

Lions *from B1*

cally, having been in that position before. I knew playing on the road at Junction City, against a really good team fighting for second place, they would give us their best effort and they did."

The second matchup between these two teams was much closer than the first. The Lions beat Junction City 56-27 at home on Jan. 28 and, based on the Tigers' energy and effort in the first half, it was evident that their earlier win against the Spartans gave them some hope of an upset over league-favorite Cottage Grove.

"Kudos to those guys for coming out like that," said Eastburn. "But I'm even more proud of our team because they withstood that adversity and they came out on top and that's the expectations for these guys ... They wanna win and they know they can win. That's what makes it so fun."

Fun, however, doesn't mean easy and the game remained close for the first three quarters. Junior post Matty Ladd got into early foul trouble as the Tigers schemed to stop both her and fellow six-footer, sophomore Gracie Arnold.

"Matty's kind of unstoppable so they were trying, but we could still get it into her," said junior point guard Mikaela Blomquist. "It's just kind of a switch up from other teams we've played where it's a little easier to get the ball into her. It was a different game than the last time we played them. They brought out their best effort this game for sure."

Early foul troubles, a frustrating defensive scheme employed by Junction City and a slow scoring start spelled some frustration for a Lions team looking for their

most important win of the season.

"I felt like nothing was working out for us," said Blomquist after the game. "We were just stressed out and chaotic for no reason. I rewatched film and I could tell I was mad for no reason ... but, it's a hard place to play."

A barrage of three-pointers by the Tigers kept them in the game in the second and third quarter — with Cottage Grove taking just a 28-22 lead into the final period — but ultimately it wasn't enough to overcome the talent and size disparity that typically works in the Lions' favor.

The Tigers' efforts to slow Ladd and Arnold opened up opportunities for the Lions' third imposing post player, Ema Gardner, and the senior finished with a game-high 14 points, along with four rebounds and two assists. Despite attempts to contain them - and Ladd playing only 19 minutes due to early fouls - Ladd and Arnold nonetheless combined for 20 points, 12 rebounds, four assists, five steals and five blocks.

On top of having standout individual performances, the Lions also dominated the team statistics, shooting 40 percent to Junction City's 29, taking more shots at the free-throw line (15-6), turning the ball over less (14-20) and ultimately assisting on 11 of their 12 made baskets.

The last Lions team crowned Sky-Em champs finished the 2013-14 season 18-8 overall, 8-2 in league and finished ranked fourteenth. This year's squad has improved upon all those numbers and now ranks seventh in the OSAA 4A rankings as they look to possibly match another feat that hasn't been done since 2010: win a state title.

The team may just be ambitious enough to make it happen. Even after a league-clinching victory, the girls weren't satisfied.

"It's awesome to be league champs, but we all knew we didn't play our best game," said Blomquist.

The Lions now await the conclusion of other 4A games to discover their opponent as hosts of a Fri., Mar. 6 playoff game at Cottage Grove High School.

ODFW *from B1*

shape and clear up. The dry weather pattern will provide good conditions this week and through the weekend. Expect the fishing to remain good through February as more fish move into the system each day. The best fishing has been around the Whitaker Creek area.

Lake Creek opened for winter steelhead fishing on Dec. 1. Fishing has been fair so far on Lake Creek and there are fish out there to be caught through the month of February.

ELK RIVER: Chinook, Steelhead

New Chinook regulations for 2020. Jan. 1 – March 31 open for hatchery Chinook retention only. Wild Chinook harvest is permitted May 22– Dec. 31. Please see the 2020 fishing regulation book for more details.

Steelhead have begun to move into the river. Fishing is open through March 31; then May 22 – Dec. 31. The wild steelhead bag limits are 1/day and 3/year as part of a zone-wide accumulative daily or annual salmon/steelhead bag limit.

UMPQUA RIVER, NORTH: steelhead, trout

Fishing should be good this weekend. The annual steelhead Derby took place last weekend and even with less-than-ideal conditions, anglers were successful.

The North is open to Chinook fishing under permanent rule. Anglers may harvest up to 10 wild Chinook per year and two per day.

Some of the North Umpqua and tributaries are open for trout (those above Slide Creek Dam): check the fishing regulations to see which areas are closed.

Note that as of Oct. 1, fishing in the fly water area is restricted to the use of a single, barbless, artificial fly.

BOTTOM FISHING

The bottomfish fishery is open at all depths. The General Marine Species bag limit is 5 fish.

Beginning January 1, 2020 there is a one-fish sub-bag limit for China, copper, or quillback rockfish. That means that out of the 5-fish daily bag limit, no more than one may be a China, copper, OR quillback rockfish. Cabezon will open July 1, 2020 with a one-fish sub-bag limit. Lingcod has a separate 2-fish bag limit.

Retention of yelloweye rockfish is prohibited by all anglers.

GOLF SCORES

Middlefield Mens Club
Thursday 2/13/2020
Game: Scramble with Tie Breakers

First Place -8
Jerry Haugen
Pat Rickard
Tom Lemmon
Frank Gates

Second Place -5
Jake Cox
John Kallbrier
Jim Lehl
Leon Hayes

Third Place -4
Bruce Schennum
Phil Hamilton
Mike Stahl
Jim Wamsley

Fourth Place -3
Bill Avery
Larry Strickland
Tom Arney
Larry Eyman

Fifth Place -3
Dan Pearson
Adrian Chatigny
Larry Zuvich

Sixth Place -2
Gary Culp
Jim Cunningham
Jim Hoover
Steve Ellickson

Middlefield Mens Club
Monday 2/17/2020
Game: 3,2,1 Best Ball

First Place -23
Bill Avery
Frank Gates
Jim Cunningham
Jim Lehl

Second Place -20
Gary Ingram
Gary Culp
Jerry Singer
Larry Zuvich BD

Third Place -18
Adrian Chatigny
John Kallbrier
Tom Marx
Mike Stahl

Fourth Place -17
Pat Rickard
Keith Rowling
Gary Sparks
Larry Zuvich

Fifth Place -15
Jack Strickland
Don Perkins
Phil Hamilton
Jim Wamsley BD

Sixth Place -14
Jake Cox
Todd Dennis
Jerry Haugen
Bruce Schennum

Seventh Place 0
Gary Ingram
Ed Prunkl
Jerry Pennington
Dick Winters

Eighth Place 0
Gary Sparks
Tom Marx
Bob McCarty
Keith Rowling

Closest to the Pin:
#5 Gary Ingram
#7 Jake Cox
#14 Jerry Haugen

Low Gross
Gary Culp 72
Gary Sparks 74
Gary Ingram 77
Jerry Singer 77

Low Net
Gary Culp 61
Gary Sparks 63
Jerry Haugen 64
Mike Stahl 64
Phil Hamilton 64
Tom Marx 64

Closest to the Pin
#5 Jerry Singer
#7 Gary Culp
#14 Jack Strickland
Longest Putt
#15 Dick Winters

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