



Cottage Grove Speedway opening day delayed

Mother Nature may have taken our original Season Opener scheduled for April 8th but we took that as a challenge to make April 15th even better!!

The first 100 people into the stands will still receive FREE general admission and the next 200 will receive a special gift courtesy of Mohawk Metals, and we have over 1000 Easter eggs filled with goodies for the kids to have a little fun during intermission!

Todd's Auto Body Sprints, Mohawk Metals IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sportmods, and Quality RV Hornets will be out and ready to do battle for the first checkered flags of the season! The familiar drivers in these classes will be joined by some new ones in what is sure to bring the most exciting season yet!

Times:
Pit Gate – 2:00
Front Gate – 4:00
Hot Laps – 5:30
Qualifying – 6:00

Racing – 6:30

Prices:
General Admission Adult \$13.00
General Admission JR (13-17), Seniors 62+, Military \$10.00
General Admission Youth – 6-12 \$5.00
General Admission 5 & Under – FREE
General Admission Family Pass (2Adults & 4 Youth (6-12)) \$30.00
Pit Pass \$30.00

Track and Field teams spring into action



The Cottage Grove High School track teams ran two meets last week, opening the season on Thursday against Junction City and Pleasant Hill.

By Jerry Thompson
For The Sentinel

Despite a blustery and rainy week, the Cottage Grove High School boys and girls track teams timed it just right as they were able to compete in two meets last week when the sunshine was most prevalent. On Thursday the Lions opened this season's interschool competition by hosting Junction City and Pleasant Hill at the Wally Ciochetti track. Saturday a large contingent of Lions travelled to the Marist Classic, which was held at Willamette High School due to problems with installation of Marist's new track.

At home, the Lion girls edged Pleasant Hill by a score of 66 to 65. The Cottage Grove boys finished second to Junction City, 83 to 54. Cottage Grove was one of eight schools which competed at the Marist Classic along with: Marist, Marshfield, Timberline (Boise, Idaho), Ontario, East Linn Christian, Sheldon and Willamette. None of the teams were at full strength, but for the record, Marshfield swept both the boys and girls competition. The Lion boys took fifth and the girls finished in sixth place. In both meets the Lion boys competed without the services of Hayden Glenn, a junior who excels in the hurdles, sprints and long jump.

In the girls' victory on Thursday, first place winners for the Lions were: senior Hudson Weybright in the 1500 meters (5:45.30), junior Faryn Dahlen in the 100

hurdles (17.70), sophomore Cassidy Herbert in the shot put (29' 10"), senior Melissa Powers in the javelin (98'6"), and junior Keara Murphy in the high jump (4'8"). Lion junior Hunter Hall led the boys with first places in both the shot put (43' 11") and javelin (140'8"). Junior Chad Bottorff in the 200 (24.77), and senior Tucker Porter in the triple jump (38'5.25") were the other Lion boys who won their events.

Victories were very hard to come by in the 8-team meet on Saturday. Senior Hannah Albrecht was the only Cottage Grove victor for either the girls or boys. Albrecht won the 400 meters in a time of 63.82 and came back later to take fourth in the 200 (28.02). The next highest finish for the CG girls was a third place by Melissa Powers in the javelin (98'8"). Four Lion girls earned fourth places. Junior Keara Murphy claimed fourth in both the long jump (15'4") and triple jump (30'5"), and sophomore Tyra Gordon tied Murphy in the long jump (15'4"). Freshman Sabrina James crossed the finish line in fourth in the 3000 meters with a PR of 11:39.29, while junior Faryn Dahlen improved her 100 hurdles time from Thursday to 17.39.

For the boys the top individual placers were junior Jacob Woods with a leap of 20'6" in the long jump and sophomore Erick Vallejo Giffen, who cleared 5'6" in the high jump. Both marks were good for

second place. Woods also took fourth in the 200 meters (23.84) and anchored the 4 x 100 relay team which took second in a time of 44.99. The lone Lion to earn a third place was junior Hunter Hall with a throw of 147'4" in the javelin. In the triple jump senior Tucker Porter earned a fourth place (39'2") as did junior Takoda Brooks in the shot put.

Head coach Ricky Knutson was particularly impressed by Woods breaking the 20-foot barrier in the long jump as well as Tyra Gordon going over 15-feet in the same event. Knutson also was pleased with how James ran what he termed as a "smart" race in the 3000 meters, and was encouraged by junior Joshua Claffin's PR of 39'2.5" in the shot put.

The Lion boys were the Sky-Em District Champions last season and the CG girls took second. Knutson said both teams have lost many key performers, but is still optimistic that his squads will be able to compete for the league titles again. He sees Sisters as the early favorite in the girls' team competition and Junction City as the frontrunner for the Sky-Em boys.

