

# Sports



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

Senior Naviya Dixon controls the ball Tuesday, Feb. 11. The ladies fell to St. Marys, and lost a nail biter to Cascade Christian Friday, Feb. 14.

## Cougars finish season mixed

By Jenna Larkin  
IVN Contributing Writer

This past week the Cougar basketball teams finished off their seasons going up against St. Mary's on Tuesday, Feb. 11, and Cascade Christian on Friday, Feb. 14, while on the road.

The Lady Cougars kicked thing off against the St. Mary's which put up a strong guard against Kimberly Crow from the very beginning, double-teaming her most of the game. They sometimes threw in a third guard to ensure Crow didn't get too many shots for the Cougars. With Crow well-guarded, the Cougars struggled during the first half of the game, only scoring seven points during the first quarter.

Alex LaFlamme was the leading scorer with eight points. Crow was able to get in a few rebounds helping IVHS gain back the ball.

By the second half of the game IVHS started to get it together, but had fallen so far behind in points they were unable to catch up. St. Mary's took the game 50-27.

On Friday, the Lady Cougars played a tough game against the Cascade Christian Challengers, who now hold a 4-4 league record.

Crow was in her element with 16 points. Naviya Dixon put nine points on the board and LaFlamme had six points.

The game became intense with seven seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. Head Coach Loren King called for a time-out and for whatever reason the officials did not see the call. Once the refs realized IVHS was calling for a time-out, they allotted the Cougars just enough time to get the ball in bounds and make a shot. With that, the Cougars took possession of the ball, tossed it down the line, turned and took the shot. As close to a Cinderella story as this could be, the shot missed the hoop and the Cougars lost by two points, 39-37.

Even though the girls lost their last two season games, they were able to walk off the court with their heads held high. The senior Lady Cougars walked off that court knowing that they did a great job rebuilding a team that is respected and competitive against some of the toughest teams in the league.

King is very proud of all the girls, but most proud of the seniors who started on the team as freshmen. When they started, the team was not in a good state, not very competitive and lacked a sense of camaraderie. Over the next four years, young ladies such as Crow, Samantha Frederick, Miliya Sterwart, Theresa Frederick and Tanyanita Stewart worked hard to bring the team back up to standards and to be respected by other teams within the league.

"We closed the season looking really good. These are good kids, great leaders and

students. That's what we (coaches) are looking for," said King. "IVHS has been represented very well. The seniors leave a legacy for the program."

While the girls finished off their season strong, the guys have not been able to get a break this whole season. Before the basketball season even started, the team lost one of its key players the coaches were hoping to have due to a previous injury. Then, the Valley endured a storm that delayed the start of the basketball season. With make-up games three times a week and losing strong players mid-season, the boys struggled for the remainder of the season. With the "Fab Six" keeping the Cougars going, they were able to get in a few wins and confidence boosters.

With season nearing an end, two key players were able to return to the team, but by this time the six remaining players had exhausted themselves and playing against the top teams this past week was grueling.

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, the boys were not able to keep up with St. Mary's. The guys struggled from the very beginning, only scoring 13 points during the first half while St. Mary's put up 30. The third quarter was also a struggle for the Cougars, scoring only 14 points.

Conrad Davis was the leading scorer with ten points, seven rebounds and two steals. Lander Nordal put up six, Zach Welch scored

eight points for IVHS, Eligah Chavez and Kade Doyle each scored two points and CJ Manning scored one.

St. Mary's played strong throughout, ultimately winning the game 79-29.

Friday, Feb. 14, proved to be just as damaging for the guys while playing against Cascade Christian.

IVHS was not able to score any points during the first quarter, falling behind with only nine points scored by halftime, while the Challengers had scored 37 points. The Cougars struggled to keep up the rest of the game, only getting in a few points here and there.

Davis scored 11 points for the Cougars, had seven rebounds and one blocked shot; Manning and Doyle were able to each put up five, Welch scored four and Nick Worley put two points on the board. IVHS lost to Cascade Christian 79-28.

"The guys that were able to finish off the season are true warriors, they worked hard all season," said head coach Jeff Winters.

With St. Mary's and Lakeview tied for first place, there will be no playoffs for either of the IVHS basketball teams. St. Mary's and Lakeview will go up against each other to determine a seed spot for the final eight spots for state.

