

I.V. demolishes Lakeview: 10 - 1



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

No. 6, junior defender Josh Merrill controls the ball, while No. 14, senior midfielder Huver Rodriguez is ready for action, Saturday, Sept. 23 at home.

Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

In a home game against the Lakeview Honkers (0-4) Saturday, Sept. 23, the Illinois Valley Boys Soccer Team turned out an amazing 10-1 victory, putting their current league standing at 3-1.

Top scoring player for the Cougars was senior Huver Rodriguez with five goals. Senior Cody Box scored three goals and had two assists; senior Action Phokaeo had two goals and two assists (as well as an 18th birthday); and senior goalie Isaiah McLanahan had five good saves and one strong assist.

“It was a grind, no

doubt about it,” said head coach Neigel Hruska. “We just kept pushing it too because we wanted to get double digits.”

Wednesday, Sept. 27, the Cougars are scheduled to do battle with the Pilots of Canyonville Christian Academy. Despite having identical 3-1 records, Canyonville Christian has a reputation for attracting some very talented young international athletes as a result of offering scholarships.

Wednesday’s game takes place at Illinois Valley High School at 4:30 p.m., and the following day they play Milo Adventist Academy for a non-league game— same time, same place.

Cougars tackle Tigers in nonconference brawl

Michelle Binker
IVN Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley Cougars football team put another tick in the “W” column Friday night, Sept. 22, defeating the visiting Bandon High School Tigers, 38-22 in nonconference play.

“We came out and got punched in the mouth and we didn’t give up,” head coach Bruce Reece observed. “That’s a big step in the right direction for us.”

Despite the win, Reece was quick to point out mistakes were abundant. Personal foul penalties took hard-earned points off the scoreboard -- twice.

“Obviously, we have a lot of things to cure. Off-sides, getting penalties, punching somebody on the goal line, which took a touchdown away,” Reece continued. “Simple things, like that.

“We need to quit playing as individuals.”

The Cougar defense kept the Tigers from developing momentum. Adrien Ochoa’s fumble recovery kept the Tigers from scoring late in the first quarter; while Rayes Dugas scooped up a dropped Tiger ball to put the Cougars in position to score a TD early in the second quarter. A key interception by Caleb Hess stole a two-point attempt by Bandon in the third quarter, and an interception by Pepe Mendoza prevented the Tigers’ scoring in a late-fourth quarter drive.

The Cougars, in home colors, play the Clatskanie Tigers on Friday, Sept. 29 at Lebanon High School (near Albany). Kickoff is at 7 p.m.



(Photo by Michelle Binker, Illinois Valley News)

Sophomore Elijah Polk begins an 80-yard kickoff return run for a third-quarter Cougar touchdown Friday, Sept. 22.

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