

# Lorna Byrne football deep with experience

By

Jenna Larkin

IVN Contributing Writer

With a 2-2 record, the Lorna Byrne Middle School football squad is off to a decent start.

With a returning coaching staff, the Vikings are on their way to see many more victories. Tony Hess leads the team as head coach and Jesse Dugas and Jay Colbertson have returned to share their knowledge with the squad. This season the Vikings are pleased to welcome Scott Thornhill to the coaching staff as well. He is the offensive and defensive lineman coach.

The Vikings played their first game on Wednesday, Sept. 10, losing against Rogue River by 10 points. As the jitters dissipated and the team became stronger their next two games were victorious against Hanby and Talent

middle schools.

Most of LBMS' players are returning eighth-graders who bring experience to the playing field. However, the few seventh-graders who returned have been playing together since second grade and know how to read each other, bringing a different experience to the team. With the knowledge and experience this team has this season, Hess and the other coaching staff has high hopes for the squad.

Caleb Hess, Bryce Bruner, Ty Brummet, Rayes Dugas and a few other key players are returning eighth-graders leading the pack this season. Hess is the squad's quarterback; both Brummet and Bruner are wide receivers. Ayden Lindsey, also an eighth-grader, is the team's most experienced offensive linemen. For the first three games Caleb Hess dominated the score board for the Vikings, completing 10 touchdowns.

"That was not planned, it just happened," said Coach Hess.

This season's goal for the team is to become better acquainted with offensive plays that were handed down from the high school. With each game, the team gains a little more of that goal. Defense is smoking the opponents this season so far only allowing on average 10 points to be scored per game.

This last game proved to be the most difficult and challenging so far this season. LBMS traveled to White City to go up against White Mountain Middle School on Thursday, Oct. 2. White Mountain was able to get the upper hand and take the game with a winning score of 0-28.

Going into this game Hess knew the team had to further establish the teams passing game, passing to the outside. Hess also utilized the Vikings speed in hopes of gaining yards and

putting a few points on the board. During the first half of the game however, the Vikings faced a major setback with an injury to their quarterback, Caleb Hess. With the LBMS quarterback out, White Mountain was able to score most of their points during the half. In the second half Coach Hess just wanted the boys to do their best and finish the game with their heads held high.

"I had heard that some of the linemen on this team were some big boys, some are the size of high school players," said Hess.

With the hard defeat past, Hess is looking forward to continuing the squad's knowledge on the offensive side and just teaching the fundamentals of football.

The Vikings are scheduled to go up against Fleming Middle School on Wednesday, Oct 8, while on home turf.



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

## IVHS Volleyball shows progress

By

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IVHS students were in abundance to cheer on the Lady Cougar volleyball squad during two home games.

On Tuesday, Sept. 30, the Lady Cougars lost to St. Mary's Crusaders, 1-3. The girls fought hard during the entire game, making it tough for St. Mary's to put anything over the net.

"Overall, we played really well," said head coach Erica Butler.

Allison Primeau had seven kills while teammate Alex LaFlamme had five kills, two blocks and six touches at the net. Tori Johnson defended Cougar territory with 11 kills and worked with teammates to pass the ball. Mariah Ellis came off the bench to show her talent in the back row with great passing and serving, helping IVHS gain points during the game. Freshman Kai Tree started her first varsity match of the season, with great attacks against the Crusaders.

"She played like she had been there since the beginning of the season," said Butler of Tree.

Thursday, Oct. 2, proved to be a better turnout for the volleyball squad. The Cougars won against Prospect in a non-conference game. The teams competed in a five set match with a final score of 2-3. The scores were; 20-25, Cougars; 17-25, Prospect; 21-25, Prospect; 10-25, Cougars and 7-15, Cougars.

Junior Halona Jackson worked hard setting the ball, so the hitters were successful at attacks. Jackson had two runs of six serves, each in the first and fourth sets. Alexus Inge had a great night with 11 kills with teammate Tori Johnson serving seven kills.

"The team is very supportive and positive of each other, and they enjoy playing together which shows on the court," Butler said.

The closeness of the team was evident in the final two sets when IVHS stepped it up and was aggressive at the net, keeping Prospect at bay. In the fourth set, McKayla Yeoman served the last nine points with four aces. As a team, the volleyball squad raked up a total of 35 kills against Prospect.

The Lady Cougars were scheduled to go up against Cascade Christian on Monday, Oct. 6, for a home game.

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