

# Sports

## IVHS boys' soccer team earns playoff bid

**Tristan Stocker**  
IVN Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley boys' soccer team, now 8-4 and ranked second among 3A/2A/1A-SD5 Special District 5 teams, is flying high after three consecutive wins on the road, earning them a spot in this year's playoff games.

The boys began the week at Milo Adventist Academy for a non-league game against the Mustangs Monday, Oct. 16, which resulted in a mind-blowing 11-0 shutout.

"This was a huge morale boost going forward," said head coach Neigel Hruska. "We had eight different people score goals ... even one of our rookies, Dominick Hollingsworth, who has never played soccer before this year. The one chance he had, he took it and hit a really good shot."

Among the other players who scored during the game against

Milo were Cody Box, scored 2 goals; Huver Rodriguez, also scored 2 goals; Action Phokaeo scored 1; Gustavo Sanchez scored 2; Jacque Baty scored 1; Alejandro Robles scored 1; and Hez Schalk scored 1.

Following their victory at Milo, the Cougars hit the road once again to do battle with the Lakeview Honkers (3-9) Wednesday, Oct. 18, with a final score of 2-0 - both goals scored by Rodriguez.

"They had two new players who weren't on the team last time we played them," said Hruska. "They should've beaten us. They took over 15 shots and Isaiah saved the day. We wouldn't be going to the playoffs if it weren't for him. They took so many shots ... they dominated us the whole game."

Then finally the boys barely made it to Canyonville to play the Pilots (7-4-1) Saturday, Oct. 21, due to the driver - having never been there before - unable to find the playing field and on top of that,

getting stuck in the mud.

"We were off to a bad start," said Hruska. "It was pouring rain, cold as hell, but somehow the kids did it."

The boys eked out a 1-0 victory, with Phokaeo scoring the only goal halfway through the first half.

Star player Rodriguez was injured during the game, so Box and Josh Merrill held it down on the defensive end, showing the Pilots one of the best displays of "D" from the Cougars all season.

As for the girls, after having won in Rogue River, they lost their last two league games against St. Mary's Medford (7-1) Wednesday, Oct. 18 with a final score of 0-5 and Lakeview (5-2-1) Saturday, Oct. 21 - final score resting at 0-4. The girls play one more non-league game against South Umpqua / Riddle Tuesday, Oct. 24, after newspaper deadline.



(Photo by Michelle Binker, Illinois Valley News)

Sophomore lineman Ian Binker celebrates after recovering a fumble during the 8-55 loss to Lakeview Friday, Oct. 20.

## Lady Vikings to play for championship

**Jason McMillen**  
IVN Contributing Writer

The Lorna Byrne Middle School's potentially championship winning seventh and eighth grade volleyball teams are approaching the end of their season and will play their final game against White Mountain tonight at 4:30 p.m. So far, the seventh-graders are

steamrolling with a 10-1 record while the eighth-graders are in hot pursuit at 10-2. Angela Alexander, Lorna Byrne's head volleyball coach, said that she's extremely proud of her girls and excited that the Illinois Valley, almost certainly the underdogs of the league, may finally have their moment of glory.

On Oct. 18, Alexander reported that their games against Talent were some of the best she'd ever seen. The eighth grade team,

deadlocked in a 1-1 match tie, was down nine points in the third and final round. At the last minute, they came back with a vengeance and turned the game into a victory. "It was so awesome to watch," Alexander said.

Alexander reported that Sierra Steele was absolutely essential to the eighth grade team's sudden victory because she scored several points with powerful and brutally accurate serves.

"It was like the coaches you watch on TV when they do highlights and the coaches are all crazy. That was me," Alexander humorously quipped.

On the seventh grade team, Destiny Lennon and Christina Stanfield were reported to have been crucial players in their team's sweeping 3-0 match victory against Talent. Lennon, in an unusual feat of skill and physical prowess, has learned to jump serve which

has proven devastating for the competition. "I've never seen a seventh-grader jump serve, it's pretty awesome to watch," Alexander concluded.

Stay tuned for the *Illinois Valley News*' final match highlights, season recap and commentary next week. In the meantime, make sure to show your support for the volleyball team as they fast track towards their epic showdown.

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