

Sports



No. 12 IVHS junior Allison Primeau shoots during win against Gold Beach in North Valley Dec. 20.

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

Cougars stumble over holiday tourney

By **Jenna Larkin**
IVN Contributing Writer

IVHS Lady Cougars learned a valuable lesson this past week, with high points comes low points. The Cougars traveled to Sisters to compete in a three day tournament sponsored by Sisters High School.

Monday, Dec. 29, the girl's squad went up against Henley and faced their biggest loss this season. Henley took the game with a final score of 81-8.

"Henley is a really tough team," said head coach Serena Barry. "I didn't have my normal starters; four out of the five girls were not at practice this week."

With those girls not at practice Barry felt they did not deserve to start and brought up a few JV players. The pressure was felt by the JV

girls going up against a team who is currently ranked number three in the state. Even with the pressure the girls fought hard and managed to put a few points on the board for the Cougars. Allison Primeau lead with five points, Avery Neville scored two and freshmen Courtney Scott scored one point.

"Commitment is very important to me as a coach. This game was a tough learning experience," Barry said. "Hopefully we can put this behind us and move on."

Tuesday, Dec. 30, was a slightly better game for the Lady Cougars despite the fact that the team still did not have the normal starting lineup. The Cougars competed against Sisters putting up a better offense this time around.

IVHS was down by 10 points at the end of the first quarter and slowly fell behind during the second quarter. As the halftime buzzer sounded the Cougars were struggling defensively and

were down by 21 points. Going into the third quarter the squad stepped onto the court with a little more spunk and ended up scoring 20 points during the second half to Sisters' 17 points. As hard as the Cougars fought, Sisters won the game with a final score of 51-33. Primeau was the lead scorer with 10 points. Alex LaFlamme was close behind with seven and fellow teammates Neville and Aundrea Miller each put up four points.

"I felt like we played really bad defense during the first half," said Barry. "In the second half the winning team that we know was back. It felt good."

The final day of the tournament, Wednesday, Dec. 31, IVHS took on the Madras White Buffaloes.

"This was a closer game," commented Barry.

Madras was still able to grab the win with

a final score of 48-23. Barry noted that the girls had great momentum during the game but let up during the third quarter. The White Buffaloes were able to pull ahead with a large scoring margin. In the fourth quarter the frustration became too much and the squad began to shut down making mistakes that were not common of the girls.

"Madras is a pretty skilled team. I've got to give them credit," said Barry.

In the next few days the Cougars have to figure out where they want to go. Barry is hoping that the girls learn about the importance of commitment to create a respectable team. She also wants them to remember the team motto "We, not me" as the first league game approaches.

The Lady Cougars were scheduled to compete against Douglas during a home game Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Oregon looks to add to statement season

By **Anne M. Peterson**
AP Sports Writer

Within moments after winning the Rose Bowl for a spot in the national championship, the T-shirts were up on Oregon's website.

"Won Not Done," the shirts read.

The sentiment — also on tees made for opponent Ohio State — was perfect for the Ducks, who are a win away from proving once and for all that they belong among the nation's elite. It's a position they've been in once before, when they faced Auburn for the national title to cap the 2010 season and came up short.

"We've still got to finish this. We're one step closer to achieving everything we ever worked for, everything we ever wanted," senior linebacker Derrick Malone Jr. said.

Oregon has never won a national championship. The Buckeyes have seven national titles dating back to 1942.

Just a decade ago, the Ducks finished the season 5-6 but they'd flirted with national prominence in 2001 when quarterback Joey Harrington helped lead Oregon to the Fiesta Bowl.

Then Chip Kelly arrived in Eugene in 2007 and reworked Oregon's offense into a distinctive high-flying spread. Since

then, the speedy Ducks have been consistently ranked.

Kelly was promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach before the 2009 season and the next year the Ducks went 12-1 and first played for the title. Oregon fell to Auburn 22-19 on Wes Bynum's 19-yard field goal as time expired.

Afterward Kelly vowed, "We'll be back."

Kelly's successor, Mark Helfrich, made good on the promise: Here the second-seeded Ducks are, following a 59-20 victory over Florida State in the Rose Bowl. Ohio State defeated Alabama 42-35 in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans later Thursday night.

The loss in college football's first-ever playoffs snapped a 29-game winning streak by the third-seeded Seminoles, and Oregon emphasized its dominance by piling up the most points ever scored in a Rose Bowl game. It was quarterback Jameis Winston's first — and maybe only, if he decides to go to the NFL — college loss.

"They were undefeated the last two years, and I mean just that in itself says a lot about what they've been able to do. Coming in, we didn't focus on that," quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "We just wanted to focus on ourselves and really just trying to execute to the best of our abilities."

But in the midst of the game, Oregon also took a huge step in changing the national perception of the Ducks — shoving aside the image of a gimmicky team with a multitude of

uniforms that could never stand up to the defending national champion.

"I hope they keep saying they (the Ducks) are soft, because it just motivates our guys," offensive coordinator Scott Frost said.

Mariota is the personification of Oregon's ascent, becoming the first Duck to win the Heisman Trophy.

He has an ongoing conference record with 40 touchdowns passes this season. He's also passed for a touchdown in each of his 40 games of his college career — the longest streak in FBS history.

The junior from Hawaii, who opted at the end of last season to stay at Oregon, has 56 total touchdowns this season. Along with his 40 via pass, he's also run for 15 scores and caught a TD pass. He's the first FBS-level player to pass for 40 and run for 15.

Never one to put the focus on himself, Mariota was grateful for the opportunity to add to the team's legacy with a shot at the title.

"All the hard work, all the stuff that we put into it during the offseason and for it to kind of pay off and allow us to be a part of this game, it's a great feeling," he said. "We're very fortunate to be a part of it, and we're excited to get going and get prepared for it."

Art's Red Garter

Karaoke - Dancing
Live Music

Where the Valley goes to play!

B Wishes

Fri., Jan. 9 @ 5:30 p.m.

From
Taylor's Country Store

Wild River
HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE

GUPPY

Sat., Jan. 10 @ 6 p.m.

Every Friday
Jay Barley

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

Chili Cook-off

Sunday, Jan. 18, 3 p.m.
(\$5 entry fee)

\$2 a for bowl & spoon
All you can eat!

@
Sportsman Tavern

Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill

Happy Hour 3-5

Stop in and see
Kate and Mamie
today!

Dale Hopper

Friday, Jan. 9
8 - 11 p.m.
Free

@
McGrew's!