

Sports



Kim Crow, in white, gets boxed out by Sarah Houston during the Alumni Holiday Hoops game Dec. 27.

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

IVHS Alumni take center court

By
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The first Alumni Holiday Hoops tournament was held Dec. 27. There were two games, women versus women and men versus men. A three-point shootout also took place at halftime during the men's game.

The women started the night out with an energetic game, with the home team taking the victory, 49-46.

"Considering the fact that I haven't played for a while, I did all right," said alumni Sarah Houston, class of 2006. "It was a blast to get out there and see all the girls I haven't seen for quite a while and just play."

Many of the ladies were excited to see some of their old teammates and to get on the court again. No more so than Serena Barry, head coach for the girls' basketball team. Barry used her love of the game to set up the fundraiser for the girls' basketball team.

"I like to play basketball," said Barry. "I miss my old teammates and I've always wanted to get us all back together and to play on the

court again."

Barry created the fund-raiser with the help of IVHS staff and Matt Knight, head coach for the boys' basketball team.

"Honestly I didn't know what to expect," said Kim Hamilton, class of 2005. "I was involved throughout my entire high-school career and wanted to support the Valley and the program."

Hamilton also added it was a great reason to come back and see old friends and play basketball.

When it was time for the men to take the court, they decided to play "old guys" versus the young guys. The young guys might have had speed and agility, but they soon found out that the old guys still had a little pep in their step and plenty of experience. Many of the older guys still get together and play a game every once in a while and coach basketball as well.

"I thought it was pretty cool the age groups they choose," said Robert Jackson, who graduated in 1995. "There was a 10-year gap between the two teams, our youngest graduated in 2000 and their oldest graduated in 2010."

The alumni took the lead early on in the

game, easily scoring points and showing the youngsters some new tricks on the court. By halftime, the old guys led by almost 20 points. The game's atmosphere in the second half took on a more playful feel as both teams relaxed just a little. Near the end of the game, the alumni began to feel the pressure of age creeping up but managed to reach down and grab extra steam to finish off the game with a final score of 60-47.

"It's really great. It was great to see the wide range of people that graduated; get an opportunity to play with a bunch of guys I've read about, but never got to see," said Shavon Haynes, class of 1995.

Even with the upper classmen schooling the young ones on the game of basketball, the youngsters agreed that the alumni game was a blast and they would do it again.

"It was fun. I just like how the people came together from different graduation years," said Nick Hoelzle, class of 2013.

"I thought it was a very fun and an action packed game," said Josh Free, who graduated in 2012. "I thought it was pretty cool how they took children from different years. I thought that was pretty fun to have the old and the young,

made it more competitive."

Many alumni are hoping that this becomes an annual tournament and cannot wait until next year's game.

"It was nice to see a bunch of the community members come out and take an interest in the alumni game. Hopefully they can keep it going and get a lot more people to exploit it," said Haynes.

Barry is hopeful that she can continue the holiday tradition and watch the Holiday Alumni Hoops tournament grow each year.

At halftime during the men's game there was a three-point shootout. Some of the prizes included two \$20 gift certificates from Wild River and Brewing Company, two rounds of golf from Dutcher Creek Golf Course, a \$20 gift certificate from River Valley Restaurant and mugs and free drink cards from Dutch Bros. The top four in the shootout were: Laurissa Tausaga in fourth place, Allison Primeau in third, Serena Barry in second and Matt Knight took the first-place slot.

Other sponsors included Perfect Pizza, Shop Smart, Taylor's Sausage and the I.V. Booster Club.

Lady Cougars rack up more wins

By
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The IVHS Lady Cougars have put two more wins under their belts.

On Sat., Dec. 20, the girls finished up a two-day tournament, hosted by North Valley, by going up against the Gold Beach Panthers. Both teams were equally matched, fighting for possession of the ball through the whole game. IVHS managed to keep the Panther's six-foot center out of scoring range. The Cougars held her to just 10 points in the game.

The IVHS ladies, however, were on fire when it came to putting points on the board. Victoria Johnson was the leading scorer with 13 points. Teammate Allison Primeau was a close second with 12 points and Alex LaFlamme put

nine points on the board.

At the end of the fourth quarter, the game went into overtime with the score tied at 42-42.

With seconds to spare in overtime, LaFlamme grabbed possession of the ball, missing her shot from the free throw line. But, Primeau nabbed the rebound and as the buzzer sounded, she made one final shot, winning the game with a score of 46-45.

"This game was definitely a confidence booster," said head coach Serena Barry. "The girls hung in there with the other team all the way to the end."

Just two days before Christmas, the Cougars traveled to Crow. IVHS was short three starting players, but managed to pull through and grab their sixth win of the season. IVHS won by a final score of 39-32.

"I'm proud of the girls for stepping up and

out of their comfort zone to get us that victory," said Barry.

Leading IVHS in points was Allison Primeau with 18 points and Avery Neville with 10 points.

The girls were scheduled to travel to Sisters to compete in a three-day tournament scheduled for Monday, Dec. 29, through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

The IVHS boys were able to grab their third win of the season against Crow Tuesday, Dec. 23. The final score was 72-67, IVHS.

"This was the best game so far this season," said head coach Matt Knight. "They executed everything we have been working on."

Skylar McLanahan, who scored 37 points and had five rebounds, was aggressive and always looking for an opportunity to score. Point guard Andrew Sherier scored 10 points, three

rebounds and three assists. Sherier also got the ball out fast and was able to help his teammates score quickly.

Knight is happy about the progress the boys have made so far this season and looks forward to league games beginning next week. Knight knows that the team still has a few things to sharpen up on, but is confident that by the time league starts the boys will be ready to plunge into the season.

During the Crow game, senior Nick Worley scored nine points with nine rebounds. CJ Manning and Conrad Davis each put six points on the board for the Cougars. Davis also had eight rebounds. Triston Hostkoetter helped IVHS with four point.

The boys were also scheduled to travel with the Lady Cougars to participate in the Sister's Tournament over the holiday break.

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