The next meets for the Lions will be at Elmira on Thursday when they take on the Falcons and the Sisters Outlaws, and on Saturday Cottage Grove will also compete in the Elmira Relays.

'There's Good Things Coming' for Young Lions

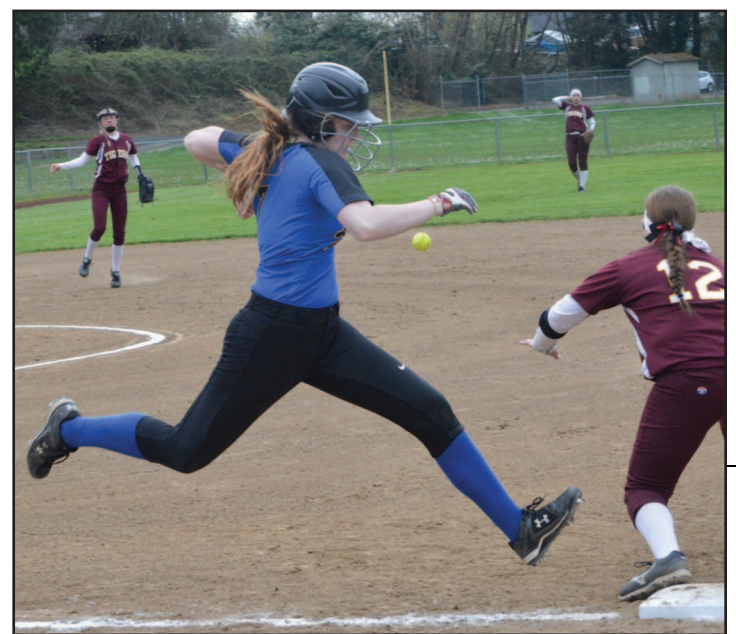
By Jerry Thompson
For The Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Lions girls' softball team has yet to win a game in nine tries this season, but head coach Cheryl Frieze remains positive about her squad.

"We're just a young, inexperienced team, and so, they're getting there," said Frieze. "There are good things coming. No one on the field has more than four years of experience playing softball. Our starting pitcher (Chloe Malmstedt) is a freshman, and our starting catcher (Taylor McVey) is also a freshman. They are going to be good. We just have a lot of work ahead of us."

Last Tuesday the over-matched Lions hosted Junction City, the first place team in the Sky-Em, and were routed 26-0. The game was called to a halt by rule after five innings. Despite the lop-sided score, there were some fielding gems and some good swings at the plate by the Lions. Shortstop Chelsea Davis made an outstanding over the shoulder catch, Jayla Leach made a fine a catch in center field, and catcher Taylor McVey made a nice bucket catch in front of home plate to put out a Tiger. First baseman Kate Johns ruined a no-hitter by Tiger ace Jenna Kister by beating out an infield. A couple of other Lions hit some hard line drives, but unfortunately they were right at the Tigers.

This week the Lions are scheduled to play Elmira, Sweet Home and Sisters. The latter two games are at home at Taylor Street Field.



The Lions' Kate Johns beat out this infield single, the only hit of the game vs. Junction City.



Athlete of the Week



Senior Hannah Albrecht, in her first 400 meter run of the season, raced to first place at the Marist Classic last week.

Please see Taggard PG. B3

Ducks football coach stresses building relationships



By Jerry Thompson
For The Sentinel

Since Mark Helfrich was dismissed as the Oregon Ducks football head coach and Willie Taggart was hired away from South Florida on December 7, there has been a new wave of excitement about Ducks' football. It began with the hiring of an all-star assistant coaching staff with an emphasis on shoring up a porous defense. Then, despite two of the new assistants leaving, Taggart replaced them with coaches with even better resumes. They came Feb. 1 when the Ducks signed what was ranked as the nation's No. 18 recruiting class, beating out Stanford, Washington and UCLA, finishing only behind USC in the Pac-12.

The cast of assistants Taggart wooed include defensive coordinator Jim Leavitt from the Colorado Buffaloes along with secondary coach Charles Clark. He executed another coup by obtaining Washington State's outstanding defensive line coach, Joe Salave'a. On offense, Mario Cristobal, the offensive line coach of perennial power Alabama joined the

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Join Us April 15th Gates Open 4:30pm

EVENT CLASSES

Quality RV Hornets, IMCA Sportmods, Mohawk Metal IMCA Modifieds, Todd's Auto Body Sprint Cars

The first 100 people in will receive free general admission, the next 200 will receive a special gift courtesy of Mohawk Metals