

Sports



14 sophomore Andrew Sherier shoots during the 29-70 home loss against Sweet Home at home. The boys currently sit at 1-6 on the season. (Photo courtesy of Kelli Augustadt for The Illinois Valley News)

Girls’ basketball squad wins four straight

By
Jenna Larkin
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The IVHS girls’ basketball team is on the mend from last season. Last year, the girls struggled to finish strong, while this season the girls have flipped their approach around and have won the last four games in a row. Last week, the Cougars added three more victories, bringing their overall record to 4-2.

“We are on a four-game winning streak. This year there is lots more drive to win and be competitive,” head coach Serena Barry said.

When asked what might be the cause for such a change, Barry replied that the girls were more prepared this year, due in part from former longtime head coach Loren King. He developed a new program for the girls’ basketball team

starting at the middle-school level and working up from there. Many of the girls that are now playing at IVHS began at Lorna Byrne in the infant stages of King’s program.

“The girls are more confident this year,” said Barry.

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, IVHS hosted Prospect Charter which turned out to be a confidence booster for the Lady Cougars. By the end of the first quarter, the Cougars were ahead by seven points. The Cougars then went into halftime with 25-15 lead.

“We won every quarter,” Barry said. “One of our goals this year is to win every quarter and stay competitive through the whole game.”

The Cougars were able to come out on top and take their second win of the season with a final score of 43-27.

Friday, Dec. 12, proved to be a tough game for the squad. They went up against the

Sweet Home Huskies, who proved to be evenly matched competition for the Cougars.

“The Sweet Home players were tall and I think the girls were intimidated at first,” said Barry.

By the second quarter, though, IVHS woke up and began taking possession of the ball and led at halftime by a score of 19-8. Senior Alex LaFlamme, scored nine points, while Avery Neville and Aundrea Miller each put eight points on the board for the Cougars.

The Cougars bagged the win by a final score of 42-29.

With their biggest win this season, 47-27, the Cougars beat Rogue Valley Adventist Academy Saturday, Dec. 13, while on the road.

“I think patience and decision making in offense is getting better,” Barry said. “They are also getting better at reading the defensive team.”

IVHS had a great defensive game in spite of starting with low energy. Barry contributes that to possibly the game being their first on the road. The Lady Cougars were able to shake off the sluggishness and once again dominate the game. At halftime, Rogue Valley Adventist Academy trailed IVHS by 12 points. In the second half, the Lady Cougars showed no sign of slowing down.

Allison Primeau and LaFlamme each had a great game, offering high energy to the Cougar’s offense. Primeau put 19 points on the board and went three for four at the line, while LaFlamme scored 10 points for the Cougars.

This coming week could prove to be a little more relaxed for the girls. On Tuesday, Dec. 16, the Cougars will host New Hope Christian at home. On Friday, Dec. 19, and Saturday, Dec. 20, the girls will travel to North Valley to compete in a holiday tournament.

Wrestlers look to grow

By
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This year’s IVHS’ wrestling team is smaller and a little greener around the edges than what head coach Jay Miller has had in the past.

Last year, the team said goodbye to six seniors and a few wrestlers moved away. Although the team is not the powerhouse that it was last year, coach Miller is optimistic that the team will prevail and do well in the state tournament.

“The kids are working hard and getting better every day,” Miller said. “We have a ways to go but I think we can get there.”

This season, the wrestling team consists of 12 wrestlers; six that are experienced and

six that are inexperienced. Seniors Eric Miller, Logan Miller and Brandon Perez are some of the leaders this year helping out the rookies. Last season, both Millers placed in the state tournament, while Perez wrestled well, but was unable to place. With high expectations this year, Coach Miller knows the team may not be what is has been in past years, but knows that when districts come around, the team will be ready. This year, Perez and the rest of the team are shooting to place high during the state tournament. Another team goal is to finish in the top 10 while at state; last year IVHS ranked sixth in the state. Each wrestler is looking to improve with each practice and tournament.

Christian Ingles is a fresh

face to the team, but wrestled for many years in the youth program before becoming a Cougar wrestler. He is also shooting for the stars this season and wants to place in the state tournament.

The team has had two weeks of competition and is showing positive signs in reaching those goals. On Thursday, Dec. 4, the Cougars had their first dual meet against Brookings while at home. IVHS was able to make the pins necessary to take their first win of the season. On Friday, Dec. 5, IVHS traveled to Phoenix to compete in a dual team tournament. IVHS was able to secure two more wins but suffered two losses.

On Friday, Dec. 6, the team traveled to compete in a tournament hosted by Del

Norte. IVHS was able to come out on top in a few matches. IVHS left with one champion and five wrestlers that placed in their weight division.

The team traveled to Coos Bay/North Bend for a two-day tournament this past Friday and Saturday. It was a 30-team tournament and the Cougars walked away twelfth overall. Logan Miller placed second in his weight division, while Eric Miller and Brandon Perez each placed sixth in their divisions.

The Cougars will compete in a two-day tournament at Grants Pass High on Friday, Dec. 19 and Saturday, Dec. 20. Some 35 teams from all over Oregon and California will be competing.



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