



# Cottage Grove Girls Basketball



## Team Rundown:

While the Lions made it to the first round of the playoffs last year and took second in the Sky-Em league, their biggest accomplishment of the year was a regular season victory over Sutherlin. For the Bulldogs, who went on to win their fourth consecutive state title, it was their first league play loss since the 2010-11 season. This year, Cottage Grove is looking to build off their late-season success and be able to contend with the best in the state.

“Well I think that we’re really close to starting where we left off. Not quite there yet because we have some young girls in the program that are still getting used to what we’re trying to do. But the girls are working really hard and that’s a really good sign,” said head coach Kevin Yoss.

To get to the level they want, the Lions are going to have to get bet-

ter on the defensive end. Yoss notes that the effects of losing two starters from last year’s team will be primarily felt on that end of the court.

“Last year we relied on our length and size and didn’t necessarily put a lot of pressure on the basketball; we were trying to make them shoot long shots. This year I think the difference is going to be we’ll be able to challenge those long shots and put more pressure and hopefully get more turnovers,” said Yoss.

If the team gets to this level, there is a belief in the program that they can make a deep run at the state tournament.

“I would, not only I but the girls, would be very disappointed if we didn’t get back to at least as far as we were last year. And if not further,” said Yoss.

## Team Perspective with Maria, Keara and Tara:

*On how to be successful this season:*

Maria Pardee: It’s definitely carrying on the winning streak that we had last year onto this season and not doubting ourselves and definitely pushing ourselves.

Tara Child: We were more positive towards the end of the season. And we want to bring that into this year instead of starting off negative like we did last year.

Keara Murphy: I think it’s just like being positive overall. Like telling people push through it, we can do this. I don’t want to say having the winning mentality but having a positive mentality overall.

Maria Pardee: Sharing that dedication and motivation with the rest

of the team. So they can see how strong you are and your dedication to the team so that it goes on to them as well.

Tara Child: Showing through actions, definitely a big one. You do it, the rest of the team is going to do it too.

Maria Pardee: We didn’t get it until last year late into the season. Something definitely clicked.

*On what they are looking forward to this year:*

Maria: Just the games. The excitement. And definitely going farther then the playoffs. Making it to state and getting in the maybe semifinals because we know we can make it to play-ins so we can obviously get past that.

Keara: I also think that a goal for us is getting first in league. We can definitely get first in league this year.

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