

Cottage Grove Swimming



Team Rundown:

After two years of consecutively more swimmers at the state meet, the Lions are looking to continue to build on their success. Two years ago the team brought eight students and last year, 12. While no one in that group got out of the qualifying rounds, there is optimism about the team.

On the boys side, head coach Tyson Pilling is excited to see what his upperclassmen can bring to the table this season.

“Really looking forward to how two of our senior boys do. Joseph [Pifer] and Ethan [Burlson], it’s their senior year and they’ll be big players in our district meet. I’m hoping they both get qualified for state, we’ll see how they do at state. And then we have a junior, Ian Dukes, and he’ll be

a big help for districts and state as well,” he said.

After graduating some senior girls that qualified for state, Pilling is excited about the underclassmen on the girls team who will be looking to fill their shoes.

“We have Mikayala as a sophomore. And she should be a big help at our district and state meet and as far as girls coming out for the season we have Emma Barlston, which is Ethan’s sister. It’s her first year of doing swimming and she’s doing a great job. Picks it up pretty quick. But it generally takes a year or two to kind of develop up before they can get some big damage going for us,” said Pilling.

Team Perspective with Tyson Pilling

On how things are going this year

Great. Really good. We’re up. Our numbers are up this year, so that’s great. Yes, more kids out it helps. Some new kids. Freshman, they’re doing a great job for their first year. So it’s exciting.

On the upcoming schedule

First of all, the first meet is not your traditional setup meet. So it’s really good to get kids started with that. It’s a relay meet so they get lots of exchanges on relays. Relays are really important at championship meets, they score double. So they’re worth good practice and it’s a good set. Like I said, it takes some of the pressure away from your first meet. It’s not your traditional set up.

Then we have our meet at Cottage Grove with North Eugene and South Eugene. And that will be a fun one. We’ll have some really fast swimmers out.

On the goals for the team

Well, always looking at the best time improvements. Seeing where you started out. We also do goals and seeing if we reach our goals. Scoring at districts, seeing if we placed better the previous year. So looking for the best times, the qualifying times are measuring up how we did from the previous year to this year, those are some of the three things I’ll be looking for and what I want to take as a win for a good season.

And there’s also, there’s two trophies they hand out. One is sportsmanship and one is the district championship and you know I would like to go for both.

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Good Luck, Kids!

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