

## Farewell to Hayward Field

*With the new facility being built, what is being lost along the way?*

By Zach Silva  
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When I was seven-years-old, I ran at Hayward Field for the first time.

Proudly wearing my Joey Harrington jersey, I competed in an all-comers meet where I was the fastest (and only) kid my age to run the 1500. Since then, Hayward has been the setting for some of my favorite memories.

I spent my 13th birthday at the Prefontaine Classic where future gold medalist and all-around great human Sanya Richards (not yet Richards-Ross) wished me a happy birthday.

In 2008 my dad and I watched Nick Symmonds, Andrew Wheating and Christian Smith complete an Oregon sweep of the 800 to advance to the Olympics in what is one of the greatest races I have ever seen and each re-watch since, still fills me with emotions.

Every year, on the first day of the OSAA Track and Field Championships, I was allowed to skip school. That Friday was not a day for learning in a classroom but sitting at the start line of the 200 with seemingly half of my high school as we cheered on teammates, Oregon legends (see: Thomas Tyner) and future Olympians (see: Ryan Crouser). (Would like to put on the record that watching high school Thomas Tyner and Aloha's state record breaking 4x100 team was unreal.)

Gifted with tickets for the final day of the 2012 Olympic Trials, I sat 15 rows up from the finish line as Oregon's favorite son Ashton Eaton set the world record in the decathlon. Everyone in the stands screamed, cried or a combination of the two as we reveled in the realization that our hero was the greatest athlete in the world.

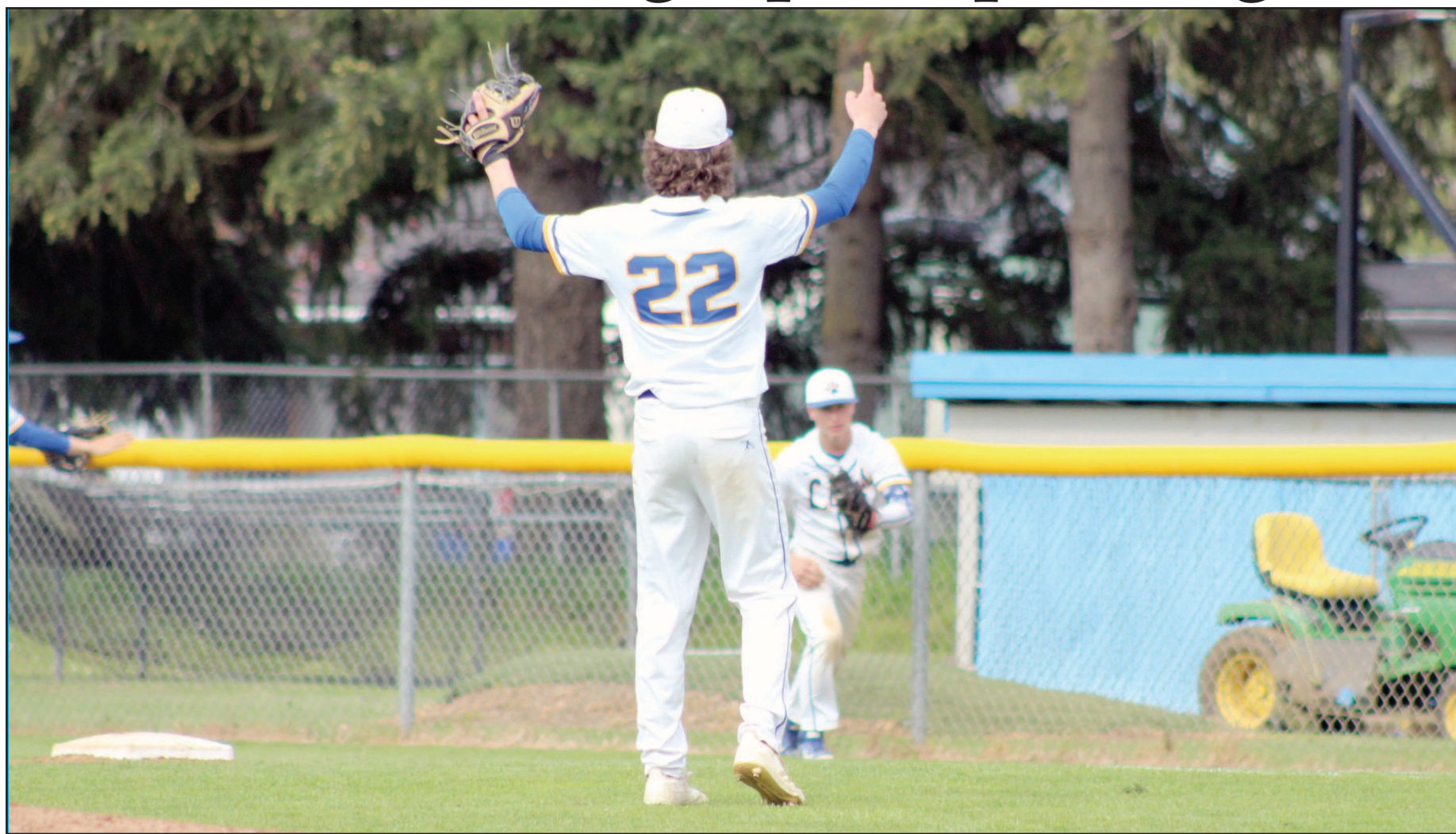
I was late to prom my junior year in high school because I had to watch De'Anthony Thomas compete in his first 100 as an Oregon Duck. I was at the 2016 Trials on the day of the 110 hurdle finals to then have Devon Allen jump into my section as he punched his ticket to Rio. I've seen countless sub-4:00 minute miles, critiqued pole vault form, been locked in for all 25 laps of the 10,000 and refused to bat an eye on shot put throws under 70 feet.

