



Fans go wild as Lions down Elmira with last-second free throws; Cottage Grove now on five-game winning streak

Hudson Weybright's foul shots left Elmira coaches, players and fans in a loud uproar as Cottage Grove comes away with a thrilling victory

BY SAM WRIGHT
sports@cgsentinel.com

If fans thought the Lady Lions couldn't put on a more uproarious performance than the upset at Sutherlin, they would be wrong as of Thursday evening when Cottage Grove hosted and defeated Elmira, 39-37, a game that had fans and parents from both sides relentlessly yelling, cheering and booing.

Cottage Grove got off to a strong start, and the momentum from winning four games in a row seemed to be carrying over.

Elmira's game plan was to take a lot of shots from the outside, which worked to the advantage of Cottage Grove as they were able to make a lot of defensive rebounds. Elmira shot a total of 23 three-pointers (compared to Cottage Grove's five) and only managed to make three.

But the Falcons made the three-pointers when they were needed.

The Lions had managed to gain a 21-17 lead at halftime but couldn't hold it through the third quarter. Cottage Grove had a 27-24 lead as time was running out at the end of the quarter. The Falcons took a last-second shot from just over the half-court line for a buzzer-beater three and a tied game heading into the final period.

Cottage Grove's Sierra Blomquist started off the fourth quarter with a well-poised three-point shot in response to the last



Photo by Sam Wright

Senior Hannah Albrech reaches to put in a layup to help maintain the Lions' first-half lead.

points of the third quarter. But Elmira wasn't going anywhere.

The fourth quarter was another blow-for-blow quarter. Trading basket for basket, neither team was able to gain the edge on the other. That's when senior Hudson Weybright stepped into the spotlight.

Weybright is a starter and one of the much more experienced players on the team. However,

she stays relatively quiet in terms of scoring. That's because she's busy directing traffic as a point guard. Not to mention, her aggressive defensive play results in a lot of turnovers for the opposing teams.

But when the game was deadlocked at 37-37, it was Weybright who had the ball with seconds left. After the Lions inbounded the ball, Weybright

took it to the right corner of the free-throw line near the top of the key and put up a prayer to avoid overtime. She was fouled as she shot and the clock ran out. This was supposed to be the final play, and all Weybright had to do was make one of three free throws and the game would be over.

That's when the term "uproarious" came into play. There

was already a lot of yelling from both sides on what fans believed to be bad calls, and this was the final straw. Falcon's head coach Ken Best attempted to protest the ruling.

Weybright hit her first free throw, making it 38-37, and the officials called the game over. Elmira fans roared in protest and Best argued his side that the whistle had to have been blown

before the buzzer went off and the ball arrived at the rim. The officials gave in to Best's demands and half of a second was put back on the clock.

"Apparently they can [do that]," said Head Coach Kevin Yoss on the rule change. However, Yoss wasn't too concerned about the ruling and said

Please see GIRLS' TRIUMPH, Page 3B

Boys roll past Falcons

Rout of the Falcons still leaves Sky-Em League in three-way deadlock

BY SAM WRIGHT
sports@cgsentinel.com

The Lions entered their second round of league play with a strong and dominating performance against Elmira on Thursday. Throughout the game, players were padding stats and adding style points to their performance. But by no means was it boastful. A flurry of fast breaks called for trick passes and high-jumping layups.

Cottage Grove started off hot from the beginning, outscoring the Falcons 23-9 in the first and second quarters (Falcons collapsing seems to be a motif this week). At a 46-18 halftime score, the game was all but over.

Elmira managed to wake up offensively, putting up 20 points in the third quarter. But that



Photo by Sam Wright

Tucker Porter leaps for a layup on a fast-break against Elmira on Thursday.

Tires LES SCHWAB

Athlete of the Week

Weybright's leadership and poise give Lions a nail-biting win over Falcons



Senior Hudson Weybright only had two points against Elmira, but she kept her team in the game with strong defense and effective passing. The two points came when she was sent to the free-throw line with 0.5 seconds left in the game and gave Cottage Grove the lead.

*Cottage Grove cheerleading is heading to the OSAA State Finals!
Wish the team luck at their send off on Friday, Feb. 10 at 12:15 at CGHS and down Main Street*

Cottage Grove wrestlers host CG Invitational, look to district tournament

BY SAM WRIGHT
sports@cgsentinel.com

The Cottage Grove wrestling team made several impressive individual presentations last weekend as they hosted their annual Cottage Grove Invitational.

Starting things off, junior Edman Nicolas-Gaspar fell just shy of a bronze medal in the 106-pound weight class. Nicolas-Gaspar started off by receiving a bye, but then lost a close match up against Alexander Gardner of Grants Pass in the second championship round. The loss put him in the consolation rounds, where Nicolas-Gaspar won three in a row. First, he won by a 10-7 de-

cision over Menkaure Sevil-la-Bazan of Crescent Valley, and then he pinned Justin Curp of Lowell in the second round. Nicolas-Gaspar then defeated Dylan Edwards by pinning him in 1:49. That pin sent him to the consolation semifinal match up where he won via medical forfeit over Brock Bresser of Henley. That sent him to the third-place match where he was pinned by Gage Dill early in the match.

Nicolas-Gaspar finished in fourth place in his weight class and awarded the Lions 18 team points.

In the 120-pound weight class, Aaron Boitz pinned two opponents in a row to send him

to the quarterfinals. Boitz first pinned Landen Timeus of Gold Beach in just 42 seconds, and then he pinned Bailey Wentz in the second round.

Legend Lamer, undefeated this season out of Crescent Valley, pinned Boitz, sending him to the consolation rounds.

Boitz won by major decision over Gabe Syverson (9-0 decision) and then won again by decision of Kody Grossman of Henley. In the consolation semifinal, Boitz lost to Cole Waldron of Douglas, but then defeated Kent McIntosh of Lowell for the fifth-place match. The fifth place finish gave the Lions another 18 team points.

Boitz was the last Lion wrestler to place, but not the last one to earn points for a team that has faced difficulties throughout the season.

Luke Johns managed to pin Jason Dardis of Willamette in just 42 seconds, earning the Lions four more team points.

Though the team is missing players such as the Bordeaux brothers this season, there are still wrestlers (such as Boitz) who will perform well at the district meet. The Special District 2 meet for 4A schools will take place on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11 at Philomath High School.

BLACK
YELLOW
MAGENTA
CYAN