

## Relay teams, individuals qualify for state meet after strong performances at district meet

*Aqua Lions qualify for the State Finals at Mt. Hood Community College after the girls finished in third and the boys finished in sixth*

By Sam Wright  
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Cottage Grove finished a successful district meet in North Bend over the weekend by placing third overall for the girls and sixth for the boys. All of the relay teams from Cottage Grove qualified for the state finals, and a few made it to state in individual events.

The girls' medley relay team of Nadia Witt, Emma Meyers, Clover Rudicel and Tori Raade finished in third in the 200-yard medley relay in a time of 2:08.54.

Raade finished with one of the more outstanding performances. The senior finished in third place in the 200-yard freestyle race with a time of 2:09.85, just two seconds behind second-place finisher Sierra Trichler.

Rudicel snagged a fifth-place finish in the 200-yard inter-med-

ley race with a time of 2:41.18. Meyers finished in 12th place with a time of 2:54.19.

Mikayla Baird stepped onto the scene with several top-five finishes. In the 50-yard freestyle, Baird took fourth place with an impressive time of 27.25. The top six performers in that race all finished within 2.4 seconds of each other. Baird then took fifth place in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:09.9, and teammate Meyers finished in 10th with 1:22.15.

Nadia Witt qualified in the 100-yard freestyle by placing in sixth place with a time of 1:02.73. Another outstanding performance came from Witt finishing fourth in the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 1:10.03.

But the best individual finish from Cottage Grove came from Raade in the 500-yard freestyle. In the longest race of the meet,

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNIE PFEIFER

Ian Dukes swims the 100-yard breaststroke, finishing in first place, the only first-place finish for Cottage Grove over the weekend.



### Athlete of the Week

*Kory Parent puts up personal season-high 29 points against Sweet Home*



**After a low-scoring loss against Sisters, Cottage Grove demolished Sweet Home with Kory Parent leading the way. The senior put up 29 points and had three steals on the night.**

### Farrell and Boitz to State

*Wrestlers qualify for state finals*

The Cottage Grove Lions finished last in the district tournament this year, but on the upside, the team is sending two of their wrestlers to the state tournament.

To qualify for state, an athlete must finish in the top four in the weight class. However, those who placed fifth get a chance to "wrestle back" for fourth place by taking on the fourth-place finisher, which is exactly how Cottage Grove's Nathan Farrell qualified for state in the 160-pound weight class.

Farrell first defeated Cascade's Jacob Chelsey by pinning him in 2:47. He then went on to pin Marcus Paclisick from Newport in one minute faster. In the quarterfinals, Farrell was able to get a late pin over Clay Dickerson from Stayton.

But Farrell then struggled against his next two opponents. Gregory Wing from North Marion, who boasts a 17-1 varsity record, pinned Farrell in the first round. In the consolation round, Farrell lost by decision to Cleveland Smith from Stayton.

With a loss in the consolation match, Farrell found himself fighting Dickerson yet again for fifth place. He won by major decision, 11-3.

The fifth place match gave Farrell the chance to "wrestle back" for fourth place and a qualifying spot at the state tournament. Farrell managed to defeat Newport's Ayite Mettle by an 8-2 decision.

In the 120-pound weight class, Aaron Boitz denied a Sutherlin player the chance that Farrell had. Boitz fought his way to the semifinal match, but he lost to Russel Stigall of North Marion. He won the consolation match but lost the third place match, giving him fourth place. Bryce Olsen, who was in fifth place, had a chance to wrestle Boitz, but Boitz won by rule over Olsen, making Boitz the last qualifier for his weight class.

Boitz and Farrell will head to the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum on Feb. 24 and 25 to wrestle in the state finals.

## Lady Lions have Sky-Em in sight; on seven-game winning streak



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Junior Maria Pardee gets a block against Sisters on Wednesday.

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The Cottage Grove girls' basketball team has made an immense turn around on their season during league play. Even if the Lions lose their last two games, the team will have finished the season 7-2 after starting 3-10.

Last time we checked in, Cottage Grove capped off a five-game winning streak after

getting revenge on Elmira in a nail-biting home victory. And now, after two road games last week, Cottage Grove has extended its winning streak to seven, beating Sisters and Sweet Home in their own houses.

Aside from the high-scoring win over Sutherlin in late January, it has been defensive play that has recently stepped up and allowed the Lions to maintain their leads. On Wednesday, Cottage Grove held Sisters to just

17 points all game, and then only allowed 21 points scored against them on Friday by Sweet Home.

The Lions held control over the Outlaws for the entirety of the game. Cottage Grove took a 9-3 first quarter lead, and then duplicated that for an 18-6 lead at the half. To hold any team to just six points at halftime is an outstanding feat. Sisters shot only 16.67 percent from the field and had 21 turnovers.

Cottage Grove made 13 of 32 field goals (40.62 percent) and had 13 steals, four blocks and 23 deflections, giving themselves a 31-17 win over the outlaws.

"Our defense is really starting to make it hard for teams to score," Head Coach Kevin Yoss pointed out.

At the front, there is Hudson Weybright and Tara Child.

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## Sky-Em still up for grabs as Lions fall to Sisters but rout Sweet Home

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The boys' basketball team was held to a season low of 32 points against Sisters on Wednesday, losing 45-32.

The loss keeps the Lions in a deadlock with the Outlaws and the Bulldogs from Sutherlin for a three-way tie for first place in the Sky-Em League. All three teams sit at 6-2 in league play, but Cottage Grove and Sisters both hold 14-6 records while Sutherlin is 14-7.

Sisters held Cottage Grove to just six points in the first

half and a 22-6 deficit seemed insurmountable. The Lions outscored the Outlaws 26-23 in the second half, but Sisters' lead was too great and Cottage Grove snagged their second loss of the league play.

The Lions sank only 11 of 30 field goals on the night, five of which were three-point shots. Sisters doubled Cottage Grove on rebounds (22-11) and shot 55 percent from the field (15-of-27).

Cottage Grove also struggled from the free throw line, shooting only 45 percent.

Blake Sentman was the

high-scorer of the game (from both teams) with 10 points. Kory Parent finished with nine. Hunter Gipson finished with seven points and had three steals on the night. Trey Husko was the only Cottage Grove bench player to score a basket.

The Lions only lost two games in a row once this season, and it wasn't about to happen again, especially in league play. After their lowest-scoring performance against Sisters, Cottage Grove traveled to Sweet Home on Friday where they ran over the Huskies in a dominated 77-51 performance.

Sweet Home managed to stay close with the Lions in the first quarter, but after a 20-9 run in the second quarter, the Huskies seemed to be out of reach with Cottage Grove leading 38-21 at halftime. The Lions didn't slow down after the first half. They put up 15 points in the third quarter and 24 points in the fourth to rout Sweet Home.

This time, the Lions improved to shooting 47 percent from the field and 40 percent from beyond the three-point line, and

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