

Cougars raked by Tigers, lose 35-7

Michelle Binker
IVN Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley Cougars football team suffered a disappointing 35-7 loss against the Clatskanie Tigers Friday night, Sept. 30 at West Albany High School's Bulldog Stadium in Albany.

"We felt like that was a team we should have beaten," said head coach Bruce Reece. He noted that his team had missed several key tackles. "I want to see us tackle and wrap up. While we saw some tremendous team tackles ... we need more of them."

The Cougars also committed some penalties at critical moments.

"That's just something that we've got to get over," Reece said.

Illinois Valley threatened to score several times during the first half, but dropped passes and other mistakes cost

the Cougars momentum and points. The Cougars showed promise during their first drive but failed to capitalize, allowing the Tigers to put seven unanswered points on the board in the first quarter, and claim a second touchdown before the end of the half. A valiant, late second-quarter drive by the Cougars was cut short and the Tigers were ahead 14-0 as the half concluded.

Although Clatskanie was plagued with offensive motion calls and other penalties, I.V. drew a few costly flags, including an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty that saw Cougar Isaiah McLanahan ejected from the game following an early third-quarter scrum for a fumbled Tiger football.

Illinois Valley's Zak Lindell scored the team's sole touchdown soon afterward, driving head-down into the end zone. The Cougars couldn't maintain the momentum, however, and the Tigers

scored another 21 unanswered points before game's end.

The good news? "No one was taken to the hospital," Reece said, referring to injuries his team has sustained in recent weeks.

While Reece and assistant coach Scott Thornhill agree that "the pieces are all there," putting those pieces together is made harder when players miss practice.

"We need to find the balance between student and athlete," Reece said. "We've got to work harder in the classroom so that we aren't missing practices."

"We need to play the game, do our jobs and trust each other."

The Cougars are now 0-4 on the year, but have yet to play a conference game. Illinois Valley will play the Rogue River Chieftains Friday, Oct. 7, in Rogue River.



(Photo by Michelle Binker for, the *Illinois Valley News*)

Cougar Ross Gaynor, No. 2, gains hard-earned yards against a tough Tiger defense.

Ladies have mixed results on the pitch

By Dan Mancuso
IVN Staff

IVHS girls soccer took the pitch two times last week with a road win and home loss.

Sept. 27, on the road the ladies took on Rogue River. The exciting and evenly contested match ended with a 1-0 victory. The Cascade league first team player, Aundrea Miller while feeling under the weather managed to score on a penalty kick in the 78th

minute. "We also got excellent defensive play from our sweeper Lily Cusumano and our keeper Raina Fuson, who snuffed out all of the breakthroughs that RR managed," said Coach Dick Matti. According to Matti other standouts included outside defender Alexis Clark with outstanding defensive play. "We also got good combination play in the midfield from Aarika Brooks and Gabby Rapley," Matti added.

Oct. 1, however, was a different story when Cascade League powerhouse St. Mary's

came to town. St. Mary's was, as always, a severe challenge. St. Mary's has not lost a league game in the eight seasons and Saturday was more of the same. "My goal as coach is to have our players learn from the exposure to the high level of soccer St. Mary's plays and to hold them scoreless in 10 minute increments," Matti said.

"Our players played hard and kept St. Mary's off the score sheet for 16 minutes which was almost double our recent previous

best," Matti added.

According to Matti the ladies played hard throughout the game and St. Mary's had to work for every goal they scored.

"I was pleased with the effort from everyone and especially with the progress I saw from our younger and inexperienced players. Again, Lily Cusumano did a fantastic job as sweeper. Freshman Raina Fuson continued to develop as a reliable keeper," Matti said after the 0-6 loss.

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