

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 7, 2021

Rayon-Wilder elevates Warriors over Eagles



KENDRICK MURPHY/CG SENTINEL

Palu Rayon-Wilder ran for six touchdowns and over 300 yards in the North Douglas 47-13 win over rival Yoncalla last Friday.

By KENDRICK MURPHY
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North Douglas has been steamrolling their opponents to the tune of 65 points per game in their three-game winning streak.

Unfortunately, Yoncalla hasn't been playing the same tune as they had lost 3 consecutive games for various reasons, whether it be a

COVID-related forfeit or a struggling offense.

Last year North Douglas and Yoncalla combined their programs and found success, but this year are standing on different sidelines.

Since 2015, North Douglas has had a 4-1 record against their rival to the North. Unfortunately, for Yoncalla and their crew, not much would change Friday night thanks to the huge performance of North Douglas senior Palu Rayon-Wilder.

Rayon-Wilder ran for a total of 303 yards and accounted for six touchdowns in the Warriors 47-13 win.

"Now that they are all bore and have all their kids, I think they (North Douglas) are the best team in the league and probably a top five team in the state," said Yoncalla Coach Matt Bragg.

North Douglas came out hot as their first play on offense as Rayon-Wilder found a crease and ran for a gain of 23-yards, putting the ball deep into the Yoncalla side of the field. Two plays later Rayon-Wilder ran in the ball from 13 yards out for the first Warriors score (7-0 ND).

On Yoncalla's first possession, the North Douglas defense stuffed them quickly. However, the Warriors fumbled the ball, leading to some early Eagle momentum.

Yoncalla's Noah Leary broke off a 15-yard run to the Eagles own 40-yard line, but they would not be able to move the ball after that. North Douglas got the stop on fourth down and Rayon-Wilder ran the ball two plays in a row for a 30-yard Warrior score (13-0 ND).

see RIVALRY B2

Lions stomp Tigers, Spartans 4-0 in league play

By KENDRICK MURPHY
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Junction City (10-5) hosted Cottage Grove (9-2) last week for a top 10 interconference showdown with the Lions being ranked sixth and the Tigers being ranked seventh.

Last season, the Lions split the season series with the Tigers, winning one game in four sets and losing the other in five sets. All signs pointed to this being a close contest, but Cottage Grove would have other plans. The Cottage Grove fans traveled really well and would watch their Lions put on a serving clinic in their 3-0 victory over Junction City strengthening their chances at a league title.

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"In past years it's been kind of us and Junction City back and forth and they have been the other top team in the league that we've competed against and focused on," said Coach Abby Ladd. "So going in and taking it in three was huge."

The first set was tightly contested, with neither team gaining a real advantage until an ace by Peyton Kidd. A huge hit on the outside from Izabell Senters pushed the Lions to a 13-10 lead.

After Cottage Grove scored two more points off of back to back Junction City mistakes, JC called a time out while Cottage Grove led by 5 points.



KENDRICK MURPHY/CG SENTINEL

Cottage Grove senior Taylor McKay goes for the point against Junction City.

The Tigers would rally later in the set, gaining momentum on a hitting error by Lions Taylor

McKay and serving an ace.

see LIONS B2

Elkton overwhelms North Lake



KENDRICK MURPHY/CG SENTINEL

Elkton wide receiver Christian Halstead gets tackled near the goal line in the Elks 53-13 victory over North Lake.

By KENDRICK MURPHY
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In their two losses this season, the Elks had given up 39 points per game but in their last two victories the script have been vastly different as they have given up just over seven.

Last week Elkton did not surrender an offensive touchdown to county rival Yoncalla and this week only gave up two scores to North Lake. Elkton defeated the North Lake Cowboys 53-13 last Friday being over .500 at 3-2.

"For our guys the message is defense first, which sounds odd in six-man," said Elkton Head Coach Jeremy Lockhart. "But that is our philosophy. If we tackle true, we give up a few yards here and there. And if one sweeps through, okay, no big deal. But we've got to be able to control the game on defense, so we have a chance to do what we want to do on offense."

