first Sky-Em opponent they played and will also be the next opponent to play the Lions on Thursday at home.

Boys bounce back against JC after Sutherlin loss

The fight for the Sky-Em League title intensifies as three teams are tied for first place

BY SAM WRIGHT
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While the girls pulled off one of the greatest upsets of their season in Sutherlin, the boys were unable to mount a comeback against the Bulldogs last Tuesday. The loss has put the Sky-Em League in a three-way tie between Cottage Grove, Sisters and Sutherlin, all of which currently hold 4-1 league records.

Cottage Grove started out cold, only able to put five points on the board in the first quarter, and Sutherlin managed to take a nine-point lead. The Lions man-



Photo by Sam Wright

Blake Sentman put up an impressive 25 points against Junction City on Friday night.

Marshfield too much for Aqua Lions despite strong swimming performances

Marshfield is known for its athletic programs, and the swim team is no exception. The stacked team took care of business on Friday due to outnumbering the Lions on both the boys' and girls' teams.

Starting off in the 200-meter medley relay, Nadia Witt, Emma Meyers, Clover Rudicel and Tori Raade finished in third in a time of 3:13.42, just two seconds behind Marshfield's second place squad.

Raade then took first place in the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 2:14.69. It was the senior's only individual first place win.

Rudicel and Meyers took third and fourth place, respectively, in the 200-meter individual medley, but Makayla Baird snagged a first-place win in the 50-meter freestyle race with a time of 40.55 seconds.

Witt took two first-place finishes individually. The fresh-

man took home first place in the 100-meter freestyle (1:06.17) and the 100-meter backstroke (1:13.25).

Belen Rodriguez took second place in the 500-meter freestyle with a time of 7:43.1. The girls finished strong by taking first place in the 400-meter freestyle relay with Baird, Raade, Meyers and Rudicel finishing the race with a time of 4:34.32. Despite good finishes, the sheer number of participants from Marshfield overwhelmed Cottage Grove and the Aqua Lions girls' team lost 94-59 on the points scale.

The boys' faced tougher circumstances. The five-man team was severely outnumbered, yet Cottage Grove still walked away with a few first-place winners.

The Aqua Lions took second place (against three other squads from Marshfield) with Seth Chambers, Ethan Bursleson, Ian Dukes and Jo-



Photo by Sam Wright

Despite the loss against Marshfield, the Lions are showing signs of strong swimming

sef Pifer finishing with a time of 2:48.05. Chambers snagged an individual first-place win in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 37.22 seconds. He also finished first in the 100-meter backstroke (1:02.87). Dukes won the 500-meter freestyle with a time of 5:22.57.

Despite these wins, the boys lost 113-49 in the point scale. The big losses, however, do not worry Head Coach Tyson Pilling, as many of his swimmers are showing a lot of potential to perform well at districts and make it to the state finals.

Chess players halfway through season, Wilhour snags first tournament win



Courtesy Photo

CGHS varsity chess players, facing camera, L to R, are Zeak Bray, Justin Long, Alex Reimann, Spencer Falk and Chris Glesmann.

Last Wednesday, the CGHS varsity chess team fought well in their second encounter against Willamette HS but lost the match by a score of three games to two. The two Lions' team seniors, Chris Glesmann and Justin Long, each won their contests with very strong play. In JV action, Maia Wilhour checkmated her opponent, too. The Midwestern League chess competition locations this season have alternated between Willamette and Pleasant Hill, and the win column has been dominated so far by South Eugene and Pleasant Hill, with Junction City and Willamette following. Four more matches remain for each team in February.

Two CHGS chess players and

one of their coaches played in an all-ages tournament that was held in the U of O student union on Jan. 28. Most of the tournaments in Lane County are only for students so it was nice to see some adults get a chance to play, including several former Midwest League players who have graduated in recent years. Sixth-grade JV player Wilhour won four of five games to take first in her section, tied with two players from Coquille. Team Captain Glesmann won his last round in a small but competitive middle section and coach Taylor Wilhour finished 2-2 in the top section. The next K-12 tournament will be Feb. 11 at Willamette HS and is a qualifier for the state championship.



Courtesy Photo

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