

IVHS cross-country finds its legs

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

Although the Illinois Valley High School's (IVHS) cross-country season started off with a canceled meeting due to smoke from local wildfires, the meet was later rescheduled and was held Sept. 16. Last year, the team only had two members and this year, at first, only two students signed up for the team but at the last minute, right when the school year began, the cross-country team enticed five more athletes to join up for a total of seven. Lucas Korber, new head coach for IVHS's

cross-country team, said that the lack of transportation might have been a key reason why the students were late to sign up. All seven of the athletes, three boys and four girls, are venturing into new territory with this being their first year on a cross-country team. Although three of the students have participated in track before, specifically sprinting, Korber holds that practice in one sport does not ensure proficiency in the other. "Right now, being all first year, when they finish a race I'm happy because the whole first year is just them finding their legs—figuring out how to run."

At a recent meet, Sept. 23, the students had their endurance tested by running the 5 kilometers, or 3.1 miles, in the heat of day with little to no shade along their path. Before that meet, the students have been fortunate enough to run in the early mornings when it's cooler, in more shaded environments or both. Korber reported that Adriana Flores performed the best among IVHS's girls while Bradley Schaffer was best among the boys. This season marks Korber's ninth year of coaching cross-country though it's his first year at IVHS. Previously, he coached in Toledo on the coast near Newport. "When I've coached

before, I've come into a program where at least a few of them were veteran runners," Korber said, eager for the new experience, "This is like starting fresh from scratch and molding my own clay." His main goal for the season is to teach the students something that's not quite as simple as it sounds; how to run nonstop for 3 miles. He plans to emphasize pace above all else and will pay special attention to the track team sprinters who are used to going all-out. "I'm proud of the effort that they're all putting in. It's hard to do something that's brand-new to you. They're all putting in good effort; they're staying positive."

Soccer wrap up

The Illinois Valley High School girls' soccer team played their second league game last Wednesday against St. Mary's Medford (2-1) in what turned out to be a crushing defeat for the Cougars – the final score resting at 0-7.

On Monday, Oct. 2, the Lady Cougars lost at home to Cascade Christian with a final of 0-8. Wednesday, Oct. 4, they travel to Lakeview to challenge the Honkers, who have a 4-1 record.

The boys, however, managed to crush Canyonville Christian (3-1-1) with a 4-2 victory as well as Pacific / Bandon (0-6) with a final score of 7-2.

On Monday, Oct 2, the boys played an away game against Cascade Christian (4-2) where Cascade came out on top with a final score of 2-7, giving them a league record of 5-2 and a 14th OSAA ranking.

The next game is scheduled in Medford against St. Mary's (5-0) Wednesday, Oct 4.



(Photo by Michelle Binker, Illinois Valley News)

No. 4 Josh Dangerfield put the Cougars on the scoreboard with this pass reception and short run late in the first half against Clatskanie Friday, Sept. 29.

Tigers temper Cougars' confidence

Michelle Binker
IVN Contributing Writer

Fired up after the previous week's gridiron victory against the Bandon Tigers, the Illinois Valley High School Cougars (in home colors) met a tiger of a different stripe Friday, Sept. 29 at a neutral field in Lebanon, Ore. The Clatskanie Tigers handed the Cougars a 68-21 loss to bring I.V.'s record to 3-2.

"We come up to the Willamette Valley and, I don't know, it's like the air is bad?" laughed Head Coach Bruce Reece. "The good news is we didn't quit. But looks like we need to work on some fundamentals."

Sophomore receiver Josh Dangerfield put the Cougars on the board late in the second quarter with a touchdown reception, followed by a successful point after by kicker Huver Rodriguez to make the score 42-7. The Cougars didn't score again until the fourth quarter, when Caleb Hess completed a pass from Elijah Polk for a touchdown. Dane Alvarez also contributed a TD run.

The Cougars are on the road this week. The boys face the Lost River High School Raiders Friday, Oct. 6 in Merrill, Ore. (southeast of Klamath Falls) for the final non-conference game of the season.



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