

Sports

After road loss IVHS heads north for playoff game



No. 23 Bailee Moore goes up for a shot during the girls' home win against Cascade Christian Tuesday, Feb. 13.

(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Tristan Stocker
IVN Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Illinois Valley girls' basketball team (5-3) played their first league playoff game against Cascade Christian (4-4) in a home game that resulted in a 50-36 victory for the Lady Cougars, however, on Friday, Feb. 16, they came up short on the road against the undefeated

Lakeview Honkers (8-0) and lost 16-49.

Aairka Brooks was the top scoring player in the game against Cascade Christian with a whopping total of 22 points.

"She played well for us the entire game," said head coach Jonathan Valenzuela-Reece. "We also played good defense and shut 'em down when we needed to."

And in the game against

Lakeview, Brooks played a good defensive game getting 10 blocks, but as the top scoring player managed to put only seven points on the board.

"Defensively, we didn't box out and we kept giving 'em second chances," said Valenzuela-Reece. "We didn't play well as a team like we've done in the past."

Valenzuela-Reece also noted the experience and age gap that

exists between the two teams.

But despite the loss at Lakeview, the Lady Cougars finished second in the 3A-6 Southern Cascade League, which means this Friday, Feb. 23, they are heading up to Clatskanie to play the Clatskanie Tigers (14-2) of the 3A-1 Lewis & Clark League in the 2018 OSAA / U.S. Bank / Les Schwab Tires 3A Girls Basketball State Championship. Tip-off starts

at 7 p.m.

Fans can find brackets and additional information here: <http://www.osaa.org/activities/gbx/brackets>.

The I.V. boys' basketball team wrapped up the season after facing defeat in their league playoff game against St. Mary's, (6-2) in Medford last Wednesday, Feb. 14. The final score was 42-61.

Cougs "wrestled tough," represented Valley well at state

Donnell Suggs
IVN Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) wrestlers and their head coach Zach Pagnotta returned to the school Sunday afternoon. They made the trip to Portland and back after having wrestled in the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) U.S. Bank/Les Schwab wrestling state

tournament. IVHS wrestlers Chase Nelson (170 pounds) and Jesse Valles (106 pounds) are coming home empty-handed after failing to place in their respective weight classes but they are returning with valuable lessons.

According to Pagnotta they did the Valley proud. "They wrestled tough," said Pagnotta minutes after getting back in town. "It wasn't Illinois Valley's finest

showing unfortunately, but I told them to save the feeling of seeing those other wrestlers on the podium in their heads and in their hearts and it will give them added motivation to push through."

Senior Chase Nelson lost his two matches. "We got a tough draw, you put this one on the books and get ready for next year," said Pagnotta of the super-competitive 170-pound class.

"Chase will be on to bigger and better things." The 170-pound 3A division was won by Adam Simpson of Nyssa High School. Leithan Brigg of Harrisburg High School placed second and Alex Miranda of Walls of Irrigon was third.

Cougar freshman Jesse Valles made his state tournament debut and was received some valuable experience. Valles got a

piece of that tough draw as well when he was picked to wrestle the No. 1 seed in the 3A 106-pound class. Valles lost that meeting and another to eventual state champion Jordan Reyes of Willamina/Falls City High School but also picked up points for the Cougars with a victory in his second round match. "It was a tough way to end his season," said Pagnotta. "It wasn't the result any of us wanted but I

told him he can't dwell on the past."

Pagnotta continued, "Right now is where state champions are made, in the offseason and Jesse, he'll get a couple more cracks at it."

The 106-pound 3A division was won by Reyes, Ryan Vidlak of Cascade Christian High School placed second and Ryan Penroe of Dayton High School finished third.

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