

Swimmers qualify for state meet

Three individuals from the Cottage Grove swim team are headed to Beaverton for the state meet

By Zach Silva
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At the Special District 4 Swim Championships last weekend, Cottage Grove qualified three swimmers for the state swim meet.

For the boys, senior Ian Dukes claimed a spot in the 100-yard breast stroke after finishing in fifth place with a time of 1:09.62. Dukes also qualified in the 500-yard freestyle with a third place finish in a time of 5:39.58. Joining him at state in the 500-yard freestyle will be freshman teammate James Kelly who finished in a time of 5:46.78.

The boys' team finished in sixth place with 77 points. Marshfield took first with 324 points.

For the Cottage Grove girls, sophomore MJ Raade was the lone qualifier. Raade will be racing in the 500-yard freestyle after securing third place at districts in a time of 5:49.31.

The state meet begins on Friday (Feb. 15) at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton. Raade will race in the 500 at 10:10 a.m. while Dukes and Kelly will race in the same race at 10:24 a.m. Dukes will race in the 100 breaststroke at 11:03 a.m.

Tickets for the competition are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.

Wrestling sends seven to state

Six CGHS boys qualify last weekend for state wrestling tournament

By Zach Silva
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Competing at the Special District 3, the Cottage Grove wrestling team qualified six wrestlers for this month's state tournament.

Scoring first place victories at districts was Jacob Dunn and Drew Swenson. Fernando Soto-Cruz and David Cox each finished third while Chance Ralston and Austin Dempsey qualified with fourth place finishes.

Cottage Grove's Walker Humphrey and Luke Johns finished in fifth place while Oden Armstrong took sixth. As a team the Lions finished fifth with 170.5 points. Mazama took first with 295 points.

The Lions will be joining teammate Raina Herzog who qualified at the girls' district qualifier on Feb. 2.

The wrestlers will compete at state beginning on Feb. 22 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Tickets for the competition are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.

Warriors win physical game against Elks



PHOTOS BY BECKY GERRARD

Left: North Douglas senior Abby Whipple drives in for a lay-up on Saturday night against Elkton. Whipple finished with a game-high 15 points on the way to a Warriors win. Right: Junior Kiern Carnes is tightly defended by North Douglas sophomore Natalie Thompson.

North Douglas finishes regular season with hard-fought victory over Elkton

By Zach Silva
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While North Douglas and Elkton both scored baskets in the opening 20 seconds of the game, it was not a sign of what was to come. Instead of outstanding offense it was a foul frenzy as the teams combined four 33 fouls and 23 made baskets. But through the slugfest of a game Saturday night in Drain, it was the Warriors (20-4, 11-1 Skyline) running away from the Elks (13-10, 8-4) for a 36-24 victory to end the regular season and claim the league title.

"We got our 20th win tonight and we're proud of that because it was against a pretty good schedule," said North Douglas head coach Jeff Davis. "I think our league has a half-dozen team that are very capable on any given night... so it's just a

good feeling [to get this win]. That's what the assistants said to the kids. Enjoy this, enjoy the day tomorrow and then we get back to work on Monday."

While North Douglas defeated Elkton 43-19 in the first matchup of the season, Saturday's contest stayed close in the first half. The Elkton offense tried to capitalize on loose balls and turnovers but the Warriors were keyed in on scoring threats of Aspy Luzier and Kiern Carnes.

On offense, North Douglas controlled the majority of possession as they cycled through their sets waiting for opportunities that were few and far between. A Rilie-Jo Olds three point play to finish the first half gave the Warriors a 16-12 lead.

"Sometimes it's a game of who makes the fewest mistakes and tonight might have been one of those nights," said Davis. Adding, "Four points can be a big lead when your opponent only has 12."

In the third quarter, the fouls

went up as the scoring went down. There were 13 combined fouls in the quarter and eight combined points as the Warriors outscored the Elks 6-2. Elkton had shots at the rim but failed to convert as they struggled against the physical North Douglas defense.

"They are all over you. They're grabbing and holding and (the referees) wouldn't call it. Every time we try to make a cut they were pushing," said Elkton head coach Rob Parker. "When you get knocked off your path and you're trying to rebound and you're getting hit. You're going up for a shot and getting hit. It's tough to get anything going." Elkton had 22 turnovers on the game while the Warriors recorded 15 steals.

Throughout the physical game, that featured the Elks being called for an intentional foul, North Douglas continued to find ways to score. In the second half it was senior Abby Whipple leading the way scoring 13 of her 15 points on the

game. Elkton scored 12 point as a team in the second half.

"Without a doubt, she will lead in some statistical category each night," Davis said of Whip-

ple. "She was a little too excited early but once she settled down, she did a real nice job."

In the fourth quarter, the Elks

WARRIORS see B4



North Douglas guard Sofia Alcantar tries to weave through the Elkton defense.

Kelty downed with injury, Ladd leads Lions



Cottage Grove's Matty Ladd calls for the ball in the second half of the game against Elmira. Ladd scored 18 points in the game.

Cottage Grove's Kelty injured against Elmira in win

By Zach Silva
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An attempted buzzer beater at the end of the first half turned into a season-altering play for Cottage Grove on Friday night at Elmira. While the Lions (13-9, 5-3 Sky-Em) cruised to a 52-29 victory over the Falcons (3-17, 1-7), the most impactful moment was at the end of the first half when Cottage Grove's leading scorer Reilly Kelty got tangled up going for a rebound, rolled her ankle and had to leave the game early to get an x-ray. As of Monday, Cottage Grove head coach Steve Eastburn said

the high-ankle sprain would "probably end her season."

Kelty, who was named first-team Sky-Em a season ago, started the game strong for the Lions scoring 10 points in the opening quarter while dishing out a pair of assists on the team's other two field goals.

"We were rolling. That's why you hate to see that happen because then we kind of had to readjust and everybody had to get used to playing with each other again," said Eastburn. "So you always hate to lose one of your top players like that because they are so important to the team." The Lions have faced injuries all season including senior starting point guard Tara Child suffering a torn ACL ear-

lier in the year.

For Cottage Grove, Kelty's injury comes at the most pivotal time of the year as the team heads into the final week of season. While top ranked Marshfield (21-1, 8-0) sits in first in Sky-Em, the Lions are fighting Marist (14-7, 6-2) and Junction City (13-9, 4-4) for a coveted second place finish. The Lions host both teams this week and earlier this season 13th ranked Cottage Grove defeated the ninth ranked Spartans and fell to the 10th ranked Tigers.

But against Elmira on Friday night, it was next person up for the Lions as they focused on the task at hand.

"I'm comfortable with any-

LIONS see B4

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is North Douglas senior Cal Parks. Parks helped guide the Warriors to a win over Elkton last week recording 14 points, nine rebounds, three steals and two assists. To read more about the team's win, turn to B4.



North Douglas' Cal Parks drives against Days Creek earlier this season. PHOTO BY BECKY GERRARD