On Thursday, March 13, IVHS will hold its winter sports awards ceremony, starting at 6 p.m.

## James Thompson receives First-Team All-State honors

By Jenna Larkin  
IVN Contributing Writer

James Thompson is only a junior this year, but he has made quite a name for himself.

During the 2013-14 football season, Thompson was a running back for the Cougars. Throughout the season Thompson averaged 186.5 yards per game and broke a long standing IVHS record that was accomplished during the 1998-99 football season by Mike Melton, who ran a total of 1,649 yards. Thompson beat that record by 23 yards for a total of 1,672 yards.

Thompson doesn't take any of the credit for the new rushing record; instead he gives the credit to the linemen that made it possible — players such as Kade Doyle, John Britt, Nick Worley, Chase Robins, James Jarrett, Julian Northrup, Jacob Salimon and Mason Thornhill.

"The linemen pushed hard to make sure I made those plays," Thompson said of his fellow teammates.

At the end of the season Thompson was awarded the SCL Offensive Player of the year and along with fellow teammates was awarded SCL 1st Team Offensive Players honors. What topped off his season was a surprise notice that came in December just before the holiday break. Thompson was told he had been nominated and received the First-Team All-State Honors, an honor that normally goes to a senior.

"It was an exciting honor," said Thompson.

Thompson has a wonderful support group behind him, his parents. At every game his mom could be found standing near the sidelines cheering him on.

"I am very proud of him, he has worked so hard. He put everything he had into the games and for his team," said Thompson's mother, Karen Thompson.

His dad could usually be found along the sidelines, always with a camera in hand snapping photos of Thompson.

"We are very proud, James has worked awfully hard," said Jim Thompson, James' father.

Thompson also credits much of his success to his coaches, especially running backs coach Aaron Skinner. This was Skinner's first year as the running backs coach, in the past he has been the coach for the linemen. Thompson said that Skinner did a great job as a first year coach. Ray Yarbrough, head coach for the IVHS Cougars was also happy for Thompson, but like Thompson accredits much of the success to the whole team.

"I'm really happy for James, for me, it's more of a team honor," said Yarbrough. "It's re-assuring how our team did this season."

So what does someone do who has accomplished one's dream of breaking records and receiving awards normally given to seniors do to get prepared for the next football season? Speed training. Thompson is currently working with a speed trainer at Club Northwest in Grants Pass. Many of the linemen this past season were seniors, so Thompson plans on coming back faster and stronger during his senior year in order to help his teammates.

### REWARD \$3,000

For Information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the Hit and Run Deaths of Robert Calvin and Jarred Houston.



Robert Calvin



Jarred Houston

The Families and the Community along with Josephine County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and Crime Stoppers of Southern Oregon need your help in locating the person who was driving the vehicle that struck and killed Robert and Jarred on Highway 199 on October 30, 2013.

If you have information regarding this incident, please contact the Josephine County Police Department at 541-482-5211, Anonymous Tip Line 541-552-2333 or Crime Stoppers of Southern Oregon at 1-800-850-0580. The Crime Stoppers case number is KTVL 020414.

Callers will remain completely ANONYMOUS.

Currently the Community Credit Union in Cave Junction, the victim's families and the Crime Stoppers have contributed toward a reward fund that totals \$3,000. Donations are being accepted to increase the reward amount. Checks should be made mailed to Community Credit Union in Cave Junction notating the "Calvin/Houston REWARD fund."



BE BRAVE...YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY...  
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**Arts Red Garter**  
Where the Valley comes to play  
Karaoke - Dancing Live Music

**Guppy Whimsical Duet**  
Friday, Feb. 21 @ 5:30 p.m.  
**Taylor's Country Store**

**Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE**  
**Phil King**  
Sat., Feb. 22 @ 6 p.m.  
Every Friday **Jay Barley**  
Every Wed Open Mic. Night  
Weds From 6-8 p.m.

**Saturday night Pool Tourney**  
@ **Sportsmans Tavern**

**Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill**  
Tuesday to Sunday Noon to Close  
**Happy Hour 3-5**  
Stop in and see Kate and Mamie Today!

**Eat @ Mc Grew's Course**