When I walk into Hayward it is less like walking into a sporting event and more like walking into grandma's house. There is a comforting smell that greets you at the door; it's a place filled with memories of your own and from those before you; you know each and every corner of it. It's a place you revere and under no circumstances could be replicated.

Seeing the images of what the new Hayward Field will look like deeply, and unexpectedly, pained me. Plans for the new stadium – that is scheduled to be ready in the spring of 2020 – have been in motion for quite some time but there was something about actually seeing what this futuristic-feeling facility will look like that felt like a betrayal. This upgrade feels

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## Lions and Bulldogs split a pair of games



Cottage Grove's Wyatt Sayles celebrates as first basemen Jacob Dunn comes up with the final out of the first game of the day.

PHOTOS BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

### Cottage Grove baseball team wins one, loses one in double-header

By Zach Silva  
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In an especially close Sky-Em league race, it was Cottage Grove and Sutherlin splitting ever-important league games last Friday in a double-header.

In league play, the Lions and Bulldogs both remained at 4-4 and tied for fourth place while sitting just a game and a half back from league leaders Junction City and Sweet Home.

"Steal a few wins, a few teams lose, maybe to a team they shouldn't, and we're right in it," said Cottage Grove head coach Dan Geiszler on the league race that guarantees the top three teams a spot in the playoffs.

On Friday, it was Cottage Grove starting off the day with a 6-3 victory. While the team has scored the least runs in the league this season, it was the bats that got things started for the Lions. Lead-off hitter Payton Frieze got things going right away with a homerun blast in the bottom of the first inning.

"Payton leading off the game with a homerun sets a great tone. Kind of sets a, 'hey we can do this.' Hitting is contagious and once you see, oh, he can do it," said Geiszler.

"You want to be a part of it. And we

hit."

An additional pair of runs from Hunter Sharkey and Wyatt Sayles in the inning got the Lions started off on the right foot.

The game changed in the third inning when the Bulldogs were able to tie the score at three apiece after a Cottage Grove balk, that was contested by Geiszler over the nature of the rule, and a deep shot to center that scored a runner from third.

The Lions stole back momentum in the fourth inning with another three-run inning that began with bases loaded and no outs. An Emry Foster grounder to short scored Matt Zumwalt from third but not before it had been ruled the Bulldogs came away with a double-play. The call was then changed after it was deemed the first basemen had pulled his foot. A Frieze hit to right field scored Jacob Dunn from third and a Sayles fly to left brought in Foster.

With runners on first and second, the inning was ended as Sutherlin's center fielder Tanner Lierman sprinted towards the outfield fence to make an outstretched, over the shoulder catch on a deep ball from Jaace Cross.

"Geez Jaace hit the heck out of one and the kid makes a great catch for what would have been two more runs," said Geiszler.

Defensively, the rest of the game was controlled by Cottage Grove pitcher Wyatt Sayles. Sayles pitched a complete game and struck out four batters.

Making sure they got a win on the day, it was Sutherlin coming out firing in the second game as four of their first five batters found their way on base in the first inning on the way to three runs in the inning. The damage was not yet done as the Bulldogs were at it again in the second inning as they hung six more runs on the scoreboard. The team finished with 12 hits in the 10-0, five-inning game.

"They just hit the heck out of the ball for one inning," said Geiszler.

Sutherlin's pitcher Cade Meisner, who also pitched two innings in the first game, handled the Lions as he recorded five strikeouts in four innings of duty in the second game. Sutherlin's Riley Westbrook closed the game in the fifth

inning and had two strikeouts. Cottage Grove had four hits in the game.

"They have three good arms. As deep as anybody in our league. And it's not always about the success, I thought we really swung the bat okay. We did a much better job swinging the bat then we have even though we didn't score the second game," said Geiszler.

"It's hard to say that when you lose you're happy but the way we competed was fine. There was not a lack of effort, there wasn't a lack of competing. Sometimes the other team just does a better job. And that was the second game and that just happens."

This Friday, Cottage Grove travels to face Junction City in a double-header.



Cottage Grove's Noah Spink safely dives back to first base last Friday.

## Cyclists prepare Row River Trail



PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Members of the Cottage Grove Bicycle Club work on painting parts of the Row River Trail to show areas where there are bumps, roots and rocks. Looking out for the safety of the riders, the group painted needed areas along the 16 miles of the trail. The group will hold their next meeting on May 10 at 7 p.m. at the Healing Matrix.

## Cottage Grove announcer calls last game

By Zach Silva  
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For the last five years, Evan McClendon has been living out his dream as a sportscaster.

"I was born to do it," he said.

Having called Cottage Grove High School football, basketball and baseball games, McClendon, at least temporarily, made his final call last Friday at Cottage Grove baseball's double-header. A 2011 CGHS graduate, McClendon works in a mill full-time and has been presented with a new opportunity that features travelling, full-benefits and a higher pay-grade.

"I would love to sit here and do this for the rest of my life but you know, I've got my own life to worry about and you get an opportunity like this and you just have to take it," he said.

The lifelong self-described sports fanatic first got into calling local games after him and his brother, Aaron, were listening to a CGHS football game and he thought, oh, I could do that. During

ANNOUNCER continued on B2

## Athletes of the Week



*This week's athletes of the week are the Cottage Grove boys relay teams. At the Elmira Relays last Saturday, the Lions won six of the eight different relay events on the track coming away with wins in the 4 x 100, 4 x 200, 4 x 800, 4 x Mile, the distance medley relay and the 4 x 120 yard shuttle hurdles.*



Cottage Grove's Jacob Woods receives the baton from teammate Juice Claffin in the 4x100 on Saturday.

PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL