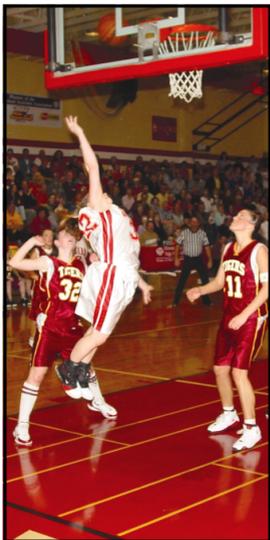


Good job, Cougars. You are great!



(Rear from left) Manager Jessica Hart, coach Mark Higgins, Kirsten Wood, Sheena Cole, head coach Steven Morton and statistician Chelsea Hocker; (center from left) Raesha Wanstrath-Yeoman, Erika Riley, Emily Dudley, Ashley Ellis and Leilani Tausaga; (front from left) Jaimie Wylie, Sarah Houston and Serena Barry. Not shown, Kelcie Yeoman. (Photo by Lifetouch Sports Portraits)



Emily Dudley (left) was a leader for the Cougars. Among those boosting spirit at the game were (from left) Nicole Navarro, the Cougar mascot, and Ashley Withers of the cheerleading team. (Photos by Dale Sandberg)



IVHS girls lose in overtime for state

Illinois Valley girls played to win, but lost 47-42 to Junction City in overtime in a fast-and-furious state playoff game in a packed Ken Mann Memorial Gym on Saturday night, March 5.

In regular season play, the Cougars, for the first time in 23 years, captured the Skyline Conference championship with a 10-2 record.

Although they share the Skyline limelight with Phoenix, I.V. was seeded #1 because of beating North Valley twice, while the Knights had a 1-1 mark playing the Pirates.

Playing to a large, stomping and cheering partisan crowd Saturday night, the Cougars roared to a 6-1 lead in the first quarter.

The game was a battle to the end, with fans definitely getting their money's worth. The Junction City Tigers, #2 team from the Sky-Em League, were giving up no more than 30 points per game.

The Cougars scored 38, noted head coach Steven Morton, in his fifth year directing the girls.

For a while it appeared that the Tigers would not live up to their reputation, as they shot numerous times, often under the basket, to no avail.

But the visitors were determined, and went to the locker room at the half with a 17-17 tie score.

During the third quarter, the teams see-sawed on scoring, with the period ending 28-21 in favor of the Cougars. A Tiger basket at the buzzer was too late to count.

Seconds into the final period, the Tigers sank one, making the score 28-

23. As the competition escalated, with both teams well aware of the clock, the skirmish continued; the Tigers eventually getting to 30-29 and then to 33-32 in their favor.

I.V. took the lead at 35-33 in the closing seconds, and then, following a time out, the Tigers put one in for a 35-35 tie.

In the four-minute overtime, the gym seemed to vibrate from the cheering and stomping. Junction City had some 100 fans on hand; the rest were cheering for I.V., and booed numerous times at what some called questionable calls by the officials.

One man, leaving the gym at the end of the game, said he wanted to congratulate the officials and name them "most valuable players."

Overall, I.V. was called for 10 fouls; the Tigers on eight.

As overtime began, the Tigers got the tip-off and made the score 37-35; continuing their drive to 41-37. I.V. pushed back, scoring with 51 seconds left and making several free throws count.

But with 13 seconds remaining, the Tigers made good on two free throws, and the game ended as a heartbreaker for Illinois Valley: 47-42.

I.V.'s Emily Dudley led scoring with 16 points. Starter Sheena Cole scored 10. Dudley and fellow team stalwart Sarah Houston fouled out in the final minutes, with Morton putting in Jaimie Wylie and Leilani Tausaga.

Despite the loss, the coach and others feel that what the Cougars accomplished this season is not diminished. And indica-

tions are that I.V. will again be a power, as it's losing only two seniors, Barry and Kirsten Wood, who didn't play due to an injured right knee.

"The girls were a bit heartbroken," said Morton, "but I felt that they played well enough to win the game. I challenged them to smile and realize what they accomplished this year

"They were as upbeat as could be expected under the circumstances," Morton said.

