

Local Sports Wrap-up

Cottage Grove

Volleyball: After finishing third overall in Sky-Em League play, the fifteenth-ranked Lions (11-12 overall, 6-4 league) traveled to thirteenth-ranked Stayton (10-8, 6-6) on Oct. 29 with the winner advancing to the OSAA 4A State Championships Round of 16. Cottage Grove came from behind to take it in five sets, winning 3-2 (23-25, 18-25, 25-21, 26-24, 15-13).

This set up a difficult Round of 16 matchup for the Lions against second-ranked Sisters (24-3, 11-1) on Nov. 2. Cottage Grove made the long drive over the Cascades and ultimately lost to the Outlaws in straight sets, 3-0 (25-16, 25-22, 25-20), ending the Lions' season earlier than they had hoped.

Cottage Grove can now look forward to the 2020 volleyball season when they will return all 10 varsity players from this year's squad.

Girls soccer: The sixteenth-ranked Lions (8-6, 6-2) took on the second-ranked North Valley Knights (10-2-2, 8-1-1) last night in Grants Pass. This was Cottage Grove's second year in a row making it to the OSAA State Championships Round of 16. To see results, visit www.osaa.org/teams/28927.

Elkton

Volleyball: On Oct. 26 the Elks (13-10, 9-5) upset Camas Valley in the Skyline League playoffs 3-1 (25-18, 25-13, 16-25, 25-22) to finish third in the standings and earn a chance at a play-in game to reach the OSAA State Championships Round of 16.

That opportunity came against fourteenth-ranked Central Christian (17-6, 11-2). Elkton traveled over the pass to Redmond only to lose to the Tigers in straight sets, 3-0 (25-14, 25-21, 25-17).

After making the state playoffs three consecutive years from 2015-2017, the Elks will look to get back on track in 2020 with seven of their 11 varsity players set to return.

Yoncalla

Football: After starting the 2019 season 2-2, Yoncalla dropped their next three games to put the playoffs just out of reach. They ended the season 4-5 overall and 2-3 in league play, finishing fourth in Special District 1's South Division, one spot out of a chance to compete in a play-in game to reach the Round of 16.

Nonetheless, the Eagles got a chance to end the season on a high note last Friday in a non-league matchup against the Mohawk Mustangs (3-6, 2-3), the fourth-place finisher in the North Division. Yoncalla earned an easy victory, beating the visitors 60-6. Despite not getting a chance at the postseason, the Eagles won their final two games by a combined 111-12 and are set to return all but three of their varsity players in the 2020 season.

XC from B1

year]," said head coach Jim Settelmeyer. "But he was going to come and help Jaden through to state. I'm proud of that kind of behavior, individuals being able to celebrate what they accomplished today, but also what other people did."

But as Talley rounded the course at a slower pace than usual, it was Owens who pulled ever closer to the front, including a final kick around the last 300 meters of the LCC track.

The race was won handily by Marist senior Wiley Watts in 16:11.6, but it was Owens' last-ditch push that carried him beyond Marshfield senior Aaron Prince mere steps from the finish line. Owens bested his previous personal record by over 30 seconds, finishing in 16:33.5, less than a second ahead of Prince. Talley ended up eighteenth in 17:41.9.

The humble, if timid freshman downplayed the

unexpected excitement of the moment after the race when asked about his result.

"Just like always, I trained, and then I have Jimmy Talley, so he helps me a lot. But, yeah just [Jim] Settelmeyer giving us the coaching we need."

When Settelmeyer, Talley, Owens and the rest of the Lions' team looked up at the final standings, they saw their prized freshman's name there amongst a sea of upper-classmen.

Cottage Grove cross country already had reason to be excited for 2019 and beyond with their largest crop of underclassmen runners ever, but having a star - particularly one with the makeup of Owens - is a particularly sweet cherry on top.

"He definitely is a very positive, humble, lead-by-example kind of guy," Settelmeyer said effusively of Owens.

"What can you say? He listens carefully when you ask him to help out others and does things that you hope will help him. It's

great as a coach to have somebody who will ask questions if they're unsure of something ... he's so coachable and so willing to work as a member of the team."

