

Sports



(Photo courtesy of Kelli Augustadt for The Illinois Valley News)

Freshman #4 Andrew Sherier goes for two while Senior #20 Zach Welch looks for a potential rebound during the home loss against Lakeview.

Both IVHS hoops squads struggle

By
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The boys' and girls' basketball teams at Illinois Valley High School were stretched to their limits last week.

The boys' team had a particular tough time in their games. After starting the year with nine players, the squad is now down to six following injuries and a couple of suspensions.

Head coach Jeff Winters had to pull players from the J.V. team last week and will have to continue to do so until near the end of the season when the other varsity players will be able to return.

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, the boys went up against New Hope Christian during an away game. The Cougars had a very good game leading most of the way but ended up running out of steam, losing by a final score of 47-52. Guard Zach Welch was the leading scorer, with a total of 19 points. Welch also had six rebounds and five steals. Kade Doyle scored eight points and was able to get 10 rebounds. Lander Nordal grabbed six rebounds and had six assists.

With the lack of subs, the boys quickly became tired, ultimately giving the game to the Warriors. Winters hopes that as the J.V. players grow accustomed to playing at the varsity level, the team will become stronger and win a few more games.

The Lady Cougars traveled with the boys and also played against New Hope Christian Warriors. The girls were able to hold their own, scoring around ten points each quarter. Even with double digit scoring in each quarter, the girls struggled with turning the ball over. While the Warriors were able to make many of their shots, IVHS struggled to make a few baskets, hindering their chances of taking the game.

Kimberly Crow led the game for the Cougars, with 21 points and 17 rebounds, Alex LaFlamme was able to score 11 points.

New Hope was able to score six three-point baskets, while IVHS was only able to make two-point shots. Head coach Loren King knows that with time, more practice and games, the girls will be able to compete stronger against their opponents. The final score was 48-58.

On Friday, Jan. 10, the teams hosted Lakeview. The girls kicked things off against the Honkers. They lost 30-48. The girls were able to hold their own against Lakeview during much of the game, but were steamedrolled in the last four minutes when the Honkers scored 17 points. The Lady Cougars, meanwhile, only scored six points during the last quarter.

"With a new developing team, that's what happens, you have a few good quarters and others you don't," said Winters.

Winters also knows that with time, the team will get the

experience they need to take wins.

Crow was able to score 11 points and Naviya Dixon put eight points on the scoreboard.

Winters plans on working with the girls on getting the ball to other teammates. The Lady Cougars also will be working on turn-arounds, ensuring the team's future strength.

Winters is looking forward to this coming week with three games, all of which are non-league match-ups, giving the team more practice to prepare them for upcoming league games.

The IVHS boys' squad also faced the Honkers, but struggled with the lack of players.

Nick Worley, a new player to the team, put four points on the board for the Cougars. Meanwhile Welch was the leading scorer during the game, scoring a total of 17 points. Kade Doyle scored 11 points.

The Cougars seemed to dig themselves into a hole during the first half of the game that they were just not able to get out of. At halftime Lakeview lead 31-18. It seems that with the winter storm that hit just as the season started, messing up the players practice schedules, the boys have yet to be able to come back from that and dominate games. The final score was 54-72 with Lakeview taking the win.

Both IVHS teams are scheduled to play next on Tuesday, Jan. 14, while traveling to Lost River.

Cougars seek track coach

Illinois Valley High School is looking for a new track coach for the 2014 season. Successful candidates will possess a working knowledge of the sport that will allow growth for the athlete and the overall program for TRSD. Applicants need to demonstrate, model and teach strong work ethic, as well as be a team and individual character builder. Applicants need to demonstrate organizational skills in practice planning and possess strong lines of communication with players, coaches, parents and school

administration.

Anyone considering this position must have the following: * First aid card, background check and NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course. *Safe Schools course work completed and all necessary paperwork *Coaching application can be obtained at IVHS and then returned to IVHS

<p>Arts Red Garter Where the Valley comes to play Karaoke - Dancing Live Music</p>	<p>Phil King Friday, Jan. 17 @ 5:30 p.m. Taylor's Country Store</p>	<p>Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE Guppy Sat., Jan. 18 @ 6 p.m. Every Wed Open Mic. Night Wed's From 6-8 p.m.</p>	<p>Karaoke With Steve O'h Friday Jan. 17 8:30 p.m. @ Sportsmans Tavern</p>	<p>Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill Tuesday to Sunday Noon to Close Happy Hour 3-5 Stop in and see Kate and Mamie Today!</p>	<p>Who's Hungry? SQUIRREL SOUP Come get a bowl of Acoustic Folk Jam Rock January 17 at 8:00 p.m. @ Mc Grew's Course</p>
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