

Continued from B1

This was the turning point for his mindset towards school and the sport he loves.

"Halfway through that season our quarterback coach JJ (Jordan Johnson) came up to me during a practice and said that I had potential to become next year's quarterback," said Graves. "I started taking second team reps at quarterback under our starting quarterback senior Blake Sentman, and then heading into summer and team camp I was taking first team reps at the position," Graves continued.

He put in lots of work in the summer, between doing online schooling to catch-up academically, to doing morning workouts with quarterback coach Johnson to becoming more skilled at the leader position on the field.

"When week one of this season came, I knew that I was going to be starting quarterback. We had our plan for the first game and I knew what I needed to do," said Graves. "When I took those first steps on the field in the game, it was just a lot of rush, it felt like everything was coming at me at once," he said.

That reality set in when the

first three plays of the first game came along.

"In those first three plays, I got completely blown up, absolutely destroyed, so I thought I was in for a rude awakening," Graves said. But a rude awakening was the complete opposite from what really happened. In the next play after getting obliterated by the strong defense, Graves threw for a 70-yard touchdown to gain his first of many touchdowns this season at quarterback.

Graves has had an impressive season as the Lions starting quarterback. Cottage Grove went undefeated in league play this year and are holding a strong 8-0 record going into playoffs. The Lions' football team has been ranked number one in the entire state for the 4A division for the majority of the season.

"Heading into the playoffs, I am not too worried about any other teams in our way. We know what other teams are capable of and I know what my team is capable of and I know we can execute," said Graves.

After a bye week, the Lions will play North Marion at home on Friday night.

## High school sports recap

A look back at the busy week of high school sports in the area

### Cottage Grove Cross-Country

The girls team finished fifth of five teams at the district meet last week. Stella Sobotkova was the top finisher for the Lions in 20th place. Rhea Florez, Nadia Witt, Lizbeth Zarate-Hernandez and Kenzie Parsons rounded out the top five for Cottage Grove.

### North Douglas Football

The Warriors were beat 60-0

by Falls City last Friday in a League Playoff game. The team is now the 16 seed heading into the playoffs and will face the number one ranked Hosanna Christian on Friday.

### Elkton Volleyball

The Elks won their opening playoff game against Triad 3-0 last Wednesday. On Saturday they were swept by McKenzie. Yoncalla Football The Eagles defeated Siletz Valley 34-18 at home last Friday and will play Triad in the first round of the playoffs next week.

### Yoncalla Basketball

The Eagles hired Jarred Eakin to be the boys head coach and Nicolas Edera to be the girls head coach for the upcoming basketball season.



PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A group of Cottage Grove runners at districts last week.

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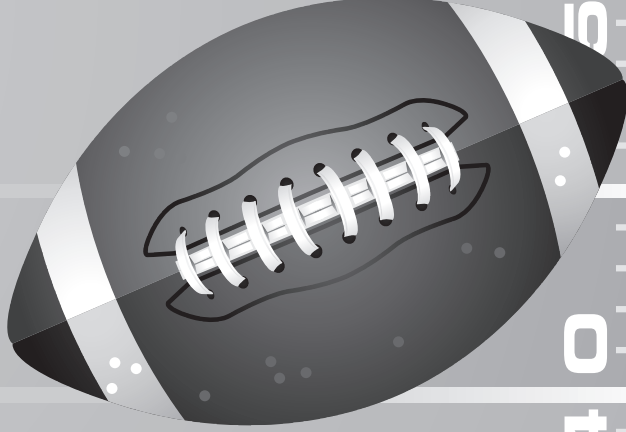
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**Jim Escujuri** is this week's READER winner with 11-2!

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ATLANTA	AT	CAROLINA
BALTIMORE	AT	TENNESSEE
DENVER	AT	PHILADELPHIA
WASHINGTON	AT	SEATTLE
KANSAS CITY	AT	DALLAS
ARIZONA	AT	SAN FRANCISCO

**TIEBREAKER:(SUNDAY NIGHT GAME)**  
 OAKLAND AT MIAMI  
 Total Points for the Sunday Night Game: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

DAN This Week Stats:7-6 Season Stats:68-34  
  
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 541-942-7377  
 Washington Cal  
 New Orleans  
 LA Rams  
 Jacksonville  
 Houston  
 Atlanta  
 Tennessee  
 Denver  
 Washington  
 Dallas  
 Arizona  
 Tie-Breaker:28

MATTHEW This Week Stats:9-4 Season Stats:62-40  
  
 79132 Hwy. 99 North  
 Cottage Grove  
 541-942-5781  
 Oregon  
 CAL  
 New Orleans  
 NY Giants  
 Cincinnati  
 Indianapolis  
 Atlanta  
 Tennessee  
 Philadelphia  
 Washington  
 Dallas  
 Arizona  
 Tie-Breaker:55

LARRY This Week Stats:8-5 Season Stats:55-47  
  
 Family Owned for 40 years  
 615 Main Street  
 541-942-8711  
 Washington  
 CAL  
 New Orleans  
 LA Rams  
 Jacksonville  
 Houston  
 Atlanta  
 Tennessee  
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 Washington  
 Kansas City  
 Arizona  
 Tie-Breaker 55

LUANN This Week Stats:8-5 Season Stats:57-42  
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 Tie-Breaker:54

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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.

JANA This Week Stats:7-6 Season Stats:62-40  
  
 116 N. 6th  
 Cottage Grove, OR  
 (541) 942-3325  
 Washington  
 CAL  
 New Orleans  
 LA Rams  
 Jacksonville  
 Houston  
 Atlanta  
 Tennessee  
 Philadelphia  
 Seattle  
 Kansas City  
 Arizona  
 Tie-Breaker: 45

LARRY This Week Stats:9-4 Season Stats:65-37  
  
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 Washington  
 CAL  
 New Orleans  
 LA Rams  
 Cincinnati  
 Houston  
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 Tie Breaker 36