

Lions on hunt for first victory



JON STINNETT/FOR THE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove Lions junior Braedon Buckland winds up to throw against Marist during last Friday's doubleheader with the Spartans. This Friday, the Lions will face Marshfield in another doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m.

By JON STINNETT
For The Sentinel

More than a year after the pandemic lockdown ended baseball at Kelley Field, the Cottage Grove Lions finally returned home Tuesday, April 13, and they were greeted with a nail-biter against the Siuslaw Vikings that was undecided until the last out.

Siuslaw jumped out to an early lead, but the Lions would soon counter. The turning point came in the fifth inning, as the Vikings took advantage of control issues for Cottage Grove pitchers to erupt for five runs. The Lions kept battling, however, but came up just short — dropping their season opener, 11-9.

Junior Braedon Buckland started on the mound for Cottage Grove, walking the first two Vikings, who were knocked home on a double by Siuslaw's Jason Garcia in the top of the first inning. On the same play, Garcia was nailed trying to stretch his hit to a triple by junior center fielder Logan Lowrey, who threw a scorcher to third-baseman Carter Parsons.

The Lions rebounded for four runs in the second. Paul Logan and Lowrey walked, and then freshman shortstop Christian Spear lined a double to score them both. Later, freshman Peyton Glenn doubled to score Spear and catcher Crimson Tadlock.

Buckland shut down the Vikings during their trip to the plate in the second, with the Lions adding a run in their half of the inning to go up 5-3. Siuslaw responded with three runs of their own to re-take the lead, 6-5. Buckland reached his allotted pitch count and was relieved first by Spear, then Logan and Christian Kane. The Vikings were held in check in during fourth inning, but their five-run fifth put the Lions' backs against the wall.

To their credit, though, the home team never gave up. Kane shut out the Vikings on the mound in the sixth and seventh innings. A two-run single in the bottom of the fifth narrowed the deficit, and the Lions went down in order in the sixth. Two singles in the seventh, though, cut Siuslaw's

See **LIONS 3B**

Note: Game times and dates are subject to change

April 22

• Elkton baseball at Creswell 4:30 pm

April 23

• CG Baseball at Marshfield 3/5 pm

• CG Softball at Marshfield 3/5 pm

• Elkton Baseball at North D/Yoncalla Noon/2 pm

• ND Softball hosts Glide 2/4:30 pm

• Yoncalla Softball hosts ND 2/4:30 pm

April 24

• CG Track & Field at Junction City Inv. Noon

• Elkton Track & Field Junction City Inv. Noon

April 27

• CGHS Softball host Elmira 5 pm

• CGHS Softball hosts Elmira 5 pm

• Elkton Softball hosts Lowell 4:30 pm

• Elkton Baseball at Glide 4:30 pm

• ND Softball at Monroe 4:30 pm

• Yoncalla Softball hosts Oakland 4:30 pm

• Elkton Softball hosts Lowell 4:30 pm

• Elkton Baseball at Glide 4:30 pm

• ND Softball at Monroe 4:30 pm

• Yoncalla Softball hosts Oakland 4:30 pm

April 30

• Elkton Baseball hosts Oakland 2/4:30 p.m.

• Elkton Softball hosts Oakland 2/4:30 pm

• ND Softball hosts Days Creek Noon/2 pm

• CG Track & Field At Siuslaw 4 pm

Lady Lions defeat Vikings, fall to Spartans

By JON STINNETT
For The Sentinel

What a long, strange "offseason" it's been.

Last March, first-year coaching tandem Kris and Danielle Challburg had prepared the Cottage Grove Lions softball team for its first game of the 2020 season. We're all at least somewhat familiar with what happened next: The Friday before their first game, the lockdown initiated to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus put all sports on a long hiatus.

"Until COVID hit, we were practicing hard, and we were on such a roll," Kris said. "Then we had two seniors that didn't even get a season. We were pretty bummed about that. But a lot of the girls that were on that team carried over to this year, and their growth has been great."

Last Tuesday (April 13), the Lions finally took their home field to begin the newly formatted six-week 2021 season by welcoming the Siuslaw Vikings to town. Senior pitcher Kailey Cox, showing little sign of rust following the long pause, turned in a masterful performance, allowing just four hits and striking



JON STINNETT/FOR THE SENTINEL

Lady Lions senior pitcher Kailey Cox sends a pitch toward the plate against the Spartans during last Friday's doubleheader at home against Marist.

out eight Vikings batters as the Lions won easily, 17-3.

The team also benefited from a fiery afternoon at the plate by

senior Kayla Challburg, who went three-for-four with four RBIs and crossed the plate three

times. Coach Danielle Challburg

also lauded the performance of catcher Josie Hitt, who acted as

See **SOFTBALL 4B**

Athlete of the Week

This week's Athlete of the Week is CGHS senior softball

Kayla Challburg



Cottage Grove High School senior Kayla Challburg went 3-for-4 with 4 RBIs and three runs scored against Siuslaw in the season opener

Results:

April 20

• CGHS Baseball lost to J. City: 16-1
• CGHS Softball lost to J. City: 20-19