

Warriors get two wins against UVC

Behind strong pitching, North Douglas baseball scores two wins against second-ranked team

By Zach Silva
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Hoping for one win, the North Douglas baseball team got two.

In a three-game series with second-ranked Umpqua Valley Christian (13-2 SD4, 20-3) last week, it was the North Douglas (11-4, 17-6) pitchers guiding the team to a pair of wins that have moved the Warriors into the top-10 in the rankings.

"When the week started, I know we were really excited about having a chance to beat UVC at home. Thought that was our best chance and then we found a way to put things together in game one," said North Douglas head coach Jeff Davis.

After coming up empty with the bases loaded and no outs in the first inning, the Warriors found their way onto the scoreboard in the third inning with three runs. Senior Koldan Frieze's grounder through the infield scored a pair of runs. The hit was followed up by a double from junior Tanner Parks that scored Frieze.

"It was good for our confidence that they did not score in the first. And then we came right back and answered. Sometimes in your mind you have to say, 'We can play with these guys,'" said Davis.

Picking up another run in the fourth, North Douglas' offense was then helped by the team's pitching. UVC, one of the highest-scoring teams in the 2A/1A classification, struggled to get hits off North Douglas' one-two punch of Brian Erickson or Colter Anderson.

"Most the year they've been really good. Brian has, sometimes reluctantly, become that number one. And we talked yesterday at practice about which guy we would like to start today and Brian said, 'Eh, maybe I feel more comfortable closing,'" said Davis. "But if you look at our scores, and albeit, some of our opponents were weak, but even against the better teams, we've not allowed a lot of runs."

In the sixth inning, the Monarchs came up with two of their five hits on the game as they put together three runs. But the team, and specifically the pitchers, just kept plugging away.

"I was just knowing that I don't need to be nervous up there. Just got to focus and not let it get to me knowing that they're a good hitting team," said Anderson. "We never got down ourselves if we did get a big hit. And we just kept going with it, just fought the whole battle."

While North Douglas was able to close out the game, the bigger win for the team came from the amount of pitchers their

Cottage Grove sends four to state meet



Cottage Grove junior Jimmy Talley leaves the competition behind on his way to a first place finish in the 3000 last Friday at the Sky-Em Districts. Talley is one of four Cottage Grove athletes who will be competing next weekend at Mt. Hood Community College. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Lions have standout performances at Sky-Em track and field districts

By Zach Silva
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It was two days full of sunburns, close calls and, for the Cottage Grove track and field team, four athletes making their way to the state meet.

"That's amazing. I'm just so proud of them. It made my year," said first-year head coach Gyna Walton.

While the Cottage Grove team was unable to continue its recent run of team success – the boys placed fourth as a team and girls fifth after winning the last three coed titles – there was a group of individuals that stood out at the Sky-Em District track and field meet last week.

Competing at Marist High School on Friday and Saturday, Cottage Grove junior Mitchell Krokus (triple jump, long jump), junior Jimmy Talley (3000 and 1500), sophomore

Matty Ladd (high jump) and freshman Gracie Arnold (high jump and javelin) all earned their spots at this week's state meet which begins on Friday at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham.

All four state-bound athletes entered the meet ranked in the top two of their respective events (except Talley in the 1500 who did not have an official time recorded this season). But at districts, it was anything but easy as the group punched their tickets to the state meet.

"(Jimmy) was focused, he knew what his job was today and he came out and he executed it to what he needed. And he did amazing... Mitchell is amazing in jumps and his attitude. He's just one of the best kids out on this team, I believe," said Walton, going through each of the team's state-qualifiers. "Gracie's amazing. She can throw anything, jump anything. And as a freshman? That's wild... And Matty, again, she's so athletic. She could bowl a perfect

game or whatever. What do you say about that group of kids? And it's so exciting that they're going to be back next year."

Jimmy Talley

Competing in both distance events, Talley took part in two completely different races. Where the 3000 was a patient affair in which no one wanted to lead, the 1500 was the polar opposite as it was a pack of

three Marist runners looking to make sure no one else led. But, to Talley, it didn't matter if it was a methodical jaunt or a sprint from the start as he claimed first place in the 3000 and squeezed his way into second in the 1500.

Entering the 3000, Talley was ready to wait out the competition. After claiming the league title last season as a sophomore, he finished second at the state

meet. This year, Talley, after a slow start to the season, holds the second fastest time in the state.

"Earlier in the season, I wasn't running too fast for 3K so I was a little scared," said Talley who came alive at the end of the season Wally Ciochetti Invitational where he ran a 9:08 and took second to the 4A's top 3000 runner Leo Johns of Newport. "I had a little bit

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Freshman Gracie Arnold is all smiles after dramatically advancing to state in high jump. Arnold took second while teammate Matty Ladd claimed first. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG



A pair of Junction City baseball players celebrate an eighth inning victory over Cottage Grove last Friday. PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Losses leave Lions in limbo

After dropping three games in the week, Cottage Grove left scoreboard-watching to see if they will make the playoffs

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While the regular season has come to an end for the Cottage Grove baseball team, it is (as of this printing) unclear if the Lions will be playing in the post-season.

Three losses in the final week of the season – to Marist on Tuesday and twice to Junction City on

Friday – kept the Lions out of an automatic spot reserved for the top-two teams in league. Now, the team, currently ranked 20th by the OSAA, is left scoreboard watching as they are right on the bubble to be one of eight teams in the play-in games.

"We don't really know if we're in the playoffs or not which is a hard situation when it could be your last game and talking to the seniors. OK, we might, we will practice Monday just in case we're in," said Cottage Grove head coach Dan Geiszler after Friday's games.

Facing fifth-ranked Junc-

tion City (13-2 Sky-Em, 19-4) on Friday, a team that had already locked up first in league, the Lions were looking for a win to improve their playoff chances. And in game one – a 5-4 eight inning loss – they almost had it.

In the early innings, the Tigers were making good contact and the team scored a run in each of the first four innings. It looked like the Lions had changed their fortunes in the fifth inning when it appeared junior Gavin Sowa blasted a ball over the left field wall for a two-run home run but instead the hit was called

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Athletes of the Week



This week's athletes of the week are the members of the Sweetie Pies volleyball team. The team took first place in the Cottage Grove women's volleyball association league.



From left: Alexis Gaethle, Courtney McGowen, Brooke Rich, Shannon Davey and Lia Davey of the Sweetie Pies. Not pictured: Shawna Burdett.

PHOTO C/O KRISTEL VOIGT

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