

Continued from B1

want to strengthen up the defense," said Stewart on the adjustment.

Two minutes later, the Lions were attacking again. After a Kyle Conley steal, he found Raum ahead just outside of the 18 yard box in an attacking position. After he dribbled around a defender, Sweet Home's goalie came out to challenge and Raum slipped it by to put Cottage Grove on the board.

The Lions, looking for a second goal, continued to push but could not find the back of the net. In the final ten minutes of the half, it was Conley striking a perfectly placed pass to a streaking George Cervantes inside the box that Sweet Home's goalie stopped. The Huskies found some chances in the closing minutes of the half but a foul and offsidess call stopped their progress.

Just four minutes into the second half, what looked to be just a player falling down turned into a scary situation. A Sweet Home player went down in a routine play but stayed down on the turf. Play was stopped for the next 25 minutes as an ambulance came and paramedics assessed the situation.

"I think what happened, there is a nerve that runs right [down your leg], I've had that injury before, and I think he

got hit right as he was flexing that nerve. I was out for three months after that happened," said Sweet Home's head coach Eric Stutzer after the game. Stutzer reported that the player was then driven to the hospital, not via the ambulance, to have the injury evaluated.

After the game got back underway, it was the Huskies that came out strong. After putting pressure on the Lions, a Cottage Grove defensive clearance resulted in a Sweet Home corner kick. The ball was whipped in and after it bounced around and could not be sent away, Sweet Home's Carlos Galvez found the ball in the crowded six-yard box and was able to send it in to tie the game up at 1-1. It was just the sixth goal the Lions have given up all season.

Not content with a tie, the Lions attack was revived. In the 51st minute, the Lions capitalized on a corner kick of their own. The pass was played short to Lathan Vanwagner who sent a ball into the box that found Raum who headed the ball in for his second goal of the game to put Cottage Grove back up.

In the 65th minute, the game took another turn after Cottage Grove goalie Zach Stewart made a leaping save that pushed the ball over the upper crossbar. On the ensuing corner, Stewart went to make another save but was undercut on the way down and dislocated his knee.

"I went to save the ball he undercut me, he used his hips, flipped over and landed on it. Dislocated it and had to pop it back in," said Stewart.

Walking with a visible limp, Stewart stayed in the game. In Stewart's time of need, it was the defense that saved the day as Cottage Grove didn't allow a Sweet Home shot in the final 15 minutes.

"They packed it in and gave it their all so they could keep the pressure off of me," said Stewart.

The Lions were then able to seal the victory after a pass from Snauer freed up Cervantes for a goal in the 77th minute.

"We really needed to bring the intensity today and I really wanted to push our team as much as we can to bring the intensity up," said Raum after the win. "We can't celebrate yet because now we are going into state and we need to keep our heads straight for that because we can't assume that we're going to do anything big."

The Lions will now have a bye until their first playoff game.

"I'm excited to see how far we can go. Even if we get eliminated in the first round, it was awesome being with these guys through all my years of soccer," said Zach Stewart.

Warriors start playoffs



PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

North Douglas hitter Arianna Helgren spikes the ball in a recent match.

Number one ranked North Douglas volleyball start playoffs tonight

By Zach Silva
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

At the start of the season, the North Douglas volleyball team was not a team to be worried about.

Last year's team that finished second in state graduated five seniors and the team was starting from scratch. But after a dominant season that saw the Warriors go 26-6 and 12-0 in league play, the Warriors enter the playoffs ranked number one in state.

"Going into this season, people didn't have very big expectations of us," said head coach Anne Campbell. "So the last two or three years the expectations were high because the last three years we've had our best players coming back year after year. And

this year after losing all those seniors, I told them people are going to expect us to not be very good because we lost all of our seniors. So we need to surprise people."

While holding the number one ranking, the Warriors lost last weekend in the league tournament which means that despite being the top ranked team and undefeated in league play, they will finish second in league to Days Creek. This second place finish means the Warriors will not get a first round bye and instead will host Lowell tonight at 6:00 p.m.

Going into the playoffs, the Warriors will be depending on the experience and skill of outside hitters Arianna Helgren and Abby Whipple. The pair of juniors both started last year in the state championship game.

"We have the same intensity, same passion for the game that we had last year even more. It's really amazing. Just playing with these girls on the court," said Helgren.

Bowler Of The Week



Wendy McNeill

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TIEBREAKER:

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DAN This Week Stats:10-3 Season Stats:61-28



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GARY This Week Stats:11-2 Season Stats:55-34

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LARRY This Week Stats:11-2 Season Stats:56-33



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Fill out the form below for your choice of winners. The TIE-BREAKER game is the Sunday night game. Guess the total points of this game. In the event of a tie-breaker tie, the winner will be determined by a drawing. Entries must be received by Friday, 5 pm at the Cottage Grove Sentinel, 116 N. 6th Street, (P.O. Box 35), Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424. Mailed entries must be postmarked by Friday. Employees of the Cottage Grove Sentinel and their families are not eligible to win. In the event of multiple winners, final weekly winner will be drawn at random from preliminary winners.

ATTENTION: Tiebreaking Process - the designated tie-breaker game will be judged on total points ONLY. Please estimate the total points for the tie-breaker game.

One entry per family.