

Girls’ basketball wraps up season

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

The Lady Cougars basketball team played their final game of the 2011 season Friday, Feb. 11, at Cascade Christian High School in Medford. In the first quarter, coach Loren King said Illinois Valley matched the Challengers with everything they had, but that inexperience began to show, resulting in a 21-59 defeat. After senior Laurissa Tausaga scored more than 20 points against Cascade Christian the first time around, King said the opposing team’s defense was relentless on Friday. “We knew they would be after Laurissa,” King said. “She scored 21 points on them [the first time] and they weren’t about to let that happen again.”

Though the Lady Cougars only won three games in the season, it was possibly one of the most improved Cougar teams in recent memory. Teammates set goals in every game to keep them focused on improvements instead of point totals. “We won a couple of games but that was kind of a reward for staying focused and doing what we were trying to do,” King said. “I think you need to have goals and work with a purpose. There’s a spot for everybody who wants to play, but different roles for different players.” An advantage of playing sports, King said, was how it can teach players

how to handle success as well as defeat. “You can get a little too inflated with the points you scored and forget that someone else gave you the rebound, or that someone else gave you that good pass,” King said. “Sometimes you don’t realize the improvement right away until a couple years after your high-school career, that you learned how to handle a situation.” The Lady Cougars finished the season 3-20 overall in a tough league where most of the teams played at the State level last year. Illinois Valley also dealt with losing two of its three seniors, with Tausaga having to step up to fill in that leadership role. But younger players made significant improvements. “They’re already asking, when do we start summer basketball?” King said.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Senior Laurissa Tausaga takes a tough shot during the Feb.8 match against St. Mary’s, while Kristen Vidalez observes.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Senior members of the Illinois Valley High School cheer team pose with friends and family Tuesday, Feb. 8. Every season, Cougar sports teams traditionally hold Senior Night to honor the efforts of senior student athletes.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Cougar junior varsity teammate Bryce Gardenhire works past a Rogue River student in the Feb. 4 match.



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