



The 2009 Illinois Valley Cougars. (Photos by Ali Madjdi, for *Illinois Valley News*)

I.V. boys lose against Irish & Mustangs

By KENNY HIX
For IVN

After the first inning it turned into a pitching duel at a neutral site, the All Sports Park, Legion Field in Grants Pass on Saturday, May 9.

The Mustangs scored all three runs in the bottom of the first on a walk, error and back-to-back doubles. Illinois Valley's Antonio Escalante, who took the loss, then settled down and held Hidden Valley for the next five innings. Brian Biggs closed to secure six shut-out innings.

I.V. had four base runners with singles: Andrew McLaughlin, Curtis Paulson, and Ben Kendall (2), all left on base. Final score: Hidden Valley 3, Illinois Valley 0.

"We pitched and



Southpaw Antonio Escalante pitched for the loss.

Home runs by the Irish and the Cougars set the stage for most of the scoring in Riddle on Thursday, May 7.

The Irish had a two-run home run in the second and a two-run home run in the third to take a 4-0 lead. In the fifth inning, Cougars Cory Glasgow singled, and lefty Antonio Escalante hit a towering home run to right field to make the score 4-2, Irish.

But the fifth inning belonged to Riddle. The Irish scored eight runs on four hits; one of which was a solo home run, two free passes and two Cougar errors, to end the game with the 10-run rule in five innings: 13-2.

Brian Biggs, Zachary Anderson, Josh Free, Andrew McLaughlin and Escalante all pitched. Anderson took the loss.

played really well in the first game, good enough to win," said I.V. head coach Keith Fisher.

The second game was more offensive in nature with more runners on base and more runs scored. The Mustangs scored in every inning, with the big ones being the second and fifth.

The Mustangs scored five times in the second on a walk and a couple of base hits, but most damaging for the Cougars were four errors. I.V. runs came in the fourth with six Cougar base runners.

Anthony Becker reached base on a Mustang error; Biggs singled; Josh Free walked; and another base-on-balls to McLaughlin sent Becker in. Biggs scored when Curtis Paulson reached base

on another Mustang error. Brandon Foraker singled in Free. But the Cougars left three on base that inning and 11 the entire game.

Jack Anderson and Biggs pitched well with four and one strikeouts respectively, but there was no run support and five errors behind them. The Mustangs won 15-3 in five to secure the Skyline Conference championship and a bye in the first round of the coming 4-A state playoffs.

"With some timely hitting we would have left less guys on base and if we made no errors, we had a shot to win this one too," said Fisher. "The guys did a great job today. I couldn't have been more proud of my whole team -- Hidden Valley is a really good team."

Lady Cougs drop double-header to HV

By KENNY HIX, For IVN

The Lady Cougars lost both games of a double-header on Saturday, May 9 in Murphy when the importance of the contests was to see who would finish fourth in the Skyline Conference.

The Cougars needed to split for the position.

In the first game the Mustangs took a 2-0 lead after two innings, but the Cougars added three runs in the third when Illinois Valley had four straight hits by Tammy Huntamer, Cindy Moore, Morgan Brown (triple) and Brittney Loyd. The RBIs were by Moore and Brown.

Not to be outdone the Mustangs also scored three runs in the third to take a 5-2 lead. During the next three innings the Mustangs outscored the Cougars 5-1.

I.V. didn't give up, and in the seventh; Brown and Taylor DeGuilio reached safely. Brown scored on DeGuilio's base hit; DeGuilio then scored on Thea Barker-Cortrecht's RBI. The Cougars rally fell short. The Mustangs won 10-6.

Huntamer went the distance and took the loss, while giving up 10 hits, five walks and had two strikeouts. The Cougar defense allowed seven errors behind her.

Moore went 2-3 with one run; Huntamer 2-4 with two runs; Brown 2-4 with three runs; and Loyd went 2-4.

In the second game, Huntamer gave the Cougars a good start with a lead-off single. Moore's sacrifice bunt moved Huntamer over, to have Brown's single score her. DeGuilio's single then scored Brown: Illinois Valley 2-0. Huntamer shut down the Mustangs in the bottom half of the first 1-2-3.