As for the rest of the Lions' contingent, seven boys and girls runners set their personal records. Junior Jaden Thuesen, who only began running a few years ago and now has a top-25 district finish on his resume, is excited by the progress he's made and the further growth he hopes to achieve next year.

"I'm hoping to try and get a minute faster than what I am now. I wanna finish off my school running career somewhere around 17 minutes," Thuesen said.

"Since I joined sports so late, I don't really have any awards for anything so I think it would be nice to have some recognition, an award that just says, 'Hey, I'm pretty decent at this.'"

Decent, outstanding, unexpected. Whatever the choice of words, the district championships

capped off a season where nearly every runner for the Lions' saw consistent, marked improvement in their 5k times, culminating in Thursday's PR parade.

For the girls, freshman Helen Leal-Coronel bested her previous record by over 14 seconds with a time of 24:25.5, which is also a nearly three-minute improvement over her early season times. Sophomore Piper Youngmayr (25:06.3) was 26 seconds faster than her previous best and fellow second-year Hannah Cook (25:19.2) improved by nearly a full minute.

Along with Owens and Thuesen, the boys also got personal bests from sophomore Andy Wiley (19:52.6) and junior Maycol Pablo Herrera (20:01.1).

The OSAA 4A State Championships will be held Sat., Nov. 9 at LCC. The first race begins at 11:45 a.m.. For more results from the Sky-Em District race, visit www.athletic.net/CrossCountry/meet/156887/results.

ODFW vigilant in keeping aquatic invasive species out of Oregon

ODFW technicians intercepted and decontaminated two inflatable kayaks at the Ontario Watercraft Inspection station Sunday. The kayaks were just in Lake Powell at or near Bullfrog Marina, and the next planned launch site was the Deschutes River.

"Lake Powell is infested with invasive quagga mussels and the kayakers had sand and broken quagga mussel shells from the lake in them. Had they launched in the Deschutes without being decontaminated, mussel tissue

from the broken shells would be shed in the water, giving us a positive result for the presence of quagga mussels during environmental DNA sampling," said Rick Boater, Invasive Species and Wildlife Integrity Supervisor.

eDNA is a useful tool in warning ODFW staff that quagga and zebra mussels may be present, triggering monitoring crews to sample the waterbody and verify results of the eDNA test. If mussels are present, crews can respond quicker and

possibly take actions to prevent or slow establishment of the aquatic invasive species.

"Our watercraft inspection sites are critical to keeping these and other aquatic invasive species out of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, and why Clean, Drain, Dry is so important before launching any type of watercraft. This season, we intercepted 14 watercraft containing quagga or zebra mussels," Boater said.

So far this year, technicians inspected 26,395 wa-

tercraft; 14 of those containing quagga or zebra mussels and 368 with other types of bio-fouling such as Eurasian milfoil were decontaminated.

By law, anyone hauling watercraft of any type whether motorized or not must stop at an open watercraft inspection station for a free inspection which typically takes about 10 minutes. If invasive species are found, the vessel will be decontaminated on-site for free.

Quagga mussels can live around 21 days outside of the water, depending on temperature and humidity. They easily establish in rivers and lakes, causing severe ecological damage to those systems along with economic damage to water systems.

Watercraft inspection stations are located at ports of entry around Oregon with most open from April through early September. The Ashland and Ontario stations, which get the most traffic are open daily year-round from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Invasive species is a Key Conservation Issue for Oregon's Conservation Strategy.

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TIEBREAKER:(SUNDAY NIGHT GAME)

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TEAM This Week Stats:9-4 Season Stats:66-51

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With the Football Contest

Fill out the form below for your choice of winners. The TIE-BREAKER game is the Sunday night game. Guess the total points of this game. In the event of a tie-breaker tie, the winner will be determined by a drawing. Entries must be received by Friday, 5 pm at the Cottage Grove Sentinel, 116 N. 6th Street, (P.O. Box 35), Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424. Mailed entries must be postmarked by Friday. Employees of the Cottage Grove Sentinel and their families are not eligible to win. In the event of multiple winners, final weekly winner will be drawn at random from preliminary winners. ATTENTION: Tiebreaking Process - the designated tie-breaker game will be judged on total points ONLY. Please estimate the total points for the tie-breaker game.

One entry per family.