

Sports



Bryce Bruner passes the ball to Caleb Hess during the Vikings home win against South Middle School Monday, Dec. 1.

(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Lorna Byrne keeps on rolling

By
Jenna Larkin
IVN Contributing Writer

Lorna Byrne sports teams are on fire this year and out to make Viking history. The Vikings football team started the year off by playing better than they had in past years. The lady Vikings seventh-grade volleyball team went undefeated and the eighth-grade volleyball team lost only one game the whole season. Now the seventh-and eighth-grade basketball teams are continuing that winning streak.

The eighth-grade team started the season off undefeated (4-0) while the seventh-grade team has gone 3-1. This season the Vikings are implementing the high school basketball program which seems to be helping the young players in their game. Head coach Matt Knight for the IVHS boys’ basketball team has attended a few practices to help the Vikings improve their skills and learn parts of the high school program.

Many youth coaches and high school coaches are teaming up and implementing parts of the high school sports programs into the younger programs in hopes to help athletes prepare for what lays ahead at the high school level and also to create competitive teams year after year.

Many of the athletes on the eighth-grade basketball team have been playing together since the fourth grade and have learned what each player is capable of doing and where help may be needed on the court. The seventh-grade team may not have the experience as their older teammates but according to Coach Hess, they have great work ethics. Along with the years of experience together, help from Coach Knight and regular practices, the Vikings boys’ basketball is on their way to having a successful season.

“Practices are going good. All the players are very talented,” said Coach Jesse Dugas, one of four coaches for the Vikings basketball teams.

Behind every good team are good coaches. This season

is no exception. The Vikings are spearheaded by four coaches who have been coaching together nearly as long as the boys have been playing together. Ryan Bruner is the head coach assisted by Jesse Dugas, Tony Hess and Jay Culbertson. These four guys not only coach basketball, but spend the year going from sport to sport coaching many amazing athletes and seeing each one improve year after year.

With great coaches and competitive athletes the Vikings are reaching to the sky for their goals and accomplishments this season. The team is in agreement that they would like to go undefeated this season. Some of the players have individual goals as well; those include getting more steals per game, being a starter and scoring more points per game.

As the Thanksgiving holiday passes the Vikings are gearing up for the second half of the season and looking toward a stronger finish to their season. The Vikings were scheduled to go up against South Middle School Dec. 1, 2014 while on home turf.

Barry steps up to coach IVHS Girls’ Basketball

By
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Serena Barry was born and raised in the Illinois Valley. She attended all three schools and graduated from IVHS in 2005. During her high-school career, Barry participated in basketball, volleyball and softball. In her junior and senior years, the Lady Cougar basketball varsity team was first in conference and went to state playoffs during her senior year.

After graduation, she attended Seattle University for one year and transferred to Southern Oregon University for the remaining four

years of college. In 2010, Barry graduated with a bachelor’s degree in science and social science and policy. After graduation Barry moved back to the Illinois Valley.

In Barry’s first year out of college she worked for the Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma during the summer of 2010. Barry was the youth instructor for environment youth education.

That fall, Barry was contacted by then head coach for the IVHS girls’ basketball team, Loren King, to help coach. Barry assisted with varsity and was the assistant coach for JV for two years. By the end of her second season as an assistant coach, Barry became pregnant and took the next

season off to enjoy motherhood. Barry didn’t completely shy away from the game of basketball, though. During the 2014 season, she volunteered as an assistant coach for both varsity and JV. In that same season, King announced that he would no longer be coaching for IVHS after the season was over. With a head coach position open, Barry jumped at the opportunity and applied for the job. Barry can’t be happier to be the head coach for the girls’ basketball team.

The Lady Cougars have big plans for this season. One of the team goals is to make it to playoffs. Another goal is to be really competitive throughout the season and be first or second in the league. So far, the girls have shown

the competitive attitude needed to stay successful in pre-season.

“Practices are going really well. The girls have positive attitudes and everyone shows up for practices,” said Barry.

When Barry was a Lady Cougar, the team motto was “We, not me.” Barry has brought that motto back in an effort to capitalize on keeping attitudes positive and teaching the girls what it means to be a strong team and supportive of each other. This motto seems to be catching on quickly and helping keep the girls on track and pumped up for the upcoming basketball season. Though Barry knows that there is still work to be done before their first game, she is

confident the girls will shine through with confidence on the court.

The Lady Cougars will host their first pre-season game on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m, against longtime rival Hidden Valley. This first game is actually a special one because Hidden Valley’s head coach is none other than past coach for I.V., Loren King.

“During summer ball we went up against him and lost. They were ready for us. The second time we went up against them we were ready and won that game,” said Barry.

This time around, the girls are determined more than ever to prove to their old coach that the Cougars have what it takes to be a competitive and strong team.

Art's Red Garter

Karaoke - Dancing
Live Music

Where the Valley
goes to play!

Caleb Orton

w/ special appearance by

the Love Atoms

Fri., Dec. 5 @ 5:30 p.m.

From
Taylor's Country Store

Wild River
HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE
GUPPY

Sat., Dec. 6, @ 6 p.m.

Every Friday
Jay Barley

Every Wednesday
Open Mic. Night
From
6-8 p.m.

Thursday Night Football

Dec. 4
Ham & Beans
\$2

@
Sportsman Tavern

Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill

Closed - Will reopen on
Thursday, Dec. 4

Happy Hour 3-5
Stop in and see
Kate and Mamie
Soon!

Circle of Stone

Fri., Dec. 5 @ 8 p.m.

Free Show

@
McGrew's