

# Cougars fall to Crusaders, end season

**Michelle Binker**  
*IVN Contributing Writer*

The 2016 football season came to an end for Illinois Valley Saturday night, Oct. 29 at Medford's Spiegelberg Stadium as the Cougars fell 49-7 to the St. Mary High School Crusaders. The Crusaders advance to the league playoffs for the first time since 1994.

Illinois Valley quarterback Ross Gaynor had an unproductive night, completing just two of 21 passing attempts -- both finding running back Skylar McLanahan -- for 37 yards. The Cougars struggled to take advantage of possession time and eight St. Mary's penalties, which totaled 90 yards.

I.V. senior Zak Lindell, wearing No. 13, lead the Cougars in rushing with 11 carries for 61 yards. Lindell scored I.V.'s sole touchdown with a 45-yard run in the third quarter followed by a successful point-after attempt by Pepe Mendoza.

Illinois Valley ends the year with a 1-7 record. With the season completed, head coach Bruce Reece is looking ahead to building next year's squad. The team will lose eight seniors and some seasoned skill-position players.

"It's hard to replace really good skill kids," Reece said. "We didn't even touch the potential of some of these guys, and that's hard as a coach."

Next year, he said, holds great promise. "Defensively, we're only going to get better," Reece opined. "We've got a really good core group in our skill positions and on our offensive and defensive lines."

Reece, who also serves as I.V.'s athletic director, said that when putting together this year's game schedule he chose some high-caliber opponents. Those games, he said, "maybe didn't help build our confidence, but they did help us learn to play at a different speed."

He said he'll work next season to ensure a "more level playing field" in the Cougars' game schedule.



(Photo by Michelle Binker, Illinois Valley News)

**Illinois Valley's Zak Lindell, No. 13, sprinted 45 yards to score the Cougar's sole touchdown against St. Mary's Crusader's Saturday night, Oct. 29.**

# Southern Cascade League Volleyball All-League Selections

Illinois Valley High School honorees

1st Team  
 No. 7, senior, Victoria Johnson

Honorable Mention  
 No. 11, junior, Lily Bell

League Most Valuable Player  
 Claire Hawkins, Cascade Christian

Defensive Player of the Year  
 Aubrey Kievet, Cascade Christian

Coach of the Year  
 Rob Kleker, Cascade Christian

## Athlete of the Week Football

Name: Skylar McLanahan

Week: October 3rd- October 7th

Reason: 3 rushing touchdowns and 139 yards rushing. Defensively he made 3 solo tackles and numerous assisted tackles.

Name: Devon Dangerfield

Week: October 10th- October 14th

Reason: He played extremely well on defense.



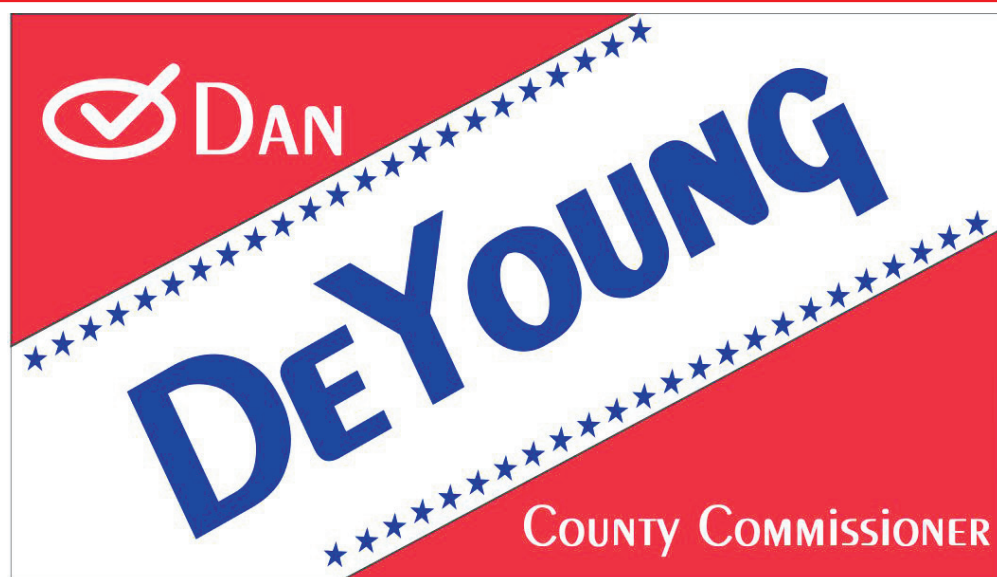
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