

Weybright's hat trick lifts Lions

Cottage Grove girls' soccer improve to 2-0 in league play

By Zach Silva
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

After finishing a game out of the playoffs a season ago, the Cottage Grove girls soccer team showed Elmira – and the rest of the Sky-Em league – that they have added something to their game this year: confidence. It was on display Tuesday night as the Lions got off 26 shots in a 4-0 home victory against Elmira.

"Feels better than last season because I couldn't really shoot last season because I was really not confident," said sophomore Sawyer Weybright who scored three goals on the day. "This season, like, our team went in thinking we could actually do it and so it gave me a lot more confidence to actually shoot the ball and so it feels really good."

It was Weybright's third hat trick of the season.

In the first half, it was Cottage Grove (4-3-1) taking firm control of possession as Elmira (3-3-1) struggled to keep up. The Lions kept the ball in the attacking third and found the back of the net in the 12th minute behind a well-placed corner kick from Payton Cameron that ricocheted into the goal off an Elmira defender.

As the Falcons backline began to step up to stymie opportunities, it was Weybright following up a shot that was blocked for her first score of the game in the 26th minute.

Elmira's opportunities were few and far between but were the result of the speed of attacking midfielder Kennady Laing. Without support from teammates out front, the Cottage Grove defense continually shut down the chance or goalie Irene Nichols-Ferguson would come up with a save. The Falcons had just four shots and attempted no corner kicks the day.

"I'm feeling great, we finally capitalized on the goals. Proud of them for just finding their teammates and actually slowing down the ball and distributing the ball well. Just proud of them," said Cottage Grove head coach Reed Levings.

In the opening half hour of the second half the Lions continued to put pressure



PHOTO BY JADEN DOOLITTLE/CGHS PHOTOGRAPHY
Cottage Grove's Chanel Leach fights for possession during Tuesday's game.

on but were unable to break through for a goal. But in the 68th minute when the Lions worked the ball down the left side of the attack to Weybright who shot from inside the 18 for a goal.

In the final five minutes, Weybright again found the back of the net, this time, in unconventional fashion. After an Elmira defender passed the ball back to their goalie who proceeded to pick it up after being put under pressure from Cottage Grove, the Lions, after confusion about whether they would get a penalty kick or not, were awarded an indirect free kick inside the 18. The Falcons then used nearly the whole team to line up shoulder-to-shoulder to create a wall in front of the goal.

"Our team has never practiced that or anything so we didn't really know what to do so (Leticia Hernandez) just told me she was going to drop it to me and I was going to shoot it and I guess it kind of worked," said Weybright who snuck the ball in right under the crossbar and in the goal.

With the victory, the Lions improved to 2-0 in Sky-Em league play.

"The expectations are just higher this year. A chance for a league title is open this year. So just higher expectations and keep improving every day," said Levings. "Just setting the bar higher every time. So know that we can't settle, we've got to keep working at it."

The Lions, ranked 14th in 4A, are tied at the top of the league standings with 10th ranked Marist. The Spartans, carrying a +28-goal differential on the year, will visit Cottage Grove on Thursday (Oct. 3).

FOOTBALL from B1

with just under two minutes to play in the third quarter.

The Lions were down but not out yet. Cottage Grove put together a 68-yard drive that finished with freshman Fernando Giffen scoring on the ground from a yard out. After a successful two-point conversion – Graves to Dunn – the Lions were down three with 9:33 to play. Graves finished the game 22-of-34 for 214 yards with two touchdowns and one interception.

On the ensuing drive, the Spartans, facing 3rd and 11, came up big with a 31-yard reception. Marist capitalized on the drive with a Campbell touchdown.

"[Cottage Grove coaching staff] did a great job because they had kids out. We have kids out, that's football...but they had more out than we did," said Geske. "And they got their kids

to play real hard that were back-ups. Real hard until it got to be too many guys going both ways for them. That was the deal."

The Lions put together one final push but a fumble inside the Marist five with under four minutes to play sealed their fate.

Now a game under .500, the Lions prepare for Elmira (4-1). In league-play the Falcons fell to Marist two weeks ago 15-2 and beat Junction City (0-4) last Friday 50-6. With two league games left, Roberts had a simple message for his team.

"Well, it's pretty easy going forward because next week against Elmira is essentially, now every week is essentially win or go home within the league games. The chances are, most likely our third-place team will get in," he said. "But I don't think our fourth-place team will. So we don't have much of a choice. We have to suck it up, get better in a hurry and get ready to take on Elmira."



Dylan Graves scrambles for a first down against Marist.

The businesses on this page are:

SUPER FANS

They proudly support our local student athletes.
Please show your appreciation by patronizing their businesses.

COTTAGE GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

10/4
6:30 p.m. Volleyball @ Marshfield
6:30 p.m. Boys Soccer @ Marist
7:00 p.m. Girls Soccer vs. Marist
10/5
7:00 p.m. Football vs. Elmira
10/6
2:00 p.m. XC @ Philomath
10/9
6:30 p.m. Volleyball @ Elmira
7:00 p.m. Boys Soccer @ Marshfield
7:00 p.m. Girls Soccer vs. Marshfield

NORTH DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

10/4
6:00 p.m. Volleyball vs. UVC
10/5
7:00 p.m. Football vs. Yoncalla
10/9
6:00 p.m. Volleyball @ Yoncalla

YONCALLA HIGH SCHOOL

10/4
6:00 p.m. Volleyball @ Pacific
10/5
7:00 p.m. Football @ North Douglas
10/9
6:00 p.m. Volleyball vs. North Douglas

ELKTON HIGH SCHOOL

10/4
6:00 p.m. Volleyball vs. Riddle
10/5
7:00 p.m. Football @ Oakridge

Brad's Chevy GMC
2775 Row River Rd. • Cottage Grove, OR 97424
www.bradschevy.com
(541) 942-4415
FAX (541) 942-2881
SILVERADO

Rogers & Son
Floor Covering • Window Covering
Saunas • Swimming Pool & Hot Tub Supplies
Dave & Carol Rogers
(541) 942-0500 1324 E. Main
(541) 942-0750 P.O. Box 40
(541) 942-0017 Fax Cottage Grove, OR 97424
www.rogersandsonfloorcovering.com

Cottage Grove Sentinel
www.cgsentinel.com

FOLLOW US ON

@cgsentinel Cottage-Grove-Sentinel
#cgsentinel

Pac-12

WEEK 6

Saturday, October 6

Utah @ Stanford TBD

Washington @ UCLA TBD

California @ Arizona TBD

Arizona State @ Colorado TBD

Washington State @ Oregon State TBD