Lady Cougars drop to 1-4 in 2A/1A District 6, play at Lost River Tuesday

Donnell Suggs
IVN Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) girls' softball team only managed four combined runs in their last two games, which were home field losses to Cascade Christian High School Saturday. But, head coach Beth Boatman and her team had no such problem days earlier in a 14-11 victory at Rogue River High School Tuesday. The Lady Cougars lost the first game 11-1 and then game two by six runs, 9-3. "They scored a few runs and we were not able to redeem ourselves," said Boatman.

"We struggled to hit the ball," said Boatman of the losses to Cascade Christian that dropped her team's overall record to 6-9. "[Cascade] got several base hits and was able to keep their leads."

IVHS softball will be playing four games this week starting Tuesday in Merrill against the Lost River High School Lady Raiders. It will be the only time this season the two teams will meet.

On Friday the Lady Cougars will host Gold Beach High School (3 p.m.) followed by a doubleheader at Lakeview High School on Saturday. The first game of the weekend series is schedule to start at noon.

"We see Lost River and Gold Beach this week and Lakeview on Saturday," said Boatman, "and we are hoping the live batting practice will help with our confidence in the batter's box."

Cougars baseball are on the road for three, at home for final three regular season games of season

The IVHS baseball team will be on the road for the next three games including at Lost River High School Tuesday and at Lakeview High School for two games Saturday, May 5.

The Cougars will close the regular season with three consecutive home games starting against region opponents beginning with St. Mary's High School Tuesday, May 8. On the following Saturday, May 12, the Cougars are scheduled to host a doubleheader against Rogue River High School starting at noon.

As the Cooke, so comes the Café

Brent E. Smith
IVN Contributing Writer

(Photo by Brent Smith, for the *llinois Valley News*)

Plenty of seating available in the Hole in "1" Café.

Anyone who walks through the door of the Illinois Valley Golf Club is greeted first by the charming décor of the Hole in "1"Café.

As the eye takes in the interior decorating of Debbie Day, daughter of café manager Kathy Kennedy, it is drawn to the large windows overlooking the 18 holes of the greens beyond.

This is more than golf. This is family, and the food offered within this setting is family style. Anyone who beholds the dining room of this eatery is greeted by an atmosphere that warmly says, "Welcome home."

It wasn't always so. For seven long years, the only food choices available in the establishment were hot dogs and frozen burritos.

On April 15 of this year, however, after what can only be described using the overused cliché "a labor of love" on the part of Kennedy's family, the Hole in "1"Café has been redeemed to resemble what it once was when the late Valerie Squire ran it. Kennedy describes Squire as having been "quite a cook," and added, "I'm following in big shoe steps, let me tell you! She was a very special lady!"

Hot dogs are still served, but they have been replaced by their heartier foot-long Black Angus beef counterparts.

It has been a lot of hard work over many long volunteer hours, and very much a family affair, but the Hole in "1" Café has been drawn back to where it belongs.

Ironically, it is not only the café that has been brought back to where it belongs, Kennedy's grandparents, the Cookes, moved to the Illinois Valley in the 1930s, and lived on their mining claim on the Biscuit Creek during the Great Depression. Kennedy's Grandmother Cooke operated a restaurant in O'Brien at one point. Kennedy was two years old in 1944 when she came to the Illinois Valley with her parents. Although she lived here for only five years before moving to California at the age of seven, she had put down roots that would keep drawing her back. After she returned in 1969 and married her husband, Dennis the following year, she operated a taco stand at the current location of True Value in Cave Junction. After working for Wild River Pizza for the next five years, they relocated to Jackson Hole, Wyoming after the sawmills in the Valley had closed down. Working nearly the entire time in the foodservice industry, Kathy moved again to California twice more – with a short stay back in the Valley in 1994 separating her last two stints in California – before moving back to Cave Junction for good in January 2017.

"This time's for good," said Kennedy. "This is home!" Soon after her return "home," Kennedy's son Kevin, who regularly volunteers at the golf course, approached his mother with the suggestion that she assume control of the Hole in "1" Café that was soon to reopen.

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