

ELKS *from B1*



Elkton senior Austin Luzier records an out as he completes an off-balanced throw to first. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

took too deep of a breath and it's like, ok, let's just [mess around]. And it kills me," said first-year Oakland head coach Ben Lane. "We're not mentally strong enough to do that yet. They will be, they'll get there but right now we're not."

The Elks were able to piece a few runs together but never enough to threaten as Oakland finished things off. It was more of the same for Oakland in the second game as they found success in their pitchers and continued to hit the ball.

"The biggest thing for us is pitching and throwing strikes. It has killed us," said

Lane, who believes with the way the schedule breaks his team has a chance at winning out the rest of the season. "But if you don't throw strikes, it doesn't matter what you do."

With three weeks left in the regular season for the Elks, they are now trying to put the pieces together and scrape out a few wins. And continue to improve.

"Just improvement especially in those areas where the kids who haven't played much baseball before. We want to see them improve. Just the little things of hitting it and putting it in play. Or making a catch in the

outfield or backing somebody up and throwing the ball in quickly," said Shaw. "Those little things where we can tell we're actually improving. That's the big thing."

This week the Elks have Riddle, followed by a series against a Glendale team that has not won in league and the year is capped against North Douglas.

"We're going to battle our way to the end and you're always trying to figure out a way to pull something off," said Shaw. "We'll keep working at it and see if we can't get a win or two in this league schedule."

High School Baseball and Softball Standings

Sky-Em Baseball		
Team	League	Overall
Junction City	7-2	13-4
Marist	7-2	11-6
Elmira	5-3	11-5
Cottage Grove	5-3	8-9
Marshfield	2-7	5-11
Siuslaw	0-9	1-15

Sky-Em Softball		
Team	League	Overall
Marist	9-0	16-2
Junction City	8-1	16-3
Elmira	5-4	11-7
Marshfield	4-5	7-10
Siuslaw	1-8	1-14
Cottage Grove	0-9	0-15

Special District 4 Baseball		
Team	League	Overall
UVC	12-0	19-1
Glide	9-3	10-6
North Douglas	7-2	13-4
Riddle/Days Creek	5-4	7-10
Oakland	3-9	5-11-1
Glendale	0-9	4-11
Elkton/Yoncalla	0-9	2-9

Special District 3 Softball		
Team	League	Overall
North Douglas	12-0	19-1
Centrall Linn	11-1	18-2
Monroe	7-3	8-5
Oakland	6-2	10-3
Mohawk	5-4	6-6
Lowell	5-6	5-10
Oakridge	4-9	4-13
Days Creek	4-10	4-13
Riddle	2-8	4-11
Yoncalla/Elkton	0-13	2-16

Solwold has big weekend in Speedway opener

By Ben Deatherage
Cottage Grove Speedway

After waiting patiently for over a month racing at Cottage Grove Speedway finally commenced for the 2019 race season. Friday, April 26th, witnessed the opening leg of the two-night Spring Fling at the ¼-mile clay oval. Three classes made up the competition including 360 Sprints, the Mohawk Metal IMCA Modifieds, and IMCA Sport Mods.

Not only did Jason Solwold have the lead but he also had an open race track to deal with. Jason held on the rest of the distance at the front and the defending CGS 360 Sprint champion recorded the victory. Colton Heath was second over Jacksonville's Tanner Holmes, in third.

Tanner Holmes set fast time of the night earlier in the program. Heat race winners were Janesville, California teenager Chelsea Blevins, Seth Nunes of Medford, and Central Point's Jake Wheeler. Jason Solwold captured the Dot's Trophy Shop Trophy Dash.

In the Mohawk Metal IMCA Modifieds feature three cautions took place before the completion of the second lap. Despite the stoppages Cottage Grove native Curtis Towns put his machine out in front of the pack. Towns stayed there for quite some time before eventually losing the cov-

eted top spot on lap seven, shortly after a restart, to Corbett's Collen Winebarger.

Lastly, the IMCA Sport Mods had a good race. Jordan Braaten returned to his prime form after winning the track and state titles last season. The Central Point native obtained the lead on the opening lap. But just like Winebarger, Braaten had to deal with similar factors including restarts, traffic, and a couple of challengers but all in all he managed to maintain his position and win in his first outing at "the Grove".

Cottage Grove native brothers Braedon and Shawn Hand, now residing in Springfield, finished second and third respectively.

After a thrilling season opener the night before it would be an even more exhilarating Saturday program. 360 Sprints, Mohawk Metal IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Mods, and Hornets were all the divisions on the bill.

Just like in night one, Ja-

son Solwold took full advantage of his front row starting position in the 360 Sprint main event. But just like the previous evening Solwold had to deal with some thick traffic. A late challenge would be brought before Jason by the likes of youngster Tyler Thompson.

The Harrisburg teenager, Thompson, was able to hunt down Solwold and just as he was setting up a move for the lead a lapped car spun in front of both drivers. The lap twenty-five restart allowed for Solwold to operate with an open race track and cruise to his second straight victory at CGS in 2019. It is the fourth overall win of the season for the Burlington, Washington chauffeur in the Mike Anderson and Monica Baca owned entry.

Heat race winners were Forler, Medford native Seth Nunes, and Solwold.

Defending Street Stock champion Ray Bloom had a great start in the Mohawk Metal IMCA Modified main event. The Cottage Grove pilot managed to pace the

field for the first three laps before being overtaken by Derik Young. Young, from the Eastern Oregon town of Hines, had no issues once in front of the pack with the only thing slowing him down was four cautions. Despite the stoppages Young maintained the top place position to achieve his first win of the season.

Cottage Grove's Curtis Towns was yet again the runner-up with Redmond traveler B.J. Wild posted a third-place finish. Aaron Sheelar, of Springfield, crossed the wire fourth while Springfield's Jake Mayden was once more fifth. In IMCA Sport action it would all be about Matt Sanders. The Brookings ace held on to the coveted top spot the entire race despite five cautions and a handful of challenges. It marked the first occasion that Sanders

has won at Cottage Grove this year.

Lastly, the Hornets made their only appearance of the weekend on Saturday. Defending track champion Graig Osborne was the man to beat for much of the main. The Creswell driver led the first thirteen circuits before being involved in an incident. It put Eugene's Joe Maricle in first and where he would remain as Maricle dominated the closing stages of the feature.

Cottage Grove Speedway returns to ¼-mile racing Saturday, May 4th, for the annual Fan Appreciation Night featuring a special \$10.00 ticket for General Admission. Classes in competition include the Todd's Auto Body Sprint Cars, Late Models, Mohawk Metal IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Mods, and Hornets.

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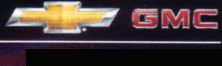
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5/7 5:00 p.m.Baseball vs. Marist Softball vs. Marist	5/7 4:30 p.m.Baseball vs. UVC	5/3 2:00 p.m.Baseball @ Riddle/Days Creek 4:00 p.m.Baseball @ Riddle/Days Creek	
		5/6 4:30 p.m.Softball vs. Riddle	
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