

DEFENSE *from B1*

ing to realize and what they definitely realized against North Bend, is that if you're great defensively, the offensive end is so much fun because you're in transition, you're in the open court and you're going wide open shots."

Easy buckets started to come for Creswell after Coach Thomas debuted a full court press against North Bend causing them to turn the ball over often and getting Creswell's Chase Green, Max Verlarde, Caleb Lee and Carson Williamson out in transition. The Bulldogs shot 46 percent from the field and 57 percent from the three point line as they cruised past North Bend 67-29.

"We were able to force turnovers and we were able to get stops," said Thomas. "I think we just kind of got our energy level up and we were getting deflections and they (North Bend) were missing shots and Max (Verlarde) got rebounds and was going coast to coast for layups. I mean, it was just kind of one of those things like when you get rolling like that. It just becomes infectious to get stop after stop and just run, and run and run and try to try to bury

them." Junior Connor Hanson hit the first shot for Creswell giving them a lead they never surrendered and jumping out to a quick double-digit lead in the first quarter 20-9. Chase Green started to heat up in the second quarter, hitting three three-pointers and being a pest on the defensive end, growing the Bulldogs lead to 37-18 at halftime.

The second half would continue to be dominated by Creswell as they only gave up 11 total points to North Bend in the second half. While Carson Williamson and Caleb Lee carried the offensive load for the Bulldogs as they outscored North Bend 30-11 in the second half earning their second win of the season 67-29.

With the great start for the boys Coach Thomas remains steadfast in his approach on the defensive end and reminds his team they have been in this spot before.

"You know, we had some defensive lapses, we gave up some lay ups and some and-ones," said Thomas. "We started 2-0 last year also. And I think, and we were very quickly humbled by Junction City in our third game. So I think most of these guys remember

Connor (Hanson), Max (Verlarde), Carson (Williamson) and Chase (Green). You know, I think they're maintaining their humbleness, and their focus on the defensive end. And their attitude of continuing to learn and understanding where we are and how much room we have to grow. That's what I'm continuing to preach, is that the games and what you've done means nothing. Monday's a new day, we have to get better Monday. And then we take the same approach to Tuesday and Wednesday and get ready for Thursday."

Creswell will have great chances to continue their good start to the season as they face Elmira on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Then the next day they traveled to Scio to face the Loggers at 7:30 p.m.

Stat leaders

Carson Williamson 16 points, 11 rebounds
Max Verlarde 15 points, 9 rebounds, 3 assists
Chase Green 14 points
Caleb Lee 11 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist

GIRLS *from B1*

from Adrianna Frank giving them a 17-9 first quarter lead. Creswell forward Samairah Quinones got in foul trouble in the first half picking up two fouls and having to sit most of the first half.

After calling a timeout with just over four minutes left in the second quarter North Bend then went on a 12-2 scoring run to end the first half in control 33-13.

"So, you know I wasn't happy with the first half. But I was really pleased with the second half," said Hollingsworth. "Just our energy was 10 times better."

Creswell came out with a newfound intensity in the second half with Emma Manness drawing one of two offensive fouls against North Bend and teammates Dakota Carson and Gabby Halgren getting after it defensively.

Whitson started to find a groove after she hit some free throws and Carolina Spriggs also contributed to some scoring in the fourth quarter that saw the Bulldogs have their best scoring quarter since the first half of the Douglas game.

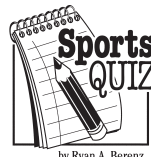
"It's all about defense and if I don't keep that as a standard, then I'm just doing talk," said Hollingsworth. "We're gonna make it competitive as we can practice and try and give the advantage to people who are just defending better than anybody else and let our defense lead to offense because in re-

ality, we have seven or eight girls that can play fine on offense. You know, it's really like we need to play better defense, we can't give up 33 points in the half (against North Bend) that's that's not allowed. So we're going to live on the defensive side of the basketball."

Coach Hollingsworth and the girls will have two good opportunities to bounce back and reignite their offense this week against two opponents who have struggled early on this season. Creswell will play Elmira on Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. Then travel to Scio the next day to play them at 6 p.m.

Stat leaders

Emme Whitson
16 points, 4 rebounds
Karinna Leonard
6 points, 3 rebounds



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. What competition, created and televised by ESPN in the early 2000s, featured fishing, sporting dogs, target sports and timber events?
2. Ullamalitzli — resembling a combination of modern soccer and basketball — was a sport played by what ancient civilization?
3. At the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics, 12 of the 15 former Soviet Union republics competed together under what name?
4. What 1996 sports comedy film starred Adam Sandler as a failed hockey player who discovers a knack for golf?
5. Name the San Francisco 49ers placekicker who set the NFL single-season record with 44 field goals made in 2011?
6. Legendary figure skaters Willy Bockl, Karl Schafer and Emmerich Danzer all hailed from what country?
7. In July 1991, Dennis Martinez threw a perfect game pitching for what Major League Baseball team?

CRUSH *from B1*

Carter Bascue's offense kept the momentum rolling for the Lions in the second half as they pulled away from Hidden Valley in the third quarter.

Defense continued to be stout for Cottage Grove, forcing 10 more turnovers in the second half and only giving up 15 points the rest of the game as the Lions cruised to a 77-34 victory.

"Obviously it's great to get off on the right foot and to see that all the hard work that these guys have been putting in you know, pay off," said Hutchison. "You know it wasn't just a win it was a pretty convincing win and I think it helps boost their confidence. But again, this is just one step in the ultimate goal. And we want to continue to, you know, push the limits

and continue to grow and continue to see how far we can take this thing. I think we have the pieces to do it. Now we just have to continue to put in that consistent work night in and night out."

The Lions will look to continue their positive start with their next two home games against North Valley on Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. And Sisters on Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Stat leaders

Jayden Cameron
24 points, 4 rebounds
Brennen Murphy
17 points, 4 rebounds
Carter Bascue
12 points, 9 rebounds



COURTESY PHOTO

Brennen Murphy skies for the two handed dunk.

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- Answers**
1. The Great Outdoor Games.
 2. The Aztecs.
 3. The Unified Team.
 4. "Happy Gilmore."
 5. David Akers.
 6. Austria.
 7. The Montreal Expos.

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