

LIONS
from
B1



Left: Cottage Grove’s Jaxon Simmons delivers a pitch against Elmira last Tuesday. Top: Hunter Sharkey comes up with a timely hit against the Falcons. Bottom: Kellen Bennett throws out a runner at first.
 PHOTOS BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Lydick was walked, junior Hunter Sharkey came to the plate with the bases loaded. “Sharkey coming up (with runners on base) for the third time in this game. And he kept having better at-bats and better at-bats. And you know, he came through,” said Geiszler of Sharkey’s lined drive that scored two runs and gave the team the lead. “That was an excellent at-bat and our kids battled and we put the ball in play and made them make mistakes which is going to happen if you put pressure on them in high school baseball.” The Lions were able to gather up two more runs in the inning to solidify their lead. For Elmira, it was not the first time in the last week that they had what head coach Ryan Wolgamott called their “implosion inning” “It just snowballed. I don’t know, it just kind of seemed like one bad thing after the other and that’s kind of been us this year, that’s what we do. We gave up 14 runs in one inning last week,” he said recalling the team’s 20-1 loss to Junction City. While it was Cottage Grove’s bats coming alive

late to grab an important win, what put the team in a position to win came from their pitchers. Jaxon Simmons got the start and went five innings while Hunter Sharkey and Conner Browning each closed the game out with an inning of work each. But more than who was on the mound, it was their ability to throw curveballs that had Elmira batters off-balanced and lunging at pitches throughout the game. “It’s usually like that. That’s usually the case with most kids when I throw that curveball at them. It’s just up to me with throwing strikes with it,” said Simmons. “I finally just figured out how to throw that first strike and that’s done a lot of great things for me.” During a loss to Marist earlier this season, the Cottage Grove coaching staff realized just how successful their pitchers could be at throwing a large quantity of curveballs. And they have stuck with it ever since. “Jaxon and Sharkey are almost more comfortable throwing their curveball and they just pitch better. And they don’t throw hard so all of a sudden a 67 mile per hour fastball after four curve-

balls looks about 80. So it just changes the perception of the batter,” said Geiszler. “I mean the goal is to keep them off-balance and if you can get a hitter off-balance, they’re not going to be very successful. And that’s kind of what they’ve done a really good job of.” To finish the week, the Lions recorded home victories of 7-4 and 14-3 against Siuslaw (1-18, 0-12). Looking to work their way into the playoffs with a top-two finish in league or an at-large bid, the Lions have a difficult task as they take on the top teams in league. On Tuesday (after *The Sentinel’s* print deadline) at home Cottage Grove hosts Marist (12-8, 8-4), a team the Lions are currently tied with for second place. The teams split a pair of games earlier this season. On Friday, Cottage Grove finishes their season with a double-header against fourth ranked Junction City (16-4, 10-2).

High School Baseball and Softball Standings

Sky-Em Baseball		
Team	League	Overall
Junction City	10-2	16-4
Marist	8-4	12-8
Cottage Grove	8-4	11-10
Elmira	6-4	12-6
Marshfield	2-8	5-12
Siuslaw	0-12	1-18

Sky-Em Softball		
Team	League	Overall
Marist	11-1	19-3
Junction City	10-2	18-4
Elmira	8-4	15-7
Marshfield	4-8	7-13
Siuslaw	3-9	3-15
Cottage Grove	0-12	0-18

Special District 4 Baseball		
Team	League	Overall
UVC	12-0	19-1
Glide	10-5	11-8
North Douglas	9-3	15-5
Riddle/Days Creek	8-4	10-10
Oakland	5-10	7-13-1
Glendale	1-11	6-12
Elkton/Yoncalla	0-12	2-12

Special District 3 Softball		
Team	League	Overall
North Douglas	15-0	22-1
Centrall Linn	14-3	21-4
Oakland	12-2	16-3
Monroe	10-4	11-6
Mohawk	7-7	8-9
Lowell	6-9	6-13
Oakridge	4-10	4-14
Days Creek	4-12	4-15
Riddle	2-12	4-15
Yoncalla/Elkton	0-15	2-18

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