The Cougars exploded in the second inning with five runs to take a 7-0 lead, on hits by Katie Becker, Huntamer, Moore, Brown, DeGuilio and a three-run double by Loyd. Nine Cougars got on base consecutively. The Mustangs returned the favor and scored five

runs in the second.

Illinois Valley added two more runs in the fifth and three more in the sixth to take a 12-5 lead. The Mustangs then scored runs on four hits and four I.V. errors in their bottom half of the sixth to tie the game 12-12.

Fourth place in the Skyline came down to one final inning, the seventh. Francine Borth would never say die and had a great at-bat, fouling off the ball three times on a full count to finally walk. Borth was left stranded.

In bottom of the seventh, the Mustangs had a single and a walk, to set the stage. Two outs and full count -- the Cougars best pitcher, Huntamer, vs. Michelle Aslackson, the Mustangs' best hitter. Aslackson tripled in two runs to end the game and take fourth place from the Cougars.

Hidden Valley 14, Illinois Valley 12. Huntamer took the loss while giving up 11 hits, five walks and two strikeouts. The Cougars had seven errors on defense.

"Mental and physical errors cost us both games today, said head coach Ken Hix. "Not to mention we were really short-handed only having five varsity players available. However, the JV players we brought up gave 100 percent and did a pretty good job despite having no varsity experience."

Added coach Jason Torrance, "We couldn't win for losing; nothing went our way today. These losses were extremely tough for coach Hix and I. He left Hidden Valley last year to coach the Cougars this year, and I am a Hidden Valley alumnus."

Hix noted, "These losses were hard to except, but I am looking at the big picture. My girls did some great things and came a long way this year. But most importantly they brought back respect to this program.

"I am really proud of all of them. I have to be honest, I really wanted a split today."

"We just need to beat North Valley Tuesday to bounce back and finish strong", added coach Ken Reinhart.



Among artists who participated in Second Friday Art Walk on May 8 were (from top) Karen Stiles (right) at Evergreen Federal Bank, with her "Door of Oregon" featuring the Oregon Caves; Celicia Philemon at Embroidered Ad-



aptations with hand-beaded jewelry; Debbie Wilson at Northwest Hairlines showcased her paintings and acrylic jewelry; and Roger Robinson at Taylor's Country Store with his whimsical watercolors. Other participating businesses included Special Productions, Home Valley Bank, Ravenswood Gallery, Nacho Mama's Cantina, Subway, and Eye Care Group. Sponsored by the Illinois River Valley Arts Council, Art Walk is supported by Evergreen Federal Bank. (Photos *Illinois Valley News*)



Riddle takes 12-1 win over I.V. girls

By KENNY HIX
For IVN

Riddle's timely hitting and Cougar miscues led to a 12-1 nonconference loss to the fifth-ranked 2-A Irish in Riddle on Thursday, May 7.

Illinois Valley's Cindy Moore led off with a hard-hit single up the middle, but couldn't get around to touching home plate. Brittney Loyd and Kya McAlister each had base hits in the fourth, but were left stranded.

The Lady Cougars held off the 10-run rule in the top of the fifth when, with two outs, Francine Borth hit a triple down the first base line to the fence. Moore then hit an RBI single to send Borth home to make the score 10-1. But in the bottom of the fifth, Riddle hit a two-run home run to end the game 12-1 in five innings.

The Cougars did have some highlights, like: left-fielder Lucy Bell's sliding catch on a slicing ball in foul territory, right in front of the

fence; and the aforementioned Borth and Moore combo scoring the only I.V. run.

However, the real story belonged to freshman sensation Thea Barker-Cortrecht. With the Cougars down to only one pitcher, who was ineligible due to attendance issues, Barker-Cortrecht stepped into the circle for the first time in her Cougar career and performed as if she had many starts under her belt.

Barker-Cortrecht surrendered nine hits, four free passes, two on hit batters and two strikeouts. The I.V. de-

fense didn't give her much support, yielding nine errors behind her. Moore was 2-3 with the only RBI.

"Thea's control was amazing; she performed like a senior," said head coach Ken Hix. "Loyd did a great job of receiving behind the dish, working with the first-time chucker. She just threw strikes, changed speeds and locations."

Added coach Ken Reinhart, "Thea did a fabulous job today; this is just the beginning for her. She is going to be a good one."

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