

Sports



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

2014 IVHS Cougars football team celebrates after a big homecoming win against Lakeview. The Cougars travel Nov. 7 to play Dayton in the first round of the playoffs.

Cougars get homecoming win advance to playoffs

By Jenna Larkin
IVN Contributing Writer

This year's Illinois Valley High School football squad has left its mark on school history. For the second year in a row, the Cougars will be headed to the state playoffs.

With a tremendous 62-0 victory Friday night against the Lakeview Honkers, IVHS left no doubt about its intentions.

"This is something they really wanted," said head coach Ray Yarbrough. "They came out and got it. They worked their tails off. These kids deserve to go to the playoffs, They earned it."

Senior lineman Nick Worley summed up the team's enthusiasm following the big win.

"It's really awesome! I hope we can go far. I think we can make it," said senior lineman Nick Worley.

Barely three minutes into the game, senior James Thompson caught a pass and snagged the first touchdown of the night for the Cou-

gars. From then on, the Cougars dominated the game letting the Honkers know whose turf they were on. Thompson was on fire the whole game, scoring four of the team's nine touchdowns. Thompson had 13 carries for a total of 150 rushing yards. He also had two tackles on the night.

Thompson wasn't the only Cougar to have a great night, though. Logan Miller blocked a Honkers kick, caught an interception and scored a touchdown.

"I think we played real well, we've been practicing hard. Lakeview was one we've all wanted to beat and it all just came together," said Miller.

Triston Hostkoetter, meanwhile, had six solo tackles and four sacks. Hostkoetter also scored the second IVHS touchdown.

In the second quarter, quarterback CJ Manning ran 60 yards before being tackled one yard shy of the end zone. On the next play, Thompson plowed through the middle to the end zone, bringing the score to 27-0.

Before the second half was over, Skylar McLanahan, who completed two of three pass-

es during the game, threw a pass to Manning for another touchdown, bringing the score to 34-0. Manning also had a great passing game, completing four of six throws. He also had five carries for a total of 70 rushing yards.

Going into halftime, the Cougars were up 42-0.

"I feel like we played one of our best games all year," said Thompson, who feels this game set a mark to everyone that IVHS is not messing around. "We are going to come out firing and we're not coming out slow, we are here to play."

During the second half of the game, Yarbrough gave the underclassmen a chance to shine and IVHS has plenty of diamonds in the ruff. Sophomore Zak Lindell stepped in for Thompson during the second half of the game and scored his first varsity touchdown from 40 yards out.

With Thompson gone next season, Lindell has a good chance of taking his place. Lindell had a total of 70 rushing yards on five carries.

IVHS continued to rule the field and scoreboard for the remainder of the game, keeping

the Honkers at bay and scoreless.

The Cougars finished the season with a 2-1 league record and a 5-3 overall record.

Not only did IVHS have the pressure of winning their last game to make the playoffs but it was also homecoming and senior night.

"Honestly not having school today seemed to help a lot," Yarbrough noted. "Just having them home and having the opportunity to relax and not being involved with a bunch of activities helped the kids stay focused."

Yarbrough put the Cougars through the ringer the week before the final regular season game, making it the hardest conditioning week of the season. Instead of whining and complaining, the players thanked Yarbrough and the rest of the coaching staff for hard practices.

Yarbrough didn't have any sound advice for the senior players heading into the playoffs, but he did have this to say: "I don't have any advice yet but to be at practice on Monday and be ready to roll."

The Cougars are scheduled to travel to Dayton High School on Friday, Nov. 7, for the first non-league playoff game.

Manning's senior project promotes cancer awareness

By Jenna Larkin
IVN Contributing Writer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the sight of pink is everywhere as a way to honor those who have battled the disease.

There are many ways in which women are honored for either surviving or for those who have passed from breast cancer. Susan G. Komen has a clothing line dedicated solely to the fight. Dutch Bros. sells reusable mugs every year with a portion going toward breast cancer awareness. And there are many local and national fund-raising races that honor women.

This year, two local women, Dianna Hall and Lynn Schiermeyer,

both Three River School District employees, were honored by Illinois Valley High School senior CJ Manning during Friday night's football game. For his senior project, Manning decided to focus on sports management by organizing an event to honor two breast cancer survivors.

"I had no idea how I was going to find two survivors," said Manning.

With the help of Illinois Valley High School staff, Manning was able to get in touch with Hall and Schiermeyer. Right away, both women wanted to know what Manning's project was about and immediately got on board.

"I was really proud of him (Manning) for stepping up and raising awareness," said Schiermeyer.

Schiermeyer was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011, but through treatment she was cancer free by February 2012. Schiermeyer is proud of Manning for stepping up and helping to raise awareness in the community.

"Regular checkups and self-exams are important," Schiermeyer said.

Mrs. Hall works at the high school, so Manning just approached her in her office.

"I was kind of embarrassed of going in front of the community," Hall said of the presentation during the homecoming game. "But, then I found out I wasn't the only one, so I was OK with it."

Mrs. Hall was diagnosed eight years ago through a regular mammo-

gram and because the cancer was caught early things moved quickly from there. Within a couple of months Hall was in remission.

"I consider myself one of the lucky ones," said Hall of her brush with cancer. "I'm a big advocate for regular mammograms now."

Mrs. Hall highly recommends women get regular mammograms which are key in early diagnoses and treatment.

The project was not just about finding two survivors, but organizing the whole event from the ground up.



See Manning on A-10

CJ Manning (center) with Hall and Schiermeyer

<p>Art's Red Garter</p> <p>Karaoke - Dancing Live Music</p> <p>Where the Valley goes to play</p>	<p>UR MOM</p> <p>Friday, Nov. 7, @ 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Taylor's Country Store</p>	<p>Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE</p> <p>Dale Hopper</p> <p>Sat., Nov. 8, @ 6 p.m.</p> <p>Every Friday Jay Barley</p> <p>Every Wednesday Open Mic. Night</p> <p>From 6-8 p.m.</p>	<p>Thursday Night Football</p> <p>Nov. 13</p> <p>Sauerkraut & Sausage @ Sportsmans Tavern</p>	<p>Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill</p> <p>Tuesday to Sunday Noon to Close</p> <p>Happy Hour 3-5</p> <p>Stop in and see Kate and Mamie Today!</p>	<p>Jive Coulis</p> <p>with Dawna Crocker</p> <p>Rock n Roll</p> <p>Friday, Nov. 7, 9 p.m. \$3</p> <p>@ McGrew's of Course!</p>
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