

Vikings ready to wrap up season against strong foe

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

The Lorna Byrne football team has met with great success this season and currently stands with three victories and only one loss.

Defensive coach Bob Clarke reported that it was a competitively close game with the opposing team only having won by a single touchdown. Clarke attributed the loss to penalties and other small mistakes. Their next and final game

will be held late this afternoon against Cascade Christian, the top team in the league.

Clarke said that their strongest game so far was against St. Mary's Oct. 4 where they won with a staggering final score of 24 to 6. He further added that each and every player's skill set had improved throughout the season and that the whole team has performed well from the get go. "These kids pretty much don't allow themselves to be beat," Clarke said, "That's one thing we try to teach the players—it's one

thing to get beat by a better team, it's something else to get beat by yourself."

However, one problem that was of particular emphasis this year was that the team wasn't providing enough time for the quarterback to make a good throw. "Our quarterback has had to run for his life several times," Clarke said humorously, "So with each passing game we taught our players to block for him so he doesn't have to do that now. He actually has time to throw the ball." Another thing that's

hampered the team is its small size; 17 players. St. Mary's, for example, has 40.

Wildfire smoke made it difficult for the team to practice early on in the season and even resulted in a game being canceled. "The smoke really made it hard on everybody," Clarke said, "We had a lot of times that we couldn't run what we needed to run. We kind of went into our first game half loaded." Despite the lack of practice, Clarke reported that the team did surprisingly well during their debut

game against White Mountain.

Clarke and the team are excited to have their showdown with Cascade Christian but there's no delusion that the game is going to be a walk in the park. "Playing against them in years past, I've gained a healthy respect for their very well coached team and we told our kids that we're going to have to play better than we've ever played. We're going to have to go out there and earn our victory."

Cougs defeated in Homecoming game



(Photo by Michelle Binker, Illinois Valley News)

Freshmen: Prince Wyatt Navarro (left), Princess Denise Pimentel, **Soph:** Prince Elijah Polk, Princess Bailee Moore, Jr. Princess Chelsea Sanders, Prince Devan Dangerfield, **Sr:** Princess Diamond Murphy, Prince Isaiah McClanahan

Michelle Binker
IVN Contributing Writer

Illinois Valley High School celebrated Homecoming this past week, but the Cougars felt anything but celebratory after the visiting St. Mary's Crusaders football team delivered a crushing, 53-15 defeat Friday, Oct. 13.

Cougars Head Coach Bruce Reece noted his team's great effort, but cited the distractions of Homecoming, among other reasons, for the loss.

"We can't allow that to happen down the road."

With two more games left in the season, the Cougars (3-4) travel to Lakeview Friday, Oct. 20 to face the Honkers (2-4) in 3A Southern Cascade League play.

Boys win as end of season approaches

Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley boys' soccer team (6-4) just recently defeated Rogue River (2-6-1) in a home game on Saturday, Oct 14 with a final score of 2-1, and Wednesday, Oct 11, they were defeated by Cascade Christian (8-3) - final score 2-8.

During the game against Rogue River, Huver Rodriguez scored one goal and a newcomer to the team, Christian Mendez from Tillamook, scored the second. "Today was his first game and he scored the game winning goal with the assist from Cody Box," said head coach Neigel Hruska. "It was perfect timing because one of our normal kids called up and said he couldn't make it, and our goalie was knocked out during the previous game against Cascade."

The Cougars have won a total of six games so far this year, which is, for the seniors, as many games as they've won in the past three years.

"They won one game their freshman year, two

games their sophomore year and three games their junior year, so this year they've won as much as they have the whole three seasons," said Hruska. "So they're feeling good right now at 6-4."

This week, the boys hit the road for a non-league game against Mustangs at Milo Adventist Academy Monday, Oct. 16. Then Wednesday, Oct. 18, they play the Honkers at Lakeview (2-8) and for the last game of the season, they face off against the Pilots at Canyonville Christian Academy (6-3-1) Saturday, Oct. 21.

The girls' soccer team managed their first win in almost a month out on the road against Rogue River (0-6) Saturday, Oct. 14, with a narrow victory of 3-2.

Looking ahead, the Lady Cougars are scheduled to play St. Mary's Medford (5-1) at home Wednesday, Oct. 18, another home game against Lakeview Saturday, Oct. 21, and the final game of the season is a non-league game at South Umpqua / Riddle Tuesday, Oct. 24.

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