Cottage Grove Principal Mike Ingman on Roberts' decision to step down:

By Zach Silva
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

After Gary Roberts announced he was stepping down, Cottage Grove principal, and assistant football coach, Mike Ingman shared his thoughts on what Roberts has meant to CGHS in his time as football coach.

Ingman: (Gary Roberts) has high expectations for students and he has a belief that they can live up to them. Puts every student athlete in a position to be successful and then we'll work to make sure they are successful. You can talk about all the three state championships in five years but like that's not the impressive part. As a guy who has coached with him for a few years, his ability to create team, to create that family atmosphere, kids' identity as they grow up and are part of that whole Lion football program is huge.

The first year they went to the state championship, and you're going to have to fact check and figure out when that was, the next year (the 2014-15 season) we were 2-7. And I think the kids would have practiced until April, they loved being out there, they loved every part of it. It never got old. It's more than just a sport. It's really how Gary makes them feel. And that they know that they've got someone who is in their corner and that they'll do anything they can to help. Not only, I mean, to help their teammates, this whole family thing is a really interesting dynamic that he has created here. And it's fantastic.

CG Sentinel: How do you go forward after such a successful coach?

Ingman: As a building principal it's really sad to lose someone of that caliber and it's a little scary. Where do we go from here? That's just next steps, there's seasons for everyone, guess that's some world play there, and this has come to an end. Where we go from here is important. And you know, he chose the time to step out very carefully and to give the next coach time to set up for spring, summer and is going to allow someone else to be as successful as they can be.

CG Sentinel: What made Roberts successful in this position?

Ingman: I've coached over 20 years of high school football. I've coached for a lot of different head coaches and Gary just has a certain thing about him that makes him special. And in that, makes the program special. He allows kids and coaches to be who they are and to do the best that they can do. And that's enabled him to get some good coaches around him, it's enabled players to grow in confidence and ability and has allowed us to – I don't know how many schools went to three state championships in a five-year span, that doesn't happen. This is the one, he's won the one state championship in this community. Those things matter. But again, the way he treats kids and the family atmosphere to me is much more important. Winning is cool but it's the experience that kids have when they play football that really makes a difference.

For me, and I'm an odd guy, as a principal, the wins don't matter nearly as much as how kids and families feel as they go through the program.

ROBERTS *from B1*

Cottage Grove's Gary Roberts brings his team together during a 2017 jamboree game.

job and how we could have done a better job."

While Roberts is stepping away from the position as head coach, he is still open to the possibility of being on the sidelines next season as an assistant if the next coach is interested in his help.

"If the next head coach wants me help, then I'll help. If the next head coach feels like they don't need me around, then that's fine. I'll just be another body in the office so to speak," Roberts told the team.

But for now, Roberts, who has two daughters, ages eight and five, is excited about being with his family more and trying new things.

"I've got a list of things that I want to do. That I haven't been able to do because I've been so involved with football. You know, remodel projects at home, fixing up a project car, learning to do things, learning to fly fish," he said. Adding, "This has been my identity for 11 years is being the head football coach that now I want to try some things that I've not done before."

Roberts, in the role of athletic director, has now started the search process for his replacement but, as he told the team, he is hoping to hire internally.

"Our goal is to hopefully have a candidate that is internal, I know we have at least one that is interested," said Roberts. "And if that person decides not to apply then we'll take it external if nobody applies and see where it goes. We're hoping to keep things running in the same direction."

Winter Heating Tune-Up
Only $99*

We'll make sure your system is running effectively and efficiently. Call for details and an appointment today, and beat the winter rush!

Complete Heating & Cooling System Service
Reasonable Rates • All Work Guaranteed

JAMES
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

www.jamesheating.com
115 Lawrence St., Eugene, OR 97401
CCB #47396
Bus. (541) 461-2101 • Fax: (541) 686-4820

* Limited-time offer. Restrictions apply. Call for details.

High School Sports Recap:

North Douglas Girls:

On Friday night, the Warriors defeated Riddle 48-17 at home and outscored the Irish 42-10 through three quarters. The Warriors had 28 steals as a team including nine from Sofia Alcantar. Alcantar also led the team in scoring with 12 points. Abby Whipple filled the stat line with eight points, eight rebounds, four assists, four steals and a block.

On Saturday North Douglas defeated Pacific on the road 40-30. The Warriors trailed 22-21 after three quarters and outscored Pacific 19-8 in the fourth quarter to secure a victory. Alcantar again led the team with 13 points and five assists.

Yoncalla Girls:

Yoncalla Girls: The Eagles dropped a pair of games last week to Pacific (37-36) and to Camas Valley (34-22).

Elkton Girls:

Elkton Girls: The Elks rolled past Riddle 60-20 at home on Saturday.

