

Talley takes 18th place at state meet

Cottage Grove cross country runner left wanting more from final race of season

By Zach Silva
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Saturday at the state cross country meet, junior Jimmy Talley, Cottage Grove's lone state-qualifier, finished in 18th place. It was an improvement from his 58th place finish his freshman year and his 33rd place finish last season but for Talley, the final race of the season was a disappointment after having run the fastest time in 4A this season.

"It was just not a good race," he said after the 5K.

Talley started out among the top runners but after the trip through the first mile's "Poison Oak Alley" had dropped back to fifth place. As the race progressed, Talley fell back and finished in 18th in a time of 17:05. While the state course is not considered a fast course meant for personal records, running at LCC at the district meet, Talley ran a time of 16:04. In his first-place finish at districts, he defeated Marist's Joey Peterson who took the individual title on Saturday.

"I knew I was going to be dead, I knew I was going to be tired. I didn't know what to expect, I was going to try to go with my original plan but as soon as I hit the first mile my legs just got really heavy," said Talley.

For Talley, in the run-up to the state meet, his training did not taper off but featured what he considered "the hardest week of the entire season" including multiple days running hills and a speed workout that saw him limping around school in pain throughout the week.

"In the week coming in to practice, you don't want to let down too much, too soon. So you come in, you start the early-week with a pretty good workout and then as the week goes you kind of cut off little pieces of the workout," said head coach Jim Settelmeyer. "There were some issues during the week where we cut off more of the workout than normal but came in where Jimmy was feeling pretty good."

When asked about Talley's comments about not feeling good as the result of a week of hard workouts, Settelmeyer said, "No comment."

"It just didn't work out for him on this particular day to do the run that he has been capable of doing lately," said Settelmeyer when asked about what he would remember from this race.

During track season, Talley finished second in the 3,000 behind a 19-second personal best at the state championship.



PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Cottage Grove's Jimmy Talley heads to the finish line at Saturday's state meet.

Cottage Grove takes second at state



PHOTOS BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Clockwise from top left: Matty Ladd gets a kill against Tillamook in the quarterfinals; Cassidy Herbert celebrates her third-straight ace in the fifth set against Tillamook; the Lions react to losing in five-sets to Valley Catholic as the Valiants celebrate across the net; Reilly Kelty rises above the Valley Catholic blockers as she goes for a spike during Saturday's final.

The Cottage Grove volleyball team falls in championship match; best finish in school history

By Zach Silva
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All season the Cottage Grove volleyball team checked off boxes on their to-do list as they put together the most successful season in school history. They rolled through the non-conference schedule, were crowned league champions, amassed playoff victories but the final box went unchecked as the Lions fell to Valley Catholic in five sets (25-23, 21-25, 26-24, 22-25, 11-15) Saturday night in the state championship at Forest Grove.

"I told them, look, second sucks and it's going to hurt. And it's going to hurt and you're going to cry - try not to cry for the picture - but the thing is, we walk out as third or sixth, we're walking out with

smiles. But we're walking out with second with medals around our neck," said Cottage Grove head coach Kendra Anderson. "I've been to state tournaments as a player and a coach and I've never walked out with anything on my neck. And they have a trophy and a ball and they had a huge crowd that was proud of them and I hope they remember that. Right now, it hurts and it hurts because they really wanted it. But they accomplished a lot."

Cottage Grove's final-site playoff journey started Friday afternoon when the third-ranked Lions took on eleventh-ranked Tillamook in the quarterfinals. Cottage Grove was victorious (25-10, 23-25, 19-25, 25-15, 15-8) in their first five-set match they have played this season. With experience from playing at the state tournament last season, the team came out ready to go.

"They knew what to expect. They hadn't been in this gym last year, they hadn't experienced that. So they seemed

a little looser," said Anderson. Cottage Grove was dominant early including a 10-1 run to close out the set.

But after a fast start, facing troubles with serve-receive and the intensified play of Tillamook's outside hitters, the Lions dropped the second and third set and were now on the brink of heading to the consolation side of the bracket.