"I'm very-very proud of the way our girls played and executed our game plan," he added.

"Our defense worked well," he said, "but with a game that close it just takes a couple of little things to change the outcome. We are happy with our successes, and look forward to next season."

Fire Log

Monday, Feb. 28

*10:20 a.m., medical assist (M.A.) with American Medical Response (AMR), 100 block Barlow Street.

*3:11 p.m., districtwide medical standby (DIMEDS) for AMR.

*7 p.m., M.A. with AMR, Ollis Road.

*7:02 p.m., DIMEDS.

Tuesday, March 1

*2:59 a.m., M.A. with AMR, 24500 block Redwood Hwy.

*8:11 a.m., motor vehicle accident (MVA), Redwood Hwy./Laurel Road.

*8:12 a.m., DIMEDS.

*9:25 a.m., M.A. with AMR, 1300 block Lakeshore Drive.

*9:26 a.m., DIMEDS.

*11:09 a.m. DIMEDS.

*2:42 p.m., smoke investigation, 5200 block Dick George Road.

*3:38 p.m., open burn, 300 block S. Redwood Hwy.

Wednesday, March 2

*11:15 a.m., illegal open burn, 100 block S. Old Stage Road.

*12:10 p.m., M.A. with AMR, W. Lister Street/N. Kerby Avenue.

*12:11 p.m., DIMEDS.

*6:42 p.m., grass fire, 6500 block Caves Hwy.

Thursday, March 3

*6:43 a.m., M.A., 300 block S. Redwood Hwy.

*3:05 p.m., M.A., 600 block Althouse Road.

*3:44 p.m., MVA, Redwood Hwy./E. River Street.

*3:51 p.m., DIMEDS.

*4:54 p.m., MVA, Ken Rose Lane/Cascade Drive.

*8:09 p.m., MVA, 600 block Sherwood Avenue.

Friday, March 4

*9:04 a.m., DIMEDS.

*10:59 a.m., illegal open burn, 18000 block Redwood Hwy.

*2:37 p.m., DIMEDS.

Saturday, March 5

*9:26 a.m., M.A. with AMR, 200 block S. Old Stage Road.

*12:09 p.m., M.A. with AMR, 100 block Hogue Drive.

*12:10 p.m., DIMEDS.

*4:25 p.m., M.A. with AMR, 2600 block Caves Hwy.

*10:52 p.m., M.A. with AMR, 800 block Caves Hwy.

*10:56 p.m., DIMEDS.

Sunday, March 6

*4:17 a.m., M.A. with AMR, 1300 block Lakeshore Drive.

*9:29 a.m., open burn, 7400 block Takilma Road.

*6:33 p.m., open burn, Dick George Road/Jackadel Drive area.



RODENT RESCUE - After I.V. Fire District (IVFD) extinguished an illegal open burn with foam last week next to Caves Christian Fellowship, a doused mouse was saved by Firefighter De 'Dr. De-Little' Spellman. The mouse was released to the open fields. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD photographers)

New I.V. road work eyed

Some \$2,550,000 million worth of funding that could be approved by Congress would pay for a left turn lane and one passing lane on Hwy. 199 in Illinois Valley.

There is also the possibility that \$171,000 could be approved for Josephine Community Transit to acquire three new buses.

The proposed funds are part of a six-year \$284 billion federal highway and transit funding bill approved last week by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

If OK'd by Congress, \$2 million would be used to install a left-turn lane for southbound Hwy. 199 traffic at Laurel Road at the north edge of the city of Cave Junction.

Cedar Brook Estates, a four-phase 120-lot single-family home development, is under construction on Laurel, a short distance east of the highway. In addition, because traffic generally moves through the intersection at 55 mph, those making left turns now often face hazardous situations.

In addition, the west side of the intersection provides access to Illinois Valley Golf Course.

Also under the House-approved bill, a passing lane would be built between mileposts 21 and 22 on the southeast side of Selma just prior to Sis's Gap/Gold Canyon, the site of numerous traffic accidents.

Construction cost for the passing lane would be approximately \$550,000.

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