

Sports



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

No. 13 junior Mahkayla Sommers (left) and No. 16 junior Avery Neville defend against Rogue River's No. 55 senior McKenzie Smith in Jan. 16 home win.

Girls', boys' hoops squads make strides

By
Jenna Larkin
IVN Contributing Writer

Both the boys' and girls' basketball squads at Illinois Valley High School are on the rebound.

On Friday, Jan. 16, both teams hosted the Rogue River Chieftains. The Lady Cougars started off with a 30-20 win. With a slow start, the Cougars soon found themselves falling behind and struggled with too many turnovers. When asked if the girls were struggling in the first half due to only having one

game that week, head coach Serena Barry replied that could have been a possibility because shots that are normally executed well were being missed.

"We struggled in the first half. We were down by three at halftime," said Barry. "In the second half we came out strong, especially our defense."

At the beginning of the third quarter, the Lady Cougars picked up the speed and were able to hold the Chieftains. Victoria Johnson worked around Rogue River's defense and put up 10 points. Johnson also snagged three steals. Alex LaFlamme

scored eight points for the Cougars and had seven rebounds.

As the game wound to an end, the score was tied 20-20. Not wanting to have another loss, the Lady Cougars kicked things into gear and held off Rogue River for the remainder of the game and scored another 10 points to take their seventh win of the season. The Lady Cougars are now 7-9 overall.

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, the girls will travel to Cascade Christian to take on the Challengers. For the girls, this is a big game. Last season, the Cougars lost to Cascade by two points. This Tuesday, the girls are

hoping to come out on top, proving that they are tough competition and a team to be reckoned with.

Boys coach Matt Knight also saw a big improvement from his team last week against Rogue River.

"The boys drove through the whole game. They know it's something I value," said Knight.

For the first half of the game, IVHS was strong on both sides of the court. At halftime the Cougars were only down by six and continued to look strong. As the third quarter got underway, the boys had too many turnovers and made some careless passes. But the drive to stay

strong never left the boys, even as fatigue began to set in.

With Rogue River spreading the court to create space for shots, Skylar McLanahan stayed glued to his guard, creating a tough barrier to break through but in the end the Cougars lost 35-62 and dropped to 3-13 overall.

The boys will travel with the Lady Cougars to take on the Challengers. Knight is hopeful that this game is a tight one and the boys will have fewer turnovers. He also is looking for that defensive energy to carry-over to the Cascade game.

Weisner leads No. 9 Oregon St. to 75-67 win

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP)— Jamie Weisner felt the best way for her to help Oregon State was to score, especially with Washington's defense swarming Beavers center Ruth Hamblin with weak-side help.

"That opened up the outside for me to hit open shots," Weisner said.

The junior guard scored 26 points, shooting 6-of-9 on 3-pointers, and No. 9 Oregon State held off Washington 75-67 Monday night.

Hamblin added 19 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks for the Beavers (16-1, 6-0 Pac-12), who only have lost at Tennessee this season.

"I thought we showed a ton of heart in closing this one out," said Oregon State coach Scott Rueck. "Executed well on both ends of the floor, got the rebounds we needed and so I thought it was another gut-check win that showed the character of this team," he added.

Talia Walton had 22 points and Jazmine Davis added 15 for the Huskies (14-4, 3-3).

"I think Oregon State is one of the best teams in the country on both ends of the floor," said Washington Coach Mike Neighbors. His team, shooting 45.2 percent from the floor for the season, hit 32.8 percent on Monday.

The Huskies trailed 68-67 with less than two minutes left, but Weisner was fouled on a drive and sank both free throws. Washington guard Kelsey Plum was stripped by Ali Gibson on the next possession, and Hamblin then scored for the Beavers to give Oregon State a 72-67 lead.

Neither team was able to gain much separation early, and the game was tied at 22-all when Oregon State went on a 12-3 run capped by a Weisner jumper with 3:18 left in the first half.

Weisner had eight points during that stretch, while the Huskies missed seven of eight shots.

The Beavers went into the break up 34-

30. Washington trailed by as many as 9 in the second half. The Huskies clawed back, going on a 13-2 run to take the lead, 63-60 on a Walton 3-pointer with 6:26 remaining.

The Beavers outrebounded the Huskies 46-35.

Hamblin was leading the Beavers with 14.6 points, 9.6 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per game entering Monday.

Plum came into the game averaging 25.4 points, the second-best mark in the nation. She had 10 points on 3-of-16 shooting.

TIP-INS
Washington: Davis is now just five points behind Jamie Redd for the all-time school scoring record of 2,027 points. The Huskies were averaging 79.5 points per game, best in the Pac-12.

Oregon State: The Beavers were third in the nation and first in the Pac-12 in field goal

percentage, holding opponents to 32.7 percent entering Monday.

PLAYING BIG
Plum and Davis, a pair of All-Pac-12 guards, scored 25 points, but shot 7-of-30. Neighbors credited the 6-foot-6 Hamblin for creating the off night by clogging up the lane and altering shots. "She can completely dominate the game defensively and I think she did at times," he said. With Hamblin patrolling the paint, Beavers perimeter players can be extra aggressive, Neighbors added.

FORTRESS GILL
Oregon State's last loss at Gill Coliseum came Dec. 29, 2013 to Notre Dame, then ranked No. 2. Both the Beaver men's and women's basketball teams are undefeated at home this season.

UP NEXT
Oregon State plays at Arizona on Friday.

Art's Red Garter

Karaoke - Dancing
Live Music

Where the Valley goes to play!

Steven Kiem

Folk Favorites

Fri., Jan. 23 @ 5:30

From
Taylor's
Country Store

Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE Dale Hopper

Sat., Jan. 24 @ 6 p.m.

Every Friday night
Jay Barley

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

Super Bowl Party

Sunday, Feb. 1

Potluck w/ Ham

See Bartendar for sign-up

@
Sportsman
Tavern

Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill

Happy Hour 3-5

Stop in and see
Kate and Mamie
today!

B

with
Johnny
Friday, Jan. 23

8 p.m.
\$3

@

McGrew's!