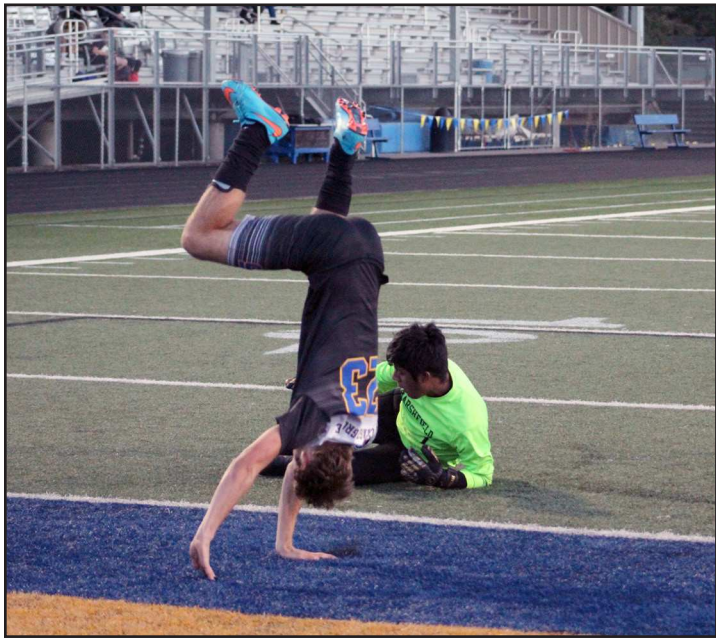


# Pirates lifted by pair of second-half strikes



In an effort to avoid contact after pursuing the ball Cottage Grove's Konrad Raum flips over Marshfield's goalie Jose Ramirez in the first half of play.

By Zach Silva  
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

While it was the first game of league play for Cottage Grove and Marshfield, both coaches are already thinking of the Sky-Em playoff race. In Thursday's contest, it was the Pirates going up in the coveted standings as they defeated the Lions 3-1. "Cottage Grove is a good team. I would probably say a playoff-caliber team," said

Marshfield head coach Drew Jones. "We knew we needed to - on the road, first game - make a statement. It's a tough league and only two playoff spots." Marshfield did just that as they scored multiple goals for the first time on the season. "We spent the last three training sessions working on scoring because again, we've had a .4 goals for average and we felt we're a lot better than that num-

ber," said Jones. "It's nice to finally be right!"

In the first half, the Pirates (3-3) put the pressure on the Lions (3-3-1) and were in control of the game. The Lions were able to get sparing offensive chances and were unable to get a shot on target or a corner kick in the first half of play. On the flip side, Marshfield stayed aggressive and had five corners to go with six first half shots.

"We need to go to the ball at the very beginning of the game and we didn't. We lost a lot of 50-50 balls, we need to make sure we're going to it," said Cottage Grove head coach Vern Stewart.

In the final minute of the half, Marshfield struck a shot from outside that Cottage Grove's freshman goalie Ty Kishen pushed wide. The Pirates were awarded a corner and with 24 seconds left in the half, Pietro Detoni's connected to put the Pirates on the board. As the Marshfield bench erupted in cheers, the Cottage Grove sideline protested the play.

"There were some calls that were questionable. The first goal was questionable. Our guy got bulldozed over," said Stewart. "It happens, so you've got to play the game the way it's being

called."

After an impassioned half-time pep-talk that could at times be heard around the field, the Cottage Grove side came out energized in the second half. The Lions had a shot on goal within the first minute and were in command in the opening 10 minutes of play.

The team was mere inches from tying the game after a clearance from Marshfield's goalie, Jose Ramirez, who was on the edge of the 18, made its way to Jasper Nichols-Ferguson. Without hesitation or an additional touch, Nichols-Ferguson struck the ball from 40 yards out and it bounced in front of the empty-goal before going just over the cross bar and out of play. Cottage Grove continued to create opportunities but was unable to find a goal-scoring strike.

"We made some adjustments, kind of gave a different look the first 10 minutes or so of the second half and then kind of went back to our shape," said Jones. "We were very worried about that midfield of Cottage Grove. You know, tall guys, and one of the few high school teams that plays through the middle of the field as opposed to working on wings. We tried to kind of ad-

just, I thought we did alright, and then we kind of went back to our way because we didn't have much in the attack."

Once back in their initial formation, the Pirates were able to find success as Alberto Castillo scored on a laser of a shot from 32 yards out.

Down a pair of goals, the Lions were able to find the back of the net in the 68th minute as Konrad Raum sprinted into the box and was met by Marshfield's Ramirez who dove at the ball and knocked Raum down for the fourth time in the game. But this time Cottage Grove's Mitchell Krokus was there to guide the rebound into the goal to put the Lions on the board.

The hope of a comeback was put to rest just four minutes later when Marshfield's Pedro Casas struck a goal from 30 yards out to seal the victory.

"The message to the team is that it's only one game. I mean, Marshfield is a team that's been bad in the past and I already pre-warned these guys, it's totally a different team this year. Got to be careful, they're a good team," said Stewart.

The Lions are back home Thursday night as they host Junction City.

## ATA Martial Arts Awards:

- John Whitten, ATA Tiger Champion
- Kai Williams, ATA Tiger Champion
- Elliot Heintzelman, third place Weapons and Combat Weapon Sparring
- Nora Heegard, second place Combat Weapon Sparring
- Connor LeCompte, first place Forms, Sparring and Combat Weapon Sparring
- Mason Batey, first place Combat Weapon Sparring and Creative Forms, second place Forms, third place Sparring
- Marle Piscopo, first place Sparring and Combat Weapon Sparring
- Mia Piscopo, second place Sparring, third place Combat Weapon Sparring
- Emily Collier, third place Weapons
- Erin Lauraine, first place Weapons, second place Forms, Sparring and Combat Weapon Sparring

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6:30 p.m. Volleyball @ Marist  
9/28  
7:00 p.m. Football @ Marist  
10/2  
4:30 p.m. Girls Soccer @ Junction City  
6:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. Siuslaw  
7:00 p.m. Boys Soccer vs. Junction City

### NORTH DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

9/27  
7:00 p.m. Volleyball @ Camas Valley  
9/28  
7:00 p.m. Football @ Oakridge  
9/29  
TBD Volleyball @ McKenzie Tournament  
10/2  
6:00 p.m. Volleyball vs. New Hope Christian

### YONCALLA HIGH SCHOOL

9/27  
6:00 p.m. Volleyball vs. UVC  
9/28  
7:00 p.m. Football vs. Mapleton  
9/29  
TBD Volleyball @ Gilchrist Tournament  
10/2  
6:00 p.m. Volleyball vs. UVC

### ELKTON HIGH SCHOOL

9/28  
4:00 p.m. Football vs. Lowell  
10/2  
6:00 p.m. Volleyball vs. Days Creek

# Pac-12

## WEEK 5

Friday, September 28  
UCLA @ Colorado 6:00 PM

Saturday, September 29  
BYU @ Washington TBD  
Oregon @ California TBD  
Oregon State @ Arizona State TBD  
Utah @ Washington State TBD  
Stanford @ Notre Dame 4:30 PM  
USC @ Arizona 7:30 PM

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