

WATER POLO *from B1*

many shots," said Cottage Grove coach Tyson Pilling. In the second quarter the Cottage Grove defense was able to slow the opposing attack and were able to find the back of the net. Cottage Grove's goalie was able to come up with saves and the Lions went to the half down 6-1. In the second half, it was South Albany's defense making way for their offense to thrive

as they came up with four more goals in the third quarter. "We've been really focusing on cutting off passing lanes. Cutting off where can that ball get to your player from and block it off, block it off," said Scott. "That's really what the whole defensive strategy was today. All I told them before the game was defensively I want you to cut off the passing lanes. And they did it beautifully." In the final quarter, both

teams found the back of the net once more. After the game, the Lions were focused on finding the takeaways from the game. "You can use anything as a way to learn. You can learn a lot more by games you lose than ones you win," said Pilling. "The biggest thing we're trying to learn is just focus on the defense. Protecting the cage and coming back is just so important. And we've had that some games but unfortunately this wasn't one of them."



A Cottage Grove player looks to take a shot on goal.

PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL



PHOTO BY ERIC HAMMERSCHMITH

The Elks celebrate with Spencer Moore (21) after scoring the game-winning touchdown.

FOOTBALL *from B1*

After stopping the Warriors, and using a pair of timeouts to stop the clock, the Elks got the ball back with just under 10 minutes left to play. But it was the North Douglas defense coming up big like they had all day with another stop.

"This was the best defensive game we've played all year. We concentrated a lot on defense this week," said North Douglas head coach Rocky Rodgers.

With just over seven minutes to play, the Elks, now out of timeouts, faced 4th and 9 from their own 35. A perfect time for a 64-yard punt from Luzier.

"We had no choice but to punt. And Luzier punts it this time and divine intervention reached out and put a hand on the ball at the one yard line," said Shaw about the punt that rolled to a dramatic stop. "I mean, we really needed them with four minutes left to have to go 99 yards to beat us. And I don't know how that ball stayed there."

With little room to work, the Warriors offense was stopped by the Elks and they elected to punt from their own end zone. Luzier,

now at punt-returner, fielded the ball at the North Douglas 40 and got it down to the 20 to set up the offense.

The Elks wasted no time when three plays later Spencer More ran in for the touchdown and the two-point conversion to give the Elks their first lead of the game at 16-12 with under five minutes to play. Moore finished the game with 75 yards rushing. His backfield partner, Trentyn Halstead, had 79 yards rushing on the day.

The North Douglas offense, aided by an Elkton pass interference, began to work down field. But on 4th and 10 with 1:18 left, it was Elkton's Cox breaking up a pass to end the drive. Just needing a first down, the Elks were able to seal the victory.

"I went out and told the kids, the way to end this thing is we're going to run 23-blast and you guys got to get beyond that set of chains. And they did it," said Shaw. "That's good stuff. That's what you dream of from the time you're a little kid playing the game out in the yard on Thanksgiving. That's what you dream about. Who can handle it in the end. It was fun. It was scary."

With the victory, the Elks

moved to 4-0 on the season, started league-play with a win and, maybe most importantly to them, beat their ever-familiar down-the-road rival.

"We're 15 minutes away so maybe it's not the same rivalry as Yoncalla but they did pick us for their homecoming," said Shaw. "...So maybe we're not the red-headed step cousin anymore, maybe we're starting to be competitive."

For as joyful as the Elkton sideline was that was packed with what felt like the entire town, the mood was just as somber across the field for the Warriors.

"Very emotional. This game is 100 percent on me. It was homecoming week and I allowed them to probably be more concentrated on homecoming than we were in the game. We had good practices, but they weren't great coming into a team like Elkton. 100 percent on me," said Rodgers.

The teams continue league-play this week. The Elks, now ranked number two in all of 1A, host Lowell (2-2). The Warriors, who dropped to ninth in the ranking, travel to Oakridge on Friday.

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