

Lady Viking volleyball finishes strong

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

The Lorna Byrne Middle School volleyball's seventh and eighth grade teams closed out the season Oct. 24 with landslide victories over White Mountain, ending the season 11-1 and 10-2 respectively. The day before, both teams scored a victory in their match against McLoughlin. "They really got 'em," said Angela Alexander, head coach.

Although there's no formal championship game at the middle school level, it's without a doubt that they're one of the league's top teams and that they, should they continue to play volleyball at the high school, will have the chance to show off their skills at a more officially competitive level. Leah Wilbourn and Christina Stanfield stood out in Alexander's mind as the final game's top seventh grade players. They were praised for sending out excellent serves that had a big hand in their victory. Over the course of the season, Alexander estimates that

Aiden Peters scored the most points for the eighth grade team while Christina Stanfield and Destiny Lennon were more or less tied for top scorer on the seventh grade team. Unfortunately, Destiny Lennon was injured with a possible hairline fracture in her hand near the end of their final game but Alexander reported that she's OK and was back to school the next day. Alexander said that both teams made leaps and bounds in their skill level from when the season started and that all the girls had a good deal of fun in the process. "I think

we started out not really knowing how to set it up. The bump, set spike routine. Progressively, as time went on, it got better and better and better and when they were setting it up they started spiking it over—and hitting it hard over. It was awesome." Alexander further highlighted the team's aggressive spirit by noting that she didn't see any of the players opposing teams dive for the ball like her girls did. About 75 percent of the seventh grade team played at the Boys and Girls Club and their experience made a real difference in how the

season unfolded. With both teams practicing together, something a bit unusual for middle school volleyball, Alexander holds that it accelerated the learning process because the larger pool of experienced players could help coach the others. "It was like they were a whole new team at the end of the season," Alexander said. Both Alexander and assistant coach Megan Toney plan to return for another season next year. "It was a pleasure to be their coach," Alexander said.

Two Lady Cougars get accolades

Southern Cascade League announce Oct. 27 that Illinois Valley High School Senior Kai Tree was named to the All Conference First team. Teammate Adrianna Ellis, also a senior was given Honorable Mention.



(Photos by Michelle Binker, Illinois Valley News)

Nathan Klaiss, No.73 (top), says farewell to his teammates.

Seniors Dane Alvarez Jr (left) and Adrian Ochoa share an emotional post-game moment.

Cougars finish rough season with right attitude

Michelle Binker
IVN Contributing Writer

Illinois Valley High School boys varsity football team's season came to an end Friday evening, Oct. 27. The Cougars, facing No. 4-ranked Cascade Christian Challengers, were handed a crushing 62-0 defeat at US Cellular Field in Medford.

Postgame, senior Cougars and coaches encouraged teammates to commit to the program in the off-season and build a strong foundation for next year.

Boys soccer playoff information

Boys soccer playoff game Wednesday, Nov. 1, against Western Mennonite will be played at Salem Academy, 942 Lancaster Dr NE in Salem. The game will start at 3 p.m. Ticket Prices: \$6 adults, \$4 students.

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