

CG volleyball cruise to second consecutive win



NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Junior Matty Ladd skied high all game long for blocks and kills, leading her team to victory of Klamath Union last Thursday.

By NICK SNYDER
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After somewhat unexpectedly dropping their first two games to Crescent Valley and Philomath, last Tuesday gave all indications that Cottage Grove volleyball has gotten into the swing of things.

Taking on visiting Klamath Union (5-3) on Sept. 12 for their second home match, the Lions made quick work of the Pelicans, winning 3-0 (25-14, 25-12, 25-11). Amidst a buzzing atmosphere - fervent fans, a boisterous student cheering section and even players dancing between points - Cottage Grove took care of business in just over an hour.

“Shane May, our announcer, when he’s there to play music it’s great. It really helps get the crowd into it also, and the crowd was great on Thursday,” said head coach Kendra Anderson.

Whether it was the music that spurred the team on to victory is a dubious mystery, but “playing loose” is an oft-heard

term in many sports and the young women of the volleyball team looked relaxed and ready for league play in their sixth game of the season and second consecutive 3-0 victory.

Sophomore libero Taylor McKay looked like a fixture in the starting lineup, freshman Blakely Herbert communicated loudly with her teammates in a way that typically belies young players and key-stone leaders Matty Ladd (jr.) and Gracie Arnold (so.) defended the net and spiked the ball in customary impressive fashion.

“Her hangtime is so impressive,” one spectator was overheard saying about Ladd as she rose above the net again and again. Ladd finished the game with 13 kills in total.

Additionally for the Lions, Arnold had nine kills and one block, McKay finished with six digs, Izabell Senters (so.) smashed five aces and Peyton Kidd (so.) had 31 assists and five digs.

See **VOLLEYBALL 3B**

XC teams get glimpse of district course at LCC

By NICK SNYDER
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It’s an exciting year for fans of Cottage Grove boys’ and girls’ cross country and last Saturday gave the teams an early glimpse of a course they hope to revisit at the end of the season.

The Northwest Classic at Lane Community College (LCC) featured 33 boys’ teams and 32 girls’ teams from high schools across Oregon, Washington and California. The still-nascent Cottage Grove team - with a bevy of underclassmen runners looking to carry the program into the future - acquitted themselves well, taking 12 varsity boys and girls competitors to the course that will be the future venue for the district and state championships later this fall.

With relatively flat terrain, the LCC course gave the team an opportunity to set fast times while also prepping for future competitions.

“When you’re mostly running hilly courses that challenge your strength and are more like building strength and endurance, then you come out here and you run something like this, all of a sudden it’s kind of a shock. There isn’t a lot to challenge you physically other than your speed and 3.1 miles. So, this was a fun way to look ahead and we’ll have some real things we can talk about goal-wise,” said head coach Jim Settlemeyer.

“This was, for the people who ran it, pretty darn close to how fast they can run at this point in time, no matter what the course. And we’ll now see if we can chop away. [Personal records] are meaningful now.”

In total, the Lions trotted out seven male and five female competitors, nine of whom are underclassmen.

Unsurprisingly, senior Jimmy Talley carried the torch, finishing second overall in the varsity 5k - a race that included 1A, 2A, 3A and

See **NW CLASSIC 2B**



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Cottage Grove is getting closer and closer to seeing it’s hometown Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center return to action after a long period of upgrades and renovations. The locker rooms have been completely overhauled, the pool shortened to a standard 25 meters and a warm water recreation pool added. In the main tank, the lanes have been widened as well as deepened and there is better filtration so the pool will officially be considered a “fast” pool. The grand opening is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Cowboys corral Lions in first home game

By NICK SNYDER
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After two games, and with a largely still-inexperienced squad, Cottage Grove football is still looking to find its footing in the 2019 season.

Last Friday, Sept. 13, Crook County made the long trek from Prineville and handily dispatched the Lions by a final score of 49-0, sending Cottage Grove to their first 0-2 start since the 2015 season.

In high school football there are no free agent signings, no draft and, for most schools, no recruitment of non-local players. Every season begins as a rough draft that needs work, regardless of talent on the listed roster. With a young team and a new head coach, the Lions are certainly still working out some kinks.

“This is a lot of guys’ second varsity game ... so we have to coach them up. That’s our job as coaches,” said first-year head coach Chad Smith after the game.

“We’ll watch our film tomorrow and get ready for Stayton next week. Like I said, we have to continue to play. The season is still going to come and we’re going to have game number three on Friday. It’s all about how we respond and where we go from here,” continued Smith, emphasizing the ever-present need in sports to move on

See **FOOTBALL 3B**



NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove’s Walker Humphrey (51) is unable to bring down Crook County running back Marshal Raymond before reaching the end zone.

Athlete of the Week



This week’s athlete of the week Jimmy Talley, runner for CG cross country who finished second overall at Saturday’s NW Classic 1A-4A 5k.



Talley sprints across the finish line ahead of third place finisher Will Thorsett from Sisters.

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