FOOTBALL *from B1*

football.

"He's got head coaching experience. Last year he was the head coach at Siuslaw and so he already knows, sort of, the role of what a high school head football coach needs to do," said Myers. "And Siuslaw High School is fairly similar in size to here so he's kind of got a background, and he wasn't going to be a first-time head coach, which is nice."

Before Smith's head coaching tour around Oregon, Smith, who graduated from Sweet Home High School in 2005, also had a stop at Sheldon High School in Eugene where he coached with former CGHS head coach Gary Roberts. He also coached under former Sheldon head coach, and CGHS offensive coordinator, Marty Johnson and coached Johnson's son, and former CGHS coach, Jordan Johnson.

After two years as an assistant at Sheldon, Smith was an assistant at Sprague from 2008-2010. During this time he was also finishing up his undergraduate degree at Western and his Master's at Willamette University.

Smith's experience – and experience with Sheldon especially – was something that interested Myers.

"Cottage Grove uses a lot of the same systems Sheldon used… So a lot of the same language and a lot of the same systems that they used are going to stay the same. So that appealed, too," said Myers noting that it was one less thing the football players would have to worry about. "They have a new athletic director, they have a new coach, they don't really need to be learning a new system on top of all that other stuff."

Already on the same page as his team, Smith is looking to use that to his advantage.

"You don't want to come in and reinvent the wheel, you want to come in and move things along and if there are little changes that maybe I'll do but we're not going to do a whole bunch of wholesale changes," said Smith. "Especially right now, being July, that's unfair to the kids, I think. We're trying to keep things as similar as possible and just move forward and just get ready for the season."

Now that he has the job, Smith notes that the two biggest challenges are getting to know the team and filling out his assistant coaches. On Thursday Smith met some of his athletes while they were lifting with assistant coach and athletic trainer Jared Hutchins. Hutchins is one of just a few remaining assistant coaches left from last year's team. Those that will not be returning include Jordan Johnson, Marty Johnson, Kyle Tucker, Chris Joyce and Dan Geiszler.

"That's my goal this weekend is to call those guys and I've talked to a few and just try to see where they're out, how they're feeling," said Smith. "So when I get home today I've got about four or five different people I'm going to call and talk to them and see where they're at and how they're feeling."

Smith is planning for both a team and parent meeting sometime next week. The first official day of football practice is Aug. 19. And the Lions will play in a jamboree on Aug. 30. The first game of the season is Sept. 6 on the road at Cascade.

The hiring of Smith marks the end of what had been an eventful offseason for Cottage Grove. In January Gary Roberts stepped down after 11 seasons as head coach. After that announcement, Roberts then took a job as assistant principal at his alma mater Marshfield in Coos Bay.

In April, Roberts' defensive coordinator Jordan Johnson was then hired as head coach. But things took a turn at the start of June when Johnson abruptly resigned before coaching a game. The former CGHS math teacher is now headed to his alma mater Sheldon High School to be an assistant coach for the football team and math teacher.

SPEEDWAY *from B1*

als and picked up the fastest time of the night. Heat races were won by Harrisburg teenager Tyler Thompson, Jake Haulot from Cotati, California, Arlington, Washington traveler Chris Bullock, and Kyle Hirst. Greg Hamilton was victorious in the trophy dash to earn his front row inside starting position in the feature. Garen Linder, of Central Point driving for car owners Randy and Debbie Nunes, finished in first place in the consolation feature.

The Speedway once more was the site of action with the series on Friday for the second of three scheduled shows at the quarter-mile clay oval. The Friday event boasted the largest car count of the week with 28 entries.

Come the time of the main event Kyle Hirst, of Paradise, California, seized the initiative right off the bat. Wrenching on the car, driven all week up until Friday by Steven Tiner, he hoped to make a big splash in his first appearance of the week. In traffic, he had some close company and not just immediately in front of him. Rocklin, California's Colby Copeland, racing for car owners Jim & Annette Van Lare, motored his way underneath Hirst, and even led lap eleven, only for Hirst to 11 back and reclaim the position on the 12th circuit.

A lap 12 caution eliminated the lapped traffic and a handful of cautions occurred afterward resulting in the race coming down to restarts. Kyle Hirst kept in front of the rest of the field to win his first race of the week, his second win at CGS, and his seventh career Speedweek triumph. The victory puts him fourth on the all-time win list trailing Roger Crockett (23), Steve Kent (13), and Brent Kaeding (10) on the chart.

Ryan Robinson, originating from Foresthill and driving for car owner Vern Morrison, placed second and behind him, in third, would be Hanford, California's Mitchell Faccinto, driving for Stan Greenberg. Clarksburg, California driver Justyn Cox ended his evening in fourth for car owner Doug and Kathy Rutz while Jacksonville teenager Tanner Holmes completed the top five, in fifth.

Justyn Cox was the quickest driver in time trials. Heat races were won by Aromas, California driver Justin Sanders, Colby Copeland, Harrisburg youngster Tyler Thompson, and Mitchell Faccinto. Kyle Hirst won the trophy dash to earn the inside front row starting position in the main event. Tyler Thompson bested the field in the first consolation feature of the entire week.

Friday also saw the return of the Western Sprint Tour for Speedweek Northwest. Support divisions that evening included the Late Models and Hornets. Between the two classes, there were 23 cars with drivers from Oregon and Washington.

Kye Frick took care of business in the Late Model division. The Sweet Home native paced the field for the entire distance with the only thing slowing him down being the three cautions. Frick went on to collect his first win of the 2019 season. Brian Smith, also from Sweet Home and driving for car owner Jerry Casey, was the runner-up followed by Craig Hanson, of Albany, in third. The rest of the top five comprised of fourth finishing Paul Culp, now a resident of Creswell, and Eugene's Chuck Christian, in fifth.

In the Hornet division, there was quite a bit of dominance from Brad Moffett. The Eugene chauffeur led the entire distance of the feature to capture his second triumph of the current campaign. Dexter's Barry Cannon was an impressive second while third went to Mark Milligan, of Eugene. Crossing the wire in fourth was Joel Hazen, from Eugene, and Cottage Grove's Jim Simmons got fifth.

A car speeds through a turn over the weekend at the Cottage Grove Speedway. PHOTO C/O JRP RACING

Kyle Hirst with his winnings after a weekend of racing. PHOTO C/O BEN DEATHERAGE.

2019 Club Scramble
Middlefield Golf Course

1. 53.1
Gary Culp, Phil Hamilton, Ed Prunkl, Debbie Dodson

2. 53.3
Bruce Dorman, Ron Ackerman, Jerry Pennington, Kathy Moran

3. 53.9
Larry Zuvich, Rick LeBrun, Mike Stahl, Beth Forsland

4. 54.3
Gary Sparks, Keith Rowling, Jim Cunningham, Pam Hirsh

5. 54.5
Dale Johnson, Dick Winters, Pat Rickard, Berta Rawie

6. 54.6
Jack Cox, Jim Hoover, Frank Gates, Susan Bryce

7. 54.8
Don Tucker, Larry Strickland, Gary Ackley, Ronda Novak

8. 55.1
Tom Arney, Joe Rehm, Jim Wamsley, Penny Haan

Closest to the Pin:
#5
Rick Lebrun, Ronda Novak
#7 Dale Johnson, Wendy Hitt
#14 Jack Cox, Wendy Hitt

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