The Lions rose to the occasion with big performances across the board. Reilly Kelty had 25 kills, Cassidy Herbert 15 kills, 14 digs and eight aces and Lauren Witty had 56 assists. Matty Ladd added six kills and four blocks while Sam May had 14 digs. After cruising to a fourth-set victory, the fifth set started off right for the team with three aces from Herbert on the way to a win.

"They're mature and they handled that pressure. And we talked about that, that's another thing that we said. All of you who wanted pressure in checkoff, there's no more pressure than what we

have right now going into this fifth set," said Anderson. "We've got to check it off, enjoy it, embrace the pressure and I think that's where they realized oh we like it. Let's enjoy it instead of try to push it away which is where the tightness sometimes comes from."

In the semifinal match against second-ranked Sweet Home - a team that had lost just two games entering the tournament - the Lions were determined as they defeated the Huskies in straight sets (25-23, 25-16, 25-23).

As a team, the Lions had 10 blocks on the game (Ladd four, Avery Hutchins two, Kelty two and Herbert two). Kelty had 17 kills and 18 digs while Herbert recorded 16 digs, 13 kills and a pair of aces. Witty had 46 assists.

Then came the championship game - Cottage Grove volleyball's first appearance in the title game. They faced a familiar opponent in Valley Catholic. The two

VOLLEYBALL see B2

Gladiators take down Lions in first round

Cottage Grove football stays close until the end against second-ranked Gladstone

By Zach Silva
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The 17th ranked Cottage Grove football team just wanted a chance. They wanted to be in the game against second-ranked Gladstone in the first-round of the playoffs last Friday on the road Down five points in the closing minutes of the contest, the late rally from the Lions fell short as the Gladiators won - in a misleading final score of - 37-25.

After staying close throughout the game, the Lions were down five with less than five minutes to play and were driving. A pair of Cottage Grove penalties and a sack pushed them back and the Lions faced third-and-42. Able to pick up 23 yards to set up 4th and 19 from the Gladstone 34 but Dylan Graves came up incomplete on a pass to Erick Giffen.

"We had a shot. I'm not one to - the officials didn't cost us the game - but the fourth down play, Erick Giffen was absolutely held. So really bad. And they just swallowed it, didn't even throw the flag and that killed us," said Roberts. "It should have been a first and 10 with the ball inside the 20 or inside the 10 with a couple minutes left."

Instead it was Gladstone converting on a third down to all but seal the victory and then a 37-yard touchdown run for the Gladiators to send home Cottage Grove.

"We gave them everything we could and I'm proud of my kids. I think if you put - and I'm just being honest, this isn't a shot at our kids, this is a complement to our kids - if you lined up our top 22 and their top 22, I think anybody passing the eyeball test would take their 22," said Cottage Grove head coach Gary Roberts. "But not me. Our kids fought and they fought hard. I'm super proud of them, they have nothing to be ashamed of, everything to be proud of."

The game quickly became a contrast in styles as both teams became one-dimensional. For Gladstone, with a strong offensive line, they relied on a ground attack that was good for 406 yards on the day - 170 yards from Sebastian Peiffer and 124 from Mason Scheehan - and four touchdowns. Gladstone passed the ball just five times in the game.

"We're just a little out-manned upfront on defense and that cost us. We just couldn't matchup inside. But tip your hat to them. I mean, that's, they have big, physical kids and they used that to their advantage tonight," said Roberts.

For the Cottage Grove offense, it was a different story as they turned into a rather successful air-raid attack. On the day, the Lions had 449 yards through the air with Dylan Graves going 28-for-42 for 377 yards and a pair



PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Cottage Grove's Matt Zumwalt races for a 72-yard touchdown. Zumwalt finished with four catches for two touchdowns and 191 receiving yards.

of touchdowns. Erick Giffen added 72 yards of passing on a touchdown completion to Matt Zumwalt. Zumwalt had four catches for 191 yards and two touchdowns. Giffen had 17 catches for 167 yards.

"We moved the ball. Dylan played a really good

FOOTBALL see B3

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is Arianna Helgren of North Douglas who was named to the 1A tournament team over the weekend. To read more about the Warriors, turn to B3.



North Douglas' Arianna Helgren records a kill in the quarterfinals against Days Creek on Friday in Redmond.

PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL