

Elks go down to the wire in opening victory

By Nick Snyder
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Eight-man football is a sport that typically lends itself to space, speed and consequentially high, lopsided final scores. Elkton's first game of the year was no such contest. On Friday, Sept. 6 the Elks defeated visiting Mohawk by a final score of 28-22 to give Jeremy Lockhart a win in his inaugural game as a varsity head coach. The score, however, does not do the intensity of this game justice.

"Thank goodness we pulled it out," said Lockhart after the game, still reeling from the excitement of what they had accomplished. "It looked like we were doing pretty well. It was a nice start at first ... We had one turnover, a fumble, and that kind of flipped the script and they turned it around and scored pretty much back-to-back. Next thing we knew we were down, and we were down late."

Behind the strength of a solid defense that forced four turnovers in the game, Elkton scored 14 unanswered points in the second quarter to close out the half after Mohawk opened the scoring with a touchdown and a failed two-point conversion.

The third quarter continued relatively uneventfully with Elkton tacking on another touchdown for good measure, taking a 20-6 lead into the final period.

In the fourth quarter things got wild. Mohawk scored two quick touchdowns, converting both two-point conversions, to take a 22-20 lead. Elkton was unable to answer for much of the quarter.

Mohawk had a third down and two to go with 2:09 left in the game and looking to close things out for the win. In a confounding decision, Mohawk decided to throw on third down, a pass that fell incomplete and stopped the clock. The Elks defense stood strong, stopping them on fourth down, resulting in a turnover and a stopped clock.

Because of the incomplete pass and turnover on downs, Elkton had time remaining and timeouts to spare, eventually making their way down the field and scoring the go-ahead touchdown and conversion to take a 28-22 lead with 22 seconds on the clock. The barnburner of a game was still not quite finished.

In a testament to the team's resilience, Mohawk quickly got the ball within the Elks' five-yard line but were denied by a stout, swarming defense, failing to convert a game-tying touchdown as time expired.

"To get that turnover on downs, then get the ball back, drive down and score, and then have to do a goal line stand. It was a lot to ask for these kids," said Lockhart. But

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Cougars pounce on Lions in season opener



PHOTO BY NICK SNYDER/CGSENTINEL

The Lions could never get much of anything going against a Cascade Cougars team that looks to be formidable in 2019. Here the team heads off the field to shake hands with the opposing team then board for the long bus ride back to Cottage Grove.

CG will look to work out the kinks before heading into their week two matchup

By Nick Snyder
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From commentator quotes to "coach-speak", sports are filled with clichés. "On to the next one" is an oft-heard mantra pointing to the need to move on from let-downs, allowing a team to focus on the road ahead. For Cottage Grove football, they will most definitely be looking to move on to next week.

In a struggle on both sides of the ball from the outset of the first quarter, the Lions were defeated by the Cascade Cougars 55-6 on Friday, Sept. 6 at Cascade High School in Turner, Ore.

"We have a lot of players that haven't played a varsity game before. We have a lot of guys where today was their first varsity experience, so whether it's jitters or nerves or things like that, those are things that are hopefully now

past us and we can move on and get better," said Chad Smith after his inaugural game as Cottage Grove head coach.

Cascade showed their experience in all phases of the game. Their defense swarmed to the ball, the offense looked smooth and explosive and the end result was a difficult matchup for a team lacking in experienced varsity players. Nonetheless, week one is not the time to make firm conclusions about a team's season-long outlook. Regardless of talent and experience, there are always kinks to work out early in the season.

"I think everyone played and they played hard. The kids did what we asked them to do," said Smith in regards to his young squad. "We're going to watch film and see what we need to improve on and see some things we can do to get better ... Usually your biggest improvement is from week one to week two so that's what we're looking to do ... We can't let this loss affect the rest of our sea-

son, so we watch this to get better tomorrow and then move on to Crook County on Monday."

The Cougars won the coin-toss and elected to receive; it was a small, early victory that portended the rest of the game. Cascade scored their first touchdown within the first 90 seconds of the game and closed the first quarter with a short-yardage score run by senior running back Ethan Coffey.

Things didn't improve from there as the Lions struggled all night to contain Coffey and sophomore quarterback Jacob Hage, the leaders of a dominant running attack that never seemed to let up. By halftime, the score was 41-0 and the Cougars never looked back.

"Cascade is always good. They have people that run hard, work hard. They got big strong kids and they changed their offense this year. That's a tough offense, especially week one, to prepare for and that's just the way the cards fell. I fully expect them to be at the top

of their league so it's a good showing of where we need to be and how hard we need to go," Smith said.

The Lions finally punched in a score late in the fourth quarter on an 11-yard passing strike from backup quarterback Logan Lowery to Jacob Dunn.

Ultimately, Cascade outgained the Lions 337-20 on the ground and Hage finished the game 6-6 passing for 112 yards and a touchdown, also adding seven carries for 126 yards and an additional three scores.

In this game, the experience gap was insurmountable. The good news? Cottage Grove now has no other choice but to move "on to the next one."

"Now we've got that stuff out of the way, so we just have to move forward to next week and not let this game beat us twice," Smith said.

The Lions will look to get back on track at home, Friday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. against Crook County.

Jorgenson scores Herz Nationals prelim win

By Ben Deatherage
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Cottage Grove Speedway was back into the swing of things on Friday, September 6. It was the first of two nights of the 2019 Herz Precision Parts Wingless Nationals. The Wingless Sprints, Street Stocks and Dwarf Cars all inhabited the famed quarter-mile clay oval.

Kevin Cory made a significant return to Cottage Grove Speedway in the Wingless feature. The Medford veteran, racing for car owner Steven Thompson, paced the field for the first lap of the main. Redmond's Brent Rich, in the Nickye Mendenhall-owned mount, took over the role as the leader on the second circuit.

Rich had a tough task of keeping all challengers at bay. Eventually, Ricky Ashley made his way to the front on the fourth trip past the flag stand. Ashley, of Thurston, managed to construct a massive lead over the rest of the competition.

However, in the late stages of the races he would be bottled up in heavy lapped traffic. Ricky Ashley lost the lead on lap 24 at the start/finish line. The driver taking over the role in the first place position was Jonathan Jorgenson from Puyallup, Washington. Rac-



PHOTO C/O LESTER HANKINS

Jonathan Jorgenson poses with his family and friends after his speedway victory.

ing for Tacoma, Washington-based car owner Sterling Kane, Jorgenson led the balance of the distance to pick up a massive win.

Trent Carter, making the long tow from Redondo Beach, California, squeaked into second place on the final lap. Ricky Ashley ended the main in third while Eagle Creek youngster Lindsay Barney finished her night fourth. Rob Lindsey of Sherwood, wrapped up the top five

finishing order in fifth.

A special knock-out qualifying format was utilized for the night to determine the winner of the \$500 bonus courtesy of Herz Precision Parts. Ricky Kirkbride from Bakersfield, California was the last man standing and was the winner of the time trial battle. Also, Kirk-

See SPEEDWAY 4A

Athlete of the Week



This week's athletes of the week are the Junior Adult Summer League bowling champions Don Fitzgerald and Zach Anlauf.



Don Fitzgerald (left) and Zach Anlauf (right) show off their medals.

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