

Soccer from B1

son and the other for three more after this season so it's pretty exciting. We're looking forward to it," said Coach Stewart.

Cameron and Rea both ended with two goals apiece and the Lions scoring was helped along by goals from midfielders Evan Snauer (jr.), Cory Butts (jr.), Syllas Williams (so.) and defender and second-half substitute Drew Chapman (jr.).

"The nice thing about last night is we got to give some of our subs a chance to play, and not just a chance to play but a chance for us coaches to see which ones we can actually put in to a game and still produce," said Stewart after the game.

"Because one of the things you don't want to do as a coach is put in subs just for the sake of putting in subs. You have to earn your playing time and then when you earn your playing time you have to keep it by doing the things that the other people that start ahead of you

do and that earns you more playing time. If the play goes down in any way, you're just going to come back out."

But in this matchup, both the starting 11 and the substitutes who came in later in the second half worked in concert with one another to continue the Lions growing string of successes. The team scuttled to an 0-2 start after the first two games of the year, losing by a combined score of 0-9. However, in the last 91 minutes of play the Lions have scored a total of 11 goals and given up none.

"Our defense has been paying attention to how to convert it with holding the ball and then moving into an offensive attack quickly. We seemed to spend a lot of time just passing the ball back and forth, but we looked at some different things and one of the things was, we would possess the ball but we didn't have any kind of purpose," said Stewart in regards to his team's need for improvement in certain areas.

"So our emphasis this week was possession with purpose, meaning if you're going to possess it, you need to have

a reason why you're possessing it and that's to attack."

Cottage Grove got out to an early lead, scoring two goals within the first ten minutes and cruising into halftime with a commanding 5-0 lead. The first 10 minutes of the second half gave the impression that either the Lions had taken their foot off the gas or Banks' defense tightened up. Alas, the Lions then scored three more goals in the span of six minutes to seal the game.

Senior midfielder Andreas Blackstone was out for this contest due to injury, but the team also got back one of its team captains, senior defender Fernando Soto-Cruz, who missed the team's first three games.

Later in the week, the Lions also defeated visiting Astoria 6-2. It was knotted 2-2 at halftime, but Cottage Grove once again contin-

ued their recent scoring barrage, netting four more goals in the second half and holding Astoria scoreless behind the defensive leadership of Soto-Cruz. Aldo Rea added two more goals in the weekend contest.

The Lions are now 3-2 on the season and will next play Elmira at home on Thurs., Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.



NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL
Freshman Aldo Rea has quickly become an offensive star for the Lions soccer team.

Cross Country from B1

special opportunity, not just for his runners, but for the community as a whole.

"There's so many positives to doing this," Settlemeyer said. "There are parents that are helping and they talk about how grateful everybody is for this stuff and then you look at it, because they're smiling and they're helping them celebrate whatever they did, the people along the schute are helping people out. So our community gets to help everybody. It's a wonderful venue."

To Settlemeyer's delight, his push for team success is slowly but surely coming to fruition as the Lions boys squad finished fourth overall in the team competition, spurred along by top-20 finishes from both senior Jimmy Talley (2nd place, 17:42) and freshman Jaden Owens (16th, 18:42).

Owens - a product of the growing Lincoln Middle School cross country pipeline - was running in his first ever varsity race after running with junior varsity at his first race in Tillamook.

"This is his second meet he's been able to join us ... it's a pretty easy

decision to have him on varsity. His time at Ultimook was as fast as anybody's in the other courses. He's a very talented runner. His workouts have been real positive, he works hard. He belongs on the varsity team from now on," said Settlemeyer.

On the girls' side, despite solid results, the race didn't exactly start as planned.

"We didn't realize it was going to be our race until, like, ten minutes before the race. We thought the guys were going first so we had ten minutes to warm up. We were, like, 'oh shoot!' so we started warming up. It was kind of tough," said sophomore Eternity Reimche who finished with a time of 23 minutes and 34 seconds, finishing 18th overall in the girls varsity 5k.

Other finishers for the boys included Jaden Thuesen (29th, 20:31); Andy Wiley (25th, 21:07); Maycol Pable Herrera (46th, 21:53); and Tyler Russell (57th, 23:18). For the girls, there was Evie Smith (21st, 23:39); Kajsa Merz (28th, 26:01); and Helen Leal-Coronel (40th, 27:56).

The Lions next race is Sat., Sept. 28 at the Nike Portland XC held at Blue Lake Park.

Volleyball from B1

victory.

"So in between the third and fourth set we just talked about it. They're a group that enjoys the game, they love the game," Anderson continued.

"We just made sure we were focused on that part and then play, because we were worried about the score, we were worried about how we were playing versus just enjoying the game and playing hard ... then we just talked about grit. When you're down, you just have to have grit. We're young, but building that early is important."

Despite the close final score, there were indeed dominant stretches throughout the game. However, nearly all of those dominant stretches came at the hands of the Lions.

Six-foot outside hitter Mia Collins was problematic for the Cottage Grove defense throughout the game, but after working out the kinks from the first three sets, the overall talent of the Lions roster became evident.

Herbert finished the game with nine aces and six kills, perhaps the most impressive performance to date for the team's youngest starter.

"She's doing a good job. She has

to play some different positions in the back row on defense and she's doing a good job of learning that. She'll give a hundred percent, she'll just keep going ... she doesn't stop to think about it. She just goes," said Anderson.

Also starring for the lions in the league opener were sophomores Gracie Arnold (11 kills) and Taylor McKay (six digs), as well as junior captains Matty Ladd (16 kills and six digs) and Avery Hutchins (10 kills). Coach Anderson was particularly impressed with Hutchins.

"Avery had a great night tonight. She's one that just has energy all the way through. If you watch her coming in and out of the game, she's got a big huge smile and she's always making sure she's bringing energy to the bench, if she's coming to the bench, or out to the floor."

The Lions now sit at 5-5 overall on the season after splitting a pair of games in bracket play at last weekend's Sisters Tournament, with a win against Vale (2-0) and a loss to eventual tournament champion Sisters (0-2). They next travel to Elmira on Thurs., Sept. 26 for the second league match of the season.

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