

Cottage Grove junior setter Peyton Kidd celebrates the Lady Lions win. Cottage Grove swept Marshfield in two separate matches last week to go 5-1 in league.

Lady Lions sink Pirates. Twice

By Zeahna Young COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove *d* **Marshfield:** 25-12, 25-18, 25-17 **Cottage Grove** *d* **Marshfield:** 20-25, 25-17, 25-17, 25-18

On Friday (March 19), Cottage Grove's volleyball team hosted a doubleheader against Marshfield at home, playing two full Lions' Senior Night.

Cottage Grove issued the Pirates two major defeats, winning the first game in game in four sets.

Coach Abby Ladd exheader was not an ideal situation, however in the both sides and playing as many league games as possible, the Lions opted to be the host with the most.

"Marshfield is still in extreme risk in Coos County," said Ladd, "so they can't host any home games this season. So, rather than two separate times, they wanted to do a doubleso we made it happen."

Going into the first game of the afternoon, Ladd had several concerns.

"I was honestly a little bit nervous for the varsity girls to play two full games of the three out of five sets because of the injuries we've been having thrown our way," explained Ladd. "Blakely Herbert just came back this week, and this mistakes. games back-to-back on the was only her second game of the season. So, making explosive first game with sure she was ready to go, and everything was rolling and going well, I was a litthree sets, and the second tle bit anxious, but they did a really good job."

Ladd described how plained that a double- things came together for the girls in the first game.

"It was a combination of interest of accommodating everything," said the coach. "We have been working a lot on our mental game how we can set the pace on our own side and focus on what we're doing and not let what's happening on the other side of the net affect our game. And I think 6'2", said Ladd, "so we've that those scores really traveling to Cottage Grove show that we had taken it to heart."

header. And we did every- lineup in all three sets of thing we could to make it the first game. "So, the work for them, because score variations show their given the situation, you adjustment to the new kind of have to be flexible, lineups, but they stayed

really strong mentally," Ladd said. "We played a very controlled game, and we kept sending balls to the other side. We talk all the time about how it's not who scores the most *points* — it's who makes the least amount of errors." The Lady Lions kept the pressure on Marshfield, forcing the Lady Pirates to make

Cottage Grove had an 26 kills overall, seven of them coming from Avery Hutchins. Said Ladd, "Avery played really well in both games. In that first game, she was one of the two tied for the most kills. And then she played really, really well in the second game, too, and had a lot of blocks."

Ladd has been working with Hutchins this year on her blocking technique, although she already has a stunning height advantage.

"She's huge, she's like been working a lot in practice on keeping arms up while blocking to hold that Ladd ran a different block longer, because even when [she's] just standing on the ground, if [her] arms are up, [she's] putting up a good block."

See CGHS 3B



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