Yoncalla Boys:

Last week the Eagles defeated Pacific 54-40 on Friday before falling to Camas Valley 45-37 on Saturday. Against Pacific Dominic Aguilar led the team with 14 points while Trace Graham had 10. In the loss to Camas Valley, Bryan Allen and Elijah Allen had 11 and 10 points respectively.

Elkton Boys:

Last Saturday against Riddle at home, the Elks lost 65-28. Mason Cox had six points and seven boards for the Elks. Jaydn Woody added six points for the team.

LIONS *from B1*

Creed Lufkin fights for position down low against Elmira on Friday.

Elmira each time they entered into the paint.

"I always talk about controlling the boards. Limiting teams to one shot possessions and then creating extra possessions for us by rebounding hard," said Hutchison. "Creed and Jasper do a great job using their strength and their length and their height. Cleaning up the boards for us. They do a good job for us, not even rebounding, but altering shots."

Just four Elmira players scored throughout the game. Keegan Cook finished with 13 points, Christian Davis 12 and Bryson Forsman 11.

For Hutchison, the game had added meaning as he coached against Elmira coach Nick Garman. Garman, currently a teacher at CGHS, was previously the CGHS coach and coached Hutchison.

"It's so weird. Really weird to see him walk into the gym and go up and shake his hand and not play for him but coach against him. It was a great experience and a great opportunity," said Hutchison. Adding, "He kind of got me into the process of coaching and wanting to coach. I look up to that guy. He's a great coach."

After starting the season with 10 straight losses, the Lions have now won three of their last four games including two league wins. The team will get a chance to see where they stand in league this week as they take on Junction City (7-10, 2-1) and Marist (10-6, 3-0) in a pair of road games.

"Every game that we play… the next one is going to be bigger than this one. They just get bigger as the season goes," said Hutchison. "We have a great opportunity on Tuesday against Junction City who is a good team… And then we go to Marist but we can't even think of that Marist game because that will be even bigger if we take care of business against Junction City."

SWITCH TO THE CONVENIENCE OF AUTO PAY!

SAVE TIME & SAVE MONEY

Use your Credit or Debit Card account to renew your subscription to the Cottage Grove Sentinel (includes online edition) by using AUTO PAY. Complete the credit card information on the enclosed billing notice and make your payment the easy way with Auto Pay.

Bring in or send this ad back with your payment and save $5 OFF

Yes, Sign me up for Auto Pay*!

❑ 10 Weeks = $6, (Reg $11) ❑ Digital Only $30 (Reg$35)
BEST OFFER ❑ 1 Year = $36 (Reg $41)

Address:_____

City:_____State:_____Zip: _____

Telephone Number:_____

Credit or Debit Card Exp. Date: _____

Security Number_____

Card Number: _____

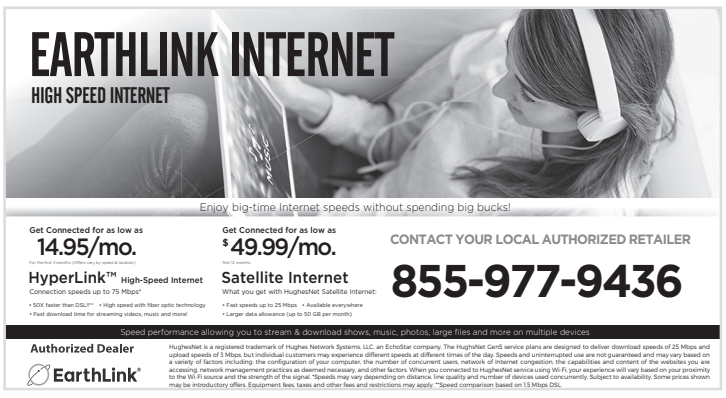
Name on Card: _____

Signature of Card holder: _____

Cottage Grove Sentinel

116 N. 6th Street, PO Box 35
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-3325 • cgsentinel.com

*Auto Pay Subscriptions renew automatically unless cancelled. Future renewals will be at the current subscription rate.



15% OFF
Any service with coupon
Schedule your appointment Today!
Not Valid on any service Exceeding $100 • Expires 01/31/19
Not valid with any other offer.

Our People Really Make The Difference!

Brad's Chevy
COTTAGE GROVE CHEVROLET, INC.

541-942-4415 • 2775 Row River Road • bradschevy.com

-Backer DDS
-Birch Avenue Dental
-CG Physical Therapy
-Chvatal Orthodontics
-Cetera Financial
-Coast Fork
-Emerald Fitness Club
-Dave's Place
-D&D Auto
-Grocery Outlet
-Cottage Grove Garbage Service
-Jim's Point S Tire Factory

-NW Community Credit Union
-Oregon West RV
-Patriot Mortgage
-South Lane Fire And Rescue
-South Valley Athletics
-Starfire Lumber
-State Farm
-Village Green
-Williams & Mathis
-Cascade Home Center
-Lane Community College