

## Lions start off strong at jamboree



Cottage Grove quarterback Dylan Graves finds a receiver in the back of the end zone for the Lions' only touchdown against North Bend.

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College football is back

OSU looks to bounce back, UO ready for first game

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Last weekend the college football season began with the Oregon State Beavers going on the road to Colorado State. In one of five games of the first weekend of football, Oregon State fell to the Rams 58-27.

Oregon State's 6-7 quarterback Jake Luton, who got a "mysterious" illness in the off-season that caused him to lose 30 pounds which he is still working to gain back, threw three interceptions including one that was returned for a touchdown. Running back Ryan Nall finished the game with 115 yards rushing including a 75 yard scamper that gave the Beavers a lead.

Former University of Oregon running back and high school phenom Thomas Tyner ended his first game in black and orange with four rushes for eight yards.

Last year the Beavers finished 4-8 and have been projected around the same win total for this upcoming year. They were projected to finish near the bottom of the Pac-12 South. The team is now shifting its focus to the Vikings of Portland State. They will welcome them into Reser Stadium on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

The Ducks will begin their 2017 campaign at home on Saturday against the Southern Utah Thunderbirds. After a disappointing 2016 season that saw the Ducks go 4-8 and lose to the Beavers in the Civil War, the Ducks are looking to get back to their winning ways.

Coming in to the season, there is a general unknown about what this team, that is now being coached by Willie Taggart, can accomplish. What is known is that the Ducks will be led by Eugene native Justin Herbert at quarterback. Herbert took over the starting job midway through last season.

In the Pac-12 the Ducks are projected to be a middle of the pack team and in the first series of polls, they received votes that placed them just outside the top 25.

Outside of the state of Oregon, Saturday has two big games that have captured national attention. The first game is #11 Michigan taking on #17 Florida in Arlington, Texas at 12:30 p.m. and following that is the must-watch game between #3 Florida State and #1 Alabama in Atlanta at 5:00 p.m.

Friday night, the Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) football program played host to a jamboree with North Bend, North Eugene and the Churchill JV team.

For each matchup of the jamboree, each offense ran 18 plays against the other team's defense. Play started from the 40 yard line and if there was a turnover or a touchdown, the ball returned to the 40. The varsity played on one side of the field while the JV was on the other side.

The night began with CGHS facing off against the all-too-familiar foe of the North Bend High School. Last year the Bulldogs beat CGHS 35-21 in the OSAA State Championship game. Going into the jamboree, the Cottage Grove players were well aware of this rematch with the team that stopped their title hopes.

"There's a lot of unfinished business with them," said senior center and linebacker Cooper Ladd the day before the game. "They've proven they can play so we got to show up ready to just fight."

Fellow senior, Nate Farrell was of the same mind. "You got to come into this bringing a chip on your

shoulder because these guys, they're going to think they're tough stuff with their blue [championship] trophy and we played them last year. We still have to give it to them again," said Farrell.

Ladd went on to say that the goal against North Bend was to "get 18 touchdowns" to which Farrell responded "and then 18 stops."

On the defensive side they came close to achieving their goal. It took 11 plays for the Bulldogs to get a first down and they never were able to find the end zone despite getting a first and goal opportunity. The defense applied constant pressure and both quarterbacks that played for North Bend were constantly flustered as they were forced out of the pocket. Cottage Grove Head Coach Gary Roberts was impressed with his squad.

"I thought the defense played really well in the first game... I thought our kids flew around well. They have a little bit of a chip on their shoulder about what happened last year playing North Bend," said Roberts. "They kind of felt like we had a shot last year in that game and it didn't work out in the way we were hoping. We had a little motivation. I thought they did a good job."

On the offensive side, the Lions got out to a fast

start when on the third play quarterback Dylan Graves rolled left and completed a 30 yard pass to a Lions receiver in the end zone. That was their only touchdown of the game. The biggest detriment to their success was not North Bend's defense but snaps that hit the ground and four offensive penalties.

"We got to get our snaps up and penalties cleaned up that's without a doubt the thing we got to do before next game," said Roberts. "Because if we have a bunch of penalties and we keep putting balls in the ground we're not going to go far."

In the second game of the jamboree, Cottage Grove faced off against North Eugene. An impenetrable force in the first game, the defense had holes in the second game that allowed the Highlanders to score three touchdowns. On the offensive side, the Lions were eager to not only match but outdo North Eugene's production as they scored five touchdowns throughout the contest.

"I thought it was a little shaky against North Eugene which, I don't think North Eugene is better than North Bend. I really don't. I think we just need to clean up some things and we'll be better," said Roberts.

On Friday, the Lions will travel to North Marion where they will face the Huskies at 7:00 p.m.



North Eugene's Alec Tucker just gets his foot and scores a touchdown.



Cottage Grove's Jacob Woods runs in for a touchdown against North Eugene.

**Tires LES SCHWAB**

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week was Elkton senior Hannah Maxwell. Maxwell led the Elks to a 2-0 start after beating Mohawk High School twice last week.

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