Elkton wasted no time striking

first on offense as Conner Anderson was able to make a quick connection with teammate Christian Halstead for the score making it 6-0 Elks; the closest this matchup would be the rest of the night.

North Lake and Elkton were able to put up stops on consecutive fourth downs after the Elks were able to stop North Lake near midfield.

Elkton got the ball back with under 30 seconds left in the first quarter, which proved to be more than enough time for Anderson. Anderson was able to break off a 64-yard run for the score as the quarter came to a close making it 13-0 Elkton.

Early in the second quarter, the rushing attack for Elkton seemed to find a groove after Nathan Rausch had two consecutive runs of 13 yards, moving the ball into North Lake territory.

But a dropped pitch from Elkton allowed the Cowboys to get the possession back as they would exploit the Elks' miscue.

On the next play, Blake Herinckx got the handoff and ran past Elkton defenders for a 67-yard score making the score 13-6.

Elkton would respond quickly with two scores of their own with Anderson finding Anthony Alimenti on two different occasions both resulting in 50-yard scores growing the lead to 26-6 at halftime.

In the second half, Elkton's

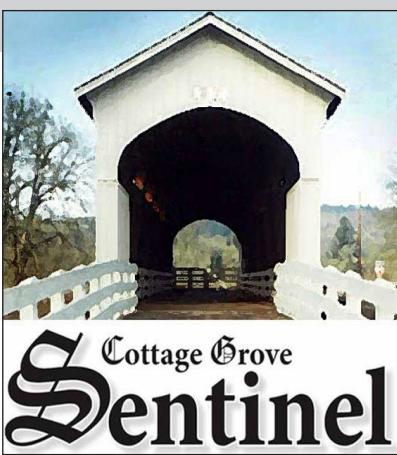
see ELKS B2



Senters serves one of her 10 aces last week against conference rival Junction City.

PHOTO BY KENDRICK MURPHY/CG SENTINEL

This week's athlete of the week is Cottage Grove volleyball player Izabell Senters. Senters had 10 aces and 4 kills in the Lions 3-0 victory over Junction City last week.



ODFW RECREATION AND FISHING REPORT

myodfw.com/recreation-report

Updated October 7, 2021

General season deer opens Saturday: Don't forget to buy your tag

Remember you'll need to buy your deer tag before the start of the season (Oct. 1). Even if you don't plan to hunt on opening weekend.

Clatsop beaches open for razor clams

Razor clamming opens on the popular and prolific Clatsop County beaches this Friday, Oct. 1. Razor clam abundance in this area is the highest seen since 2004 when ODFW began assessing the population. If this is your year to try razor clamming, visit myodfw.com/articles/how-razor-clam for tips.

Pheasant, chukar and partridge open Oct. 9

These popular hunts open next week and now would be a good time to practice shooting a few clays and make sure your gear is ready for the upcoming season.

Early season duck hunting tips

Duck hunting seasons open in the next week (Zone 2) or two (Zone 1). Check out these early season hunting tips at myodfw.com/articles/13-lucky-early-season-duck-hunting-tips for targeting resident birds.

Sports Calendar

Oct. 7

• **Cottage Grove Volleyball @ Marshfield, 6:45 p.m.**
• **Creswell Volleyball @ Pleasant Hill, 6 p.m.**
• **North Douglas Volleyball home vs. Yoncalla, 6 p.m.**

Oct. 8

• **Creswell Football home vs. Oakland, 7 p.m.**
• **North Douglas Football @ Riddle, 7 p.m.**
• **Elkton Football @ Prospect Charter, 7 p.m.**
• **Yoncalla Football @ Gilchrist, 7 p.m.**

Oct. 11

• **Cottage Grove Boys Soccer home vs. Junction City, 6:30 p.m.**
• **Cottage Grove Girls Soccer @ Junction City, 7 p.m.**

Athlete of the Week

