

Snapshots: 70th Annual Cottage Grove Rodeo



Rodeo competitors compete in calf riding (left), bareback riding (center) and calf roping (right) at the 70th annual Cottage Grove Rodeo over the weekend.

EASTBURN from B1

participating in a few tournaments and attending team camp at Western Oregon University, where a typical day, according to Gardner, included waking up at 6:30 a.m., eating breakfast at 7 a.m. and playing basketball until 8 p.m.

"You get away from your parents, you get really tired, you get to see who is leaders and who aren't and everybody kind of has to survive. It's really neat to watch the kids through that process. So you get to really know them really well," said Eastburn.

"That's been the main thing, so in the last four or five weeks got to really strengthen those relationships with the high school girls. Get to know them even better, get to observe them play basketball to give me an idea of going forward for this next season of what we're possibly going to be doing with them."

CROATIA from B1

next three matches and went to extra time in all of them including two penalty shootout victories.

Regardless of the difficult journey, Croatia was now heading to the World Cup final. With a Croatian flag proudly hanging at the front of their house, the Sušec's welcomed in a group of family and friends for breakfast and the biggest game in their beloved country's history.

There is a wide spectrum of sports fans. On one end, you have those who cheer for their side more for social reasons and less a love of the game while on the other end, you have those who have a deeply-engrained passion for their team mixed with a knowledge of the history of the side.

Seemingly all of the Sušec's, who were all decked out in the red and white checkers of the Croatian coat of arms, fall

towards the latter side of the spectrum.

The running commentary throughout the game was not surface level but about the history of the team and a shared love/hate relationship with left back Ivan Strinić. It was clear these were real fans when eight-year-old Tatjana chastised Croatia's goalie from her seat in front of the TV for not jumping to stop France's first goal of the game.

As the game progressed, emotions ebbed and flowed but mostly flowed. Croatia's first goal gave everyone reason to believe. It was also a good time for Heidi to offer a warning about giving Nikola room after goals because he likes to jump.

The game took a turn both on the pitch and in the living room when Croatia was, after a video-review, called for a handball. Upon watching the review, it was a moment of shock, disbelief and a hope

that the ref looks the other way. He didn't and France sunk a penalty kick to take the lead for good.

"That's soccer," said Josip. He added, with a sense of pride, "they played excellent throughout the tournament."

The second-half saw more goals and as France sealed the deal, the mood was sad but proud. Proud that this country that has the same population as all of Oregon (~4.1 million) performed admirably on the highest stage. Proud to wear the red and white checkers.

Proud to be Croatian. As Tatjana was comforted, Heidi brought out Croatian cookies to ease the pain as everyone watched the trophy ceremony.

"This just means we'll celebrate second," she said.

ELKTON from B1

ly make up those hours on Fridays when they don't have school and things like that," said Ellis. "They've been very gracious, very flexible and very creative in coming up with ideas on how to get me there this year and make it all work for me to coach. I'm very appreciative of that."

Boe also believes that travel commitments won't be an issue.

"Bottom line is we need him there in the day and doing things instructionally with our teachers and with kids to make us better and that's the time he can commit."

"I don't think it's going to be an issue at all, I actually think it's a great fit," said Boe.

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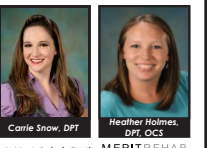
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