

Sports



(Photo by Mark Jordan for the *Illinois Valley News*)

#24, Junior Zach Welch, takes home safely during the March 30 game at home against Bandon. The Cougars next home game is Tuesday, April 16.

Cougars bring one home against Prospect Charter

By
Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

Last week, the Illinois Valley baseball team-- who is now 4-9-1 - faced a few formidable opponents and was able to bring home a victory in a rematch against Prospect Charter; however, they weren't quite ready for the Monarchs of Umpqua Valley Christian.

The Cougars were first at bat on April 2 at an away game against the Cougars of Prospect Charter-- a team sitting on a 3-3 record prior to their loss against IVHS-- and finished in the lead with a final score of 6-3.

Pitching for the first game against the Cougars of Prospect was Zach Welch, who pitched all seven innings and threw 10 strikeouts.

Among other highlights of the game, Lander Nordal had a single and a triple, Mason La Flamme had a

single and a double, William Housel had a double and was catcher for the entire game and Eric Miller had three singles with his last being a clutch hit with two RBIs.

The Cougars then faced The Umpqua Valley Christian Monarchs on Saturday, April 6, in a double-header which resulted in two losses for IVHS-- the first game a shutout at 10-0 and the second a 3-13 loss.

In the first game against the Monarchs, the Cougars were unable

to get a hit.

Pitching for the Cougars was Welch; however he was relieved in the fifth inning by Tyler Andrews. Housel caught for the entirety of the first game.

Conrad Davis was starting pitcher for the second game against the Monarchs and was later relieved by Housel in the middle of the first inning who then pitched until the fourth. La Flamme then relieved Housel in the fifth inning.

Catching for the Cougars during the second game was Miller.

"We played a good team and will learn from these losses," said head coach Javier Aranzubia. "We'll be ready to play our league opener against Cascade next week!"

The Cascade Christian Challengers, a team with a 5-3 record, come to town on Tuesday, April 16, for the first league game of the season.

IVHS track squad is off and running

By
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The Illinois Valley High School track and field season is well underway and a handful of Cougars are off to a strong start.

On Wednesday, April 3, the Cougars traveled to a meet at North Valley High in Merlin. Other schools at the meet included Hidden Valley and Klamath Union.

Several IVHS athletes had impressive performances.

"We walked in with about 20 kids, whereas Hidden Valley and North Valley have about 60," said IVHS head coach Ray Yarborough. "I think we held our own."

Placing first for the Cougars in the high jump event was Mack Epple at 5-10. On the girls' side, Theresa Frederick also placed first in the high jump at 4-8.

Halona Jackson brought home yet another first place for the Cougars in the girls' triple jump going 32-5.

Placing second in the boys' pole vault was Joshua Allen who went 11-06.

Numerous Cougars were able to place third in a wide range of events. Jackson placed third in the 100 meters (13.55) and again took third in the 200 meters (27.79). Frederick took third in the 300 meter hurdles (53.98) as well as in the long jump (13-05.75).

"Even though our team isn't big in numbers, we still got some really competitive kids," Yarborough said. "It's encouraging that we can be a competitive track school."

The Cougars then traveled to Douglas High School in Winston on Saturday, April 6, for the Douglas Invitational, where they competed against thirteen other schools.

"This was a tough meet," Yarborough said. "It was pretty cold and we were missing some of our key athletes."

Sitting out for the Cougars at Douglas was Nick Hoezle. Epple and La Flamme were present, but due to illness, they only competed sparsely.

There were no first place finishers at Douglas for the

Cougars, but they did manage to place second in a couple of events.

In boys' pole vault, Allen placed second (11-06); in girls' high jump, Frederick placed second (04-06); and Jackson took second in girls' triple jump (32-04.5).

Placing third for the Cougars was the boys' 4x400-meter relay team consisting of Epple, Jordan Rubenstein, James Thompson and Tyler Stevens (4:00.55). Jackson, meanwhile, placed third in the girls' 100 meters (14.19) and 200 meters (28.58).

"What we did at Douglas because we were down in numbers was mix it up a bit," Yarborough said. "We had kids run events they'd never run before and we're glad we did. The kids were presented with new challenges and discovered talents they never knew they had."

The next meet for the Cougars is the 28th Annual Maynard Mai Track and Field Invitational in Glide which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 13.

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