

STARKS from B1

Meridian, Idaho teenager Tyler Driver and Mill Creek, Washington traveler Cam Smith, in fourth and fifth.

Cottage Grove's Mike Peters scored a massive win for his brother car owner, Ed Peters. It is the second time that Peters has won in the Late Models at Cottage Grove.

Albany driver Randy Barley and Jody Tanner, from Portland, were second and third. Cottage Grove native Rob Williams

ended the race fourth over fifth finishing Brian Hubert of Redding, California.

Last but not least was the IMCA Sport Compacts. Sutherland's Burnie Bryant found his way back to victory lane.

Bryant now has put together six wins at "The Grove" and in KMJ Performance Oregon State action. His last triumph was on July 16.

Michael Kennerly of Oakland and Salem driver Scarlett Drake were second and third. Jasper's Andrew Langan, racing

for car owner Randy Kuhl, finished fourth, and Ryan Dickenson, from Roseburg, wound up fifth.

Cottage Grove Speedway had a quick turnaround as racing action returned on Monday, Aug. 9, and Tuesday, Aug. 10.

The Wild West Modified Shootout was in the house featuring IMCA Modifieds and Royalty Core IMCA Northern Sport Mods.

For more information, check out the track website at www.cottagegrovespeedway.com or the Facebook page.

BOYS from B1

the season just made it seem like playoffs were happening."

Although it wasn't meant to be last season, it's a new year, and the slate is wiped clean.

Practices for the new season don't kick off until Aug. 16, but until then, players have been finding their own ways to stay ready.

Some players have been attending morning workouts at the high school, while others have taken advantage of private coaching and South Valley Athletic's adult soccer league.

"Some of our players have been playing other sports since then (last March), but hopefully it hasn't been that long for some of these guys," said head coach Vernon Stewart.

Whether the players are rusty when the first whistle blows or not, experience should play largely into the Lions favor this year. They return 11 juniors and nine seniors from last year including Cameron, who took home league MVP honors last season as a junior.

Aside from Cameron, the

rest of the roster on paper looks strong.

Coming off the Coach of the Year award, Stewart expects the maturity of his defense and goalkeeping to play a large role in stifling opposing offenses.

"For as superb as our finishing is gonna be, our defense will compete and be one of the best," Stewart said. "My goalkeeper, Ty Kishen, is also phenomenal and deserved first team honors last year."

For every year that Stewart has coached, he begins the season by telling his players to enjoy the little things. Championship or not, the bus rides, memories and friendships that these boys make will always be part of their lives.

This piece of advice from Stewart couldn't have been more relevant to the past calendar year. Players already had their full season stripped of them last fall, and the possibility of a full season this fall with the coronavirus variant is still up in the air. Not only have players hardly been able to see the field this past year, but when they have, it was supposed to be distanced and with a mask.

"Don't take things for granted," Stewart said. "Don't assume that everything in life will be handed to you on a platter. You still gotta work hard and make sure you're doing things in life correctly because you never know what's in store. Play every game like it's your last."

For players like Cameron, this season holds a lot more significance than just a series of soccer games.

"I've been playing with some of these guys ever since I was a young kid," Cameron said. "Going deep into the playoffs is the number one thing on my mind at this point."

As it stands right now, the Lions are set to kick off their season in less than a month when the Sisters Outlaws come into town on Tuesday, Aug. 31.

The first whistle is expected to be blown at 6:30 p.m.

"I'd like for the people of Cottage Grove to come watch these guys play," said Stewart. "Especially coming out of a COVID-19 season, just come out and enjoy some soccer. These guys are working really hard and they deserve the credit."

SVA from B1

easily accessible."

South Valley Athletics has been a long-time staple in Cottage Grove and serving kids for over 50 years. They will be looking to get a fresh start with this new grant and hopefully putting the pandemic

behind them to be able to serve more kids locally.

"We're really hoping that this will lead to expanding our presence in the community so that more people know about South Valley Athletics and more kids are able to sign up so we can get bigger numbers during our seasons," said

Duncan.

SVA is also announcing a basketball camp that is now free due to the grant and will be held on Saturdays Aug. 21 and 28.

For those who would like to register, visit southvalleyathletics.org/summer-camps for more details.

GIRLS from B1

Being a part of the program for a long time has helped establish a quick connection between Ferguson and this group of girls who have also had past experiences with him.

"I have actually had the opportunity to coach some of the girls when they were little at some youth soccer camps through South Valley Athletics and I saw it as

the chance to coach them again."

"I'm most excited to get to the games and see if all the plans have come to fruition."

Coach Ferguson and the girls will look to build on the positive momentum from this off-season in hopes it propels them into the official practices starting next week, quickly followed by the games coming at the end of the

month.

The Lady Lions first home game will be against Phoenix on Sept. 2.

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