

EVEN *from B1*

down to the final week and three teams possibly in contention for the top spot.

The Lions would take control in the first set after gaining the lead at 14-13 and not look back the rest of the way.

Gracie Arnold and Izabell Senters powered the Lions with some great hitting, to a 4-0 run growing the lead to 17-13. Cottage Grove held firm control the rest of the set when Senters served an ace making it 24-17 Lions then Arnold closed out the set with a huge hit

giving Cottage Grove a 25-17 set victory.

The second set would virtually be back and forth until Junction City took the lead at 13-12. Kaylee Glazer would cement her place as her hits grew the lead to 20-15, forcing Coach Ladd to have to burn her second timeout of the set.

The Lions tried to rally, adding points from a couple Junction City hits going out of bounds, but would fall just short as the Tigers took the second set 25-23.

Cottage Grove took a very early 3-0 lead on Junction City, but the Tigers would quickly flip the script after the score reached 4-3

in favor of Junction City and they would take control of the forth set. The Tigers kept Cottage Grove at bay the rest of the set as the Lions never got closer than five at 19-14. Glazer would be a key factor again at the end of the set adding two hits to help close out the set for the Tigers 25-16.

With Junction City having a lead of two sets to one, Cottage Grove were looking to make a comeback in the fourth and force a fifth set. The start would be very tight as both teams exchanged points until a 6-6 tie. The Lions would get out in front after two mistakes by the Junction City defense and more hits from Senters and Arnold.

Junction City would hang around and continue to pressure the Lions as they tied the game at 16. The Tigers took the lead at 17-16 and grew their lead as the set went on. The visiting team bench started to get louder after a long rally went the Tigers' way and their lead extended to 21-17.

Cottage Grove took their last timeout trying to find a spark in their offense but would only muster three more points the rest of the set. Junction City continued to ride the momentum all the way to a 25-20 set win and ended the Lions' hope for a fifth set. The Tigers rode the bus home with a 3-1 victory over Cottage Grove.

"We just didn't play to our potential that we know we can reach because we've seen ourselves reach it this season and we just didn't do it against them," said Coach Ladd after the game. "We're definitely focused on coming back together as a team so we can support each other through the hardships and through the frustrating times and really diving into bringing it back together as a team and building each other back up."

Cottage Grove still has an inside track for the league and playoffs as they will face other top league contender Siuslaw for the possible deciding league game on senior night Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

LIONS *from B1*

the first quarter. Parker Nelson on the last drive of the quarter for the Lions would start to find a groove as he ran for a gain of 30 yards down to the Marist 45-yard-line.

On fourth and eight, Nelson dropped back to pass and got a lucky bounce as the ball bounced off a Marist defensive back into the hand of receiver Hayden Peterson for a big gain down to the Marist 25-yard-line.

Later in the series, the Lions would draw a pass interference penalty against the Spartans that moved the ball down to the

Marist 12-yard-line as the quarter came to a close (Marist 28-0).

Nelson would rush two times to start the second quarter for a 10-yard score getting the Lions on the board (28-7 Marist). The Spartans offense continued to be a difficult matchup for the Lions defense as they added another score from 18 yards out (35-7 Marist).

Cottage Grove would try to match the score as Nelson got another lucky bounce off of a Marist defensive player into the hands of Peterson for an 11-yard gain. Nelson would take two runs for 29 yards down to the Marist 36-yard-line. The Lions were the beneficiary of a penalty called on the

Spartans that moved the ball down to the Marist 22-yard-line.

But the offense wasn't able to capitalize and instead opted for a field goal. Chase Cordin lined up for the 31-yard try and made it through the uprights as the Lions scored on back-to-back possessions (35-10 Marist).

Marist's offense proved to be perfect in the first half as they scored on all of their drives, totaling 42 points and adding a special teams touchdown blocking a Cottage Grove punt in the endzone and recovering it for the score.

Nelson and the Cottage Grove offense had just over a minute and a half before

halftime and that would prove to be plenty of time for the Lions. Nelson was able to find Peterson again for a 57-yard touchdown pass giving the Lions the last score before halftime (49-16 Marist).

The Spartans would add another score before the game concluded and the Lions ended their night with 16 points as the final score would be 56-19 in favor of Marist.

Marist proved why they are one of the best teams in all of 4A, but the Lions will look to build on some positive offensive plays as they travel over to the coast to play a winless Newport team on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m.

GIRLS *from B1*

North Douglas would bring high energy in the first set as the Warriors jumped out to an early 9-5 lead with three aces coming from senior Cydni Dill.

The crowd was loud and the fans were very vocal for their hometown Warriors, but Creswell would not get rattled as they fought back, cutting the North Douglas lead down to one at 13-12.

Coach Reed would call a timeout to get momentum back on their side as another senior Halli Vaughn had a huge hit to get the Warrior lead back up to two at 18-16.

Creswell would take

the lead late in the set, but Brooke McHaffie and Cydni Dill would give the Warriors new life when they lead the team on a run to tie the game at 24 apiece. But after a hit out of bounds by North Douglas and an ace from Creswell's Emme Whitson, the Bulldogs took the first set 26-24. The second set emulated the first as neither team could really separate from one another until Creswell sophomore Kyla Ellis had two big blocks at the net to make the Creswell lead 18-16. The Bulldogs tacked on three more points as their lead grew to 21-16. Coach Reed called a timeout for the Warriors and was able to reset her team as they

responded out of the break going on a 3-0 run to cut the Bulldogs lead to two, 21-19. Creswell captured momentum again as they had a set victory in their clutches 24-21 but Vaughn tried to spark a North Douglas comeback as the Warriors cut into the Creswell lead again making the score 24-23. A huge block by the Creswell defense would end the North Douglas second set comeback hopes as Creswell took the set 25-23 giving them a 2-0 set lead.

In the third set, the pattern continued as neither team could get a lead larger than three points. Dill would serve an ace giving North Douglas a 17-14 lead in the third set.

Ellis would make more impact plays for Creswell as she slammed an overpass by the Warriors cutting the lead to one at 17-16. The set would continue to seesaw back and forth all the way into the 20s.

Creswell would take a two-point lead after a hit from Emme Whitson and an ace gave them a 24-22 lead and forced the Warrior side to take a timeout. The Warriors would hit the ball into the net giving Creswell the set

victory 25-22 and winning the game 3-0. "We played well, we just did not play well when we needed to put the game away," said Coach Reed "We made a lot of mistakes. In the end, we had every opportunity to win all three of those sets and just made mistakes. So, give credit to them. They're a very scrappy team, they hit well. But I felt like that was a game that we lost ourselves." Both Creswell and North Douglas have

one more game each on Thursday Oct. 21. The Warriors host another strong opponent in Reedsport for a tune up game before their conference tournament the following weekend. While the Bulldogs finish out their conference slate by traveling to La Pine.

Stat leaders

North Douglas:

Brooke McHaffie 9 kills
Halli Vaughn 12 kills
Cydni Dill 4 kills, 4 aces

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