

Sports

Bull Dogs 27, Cougars 24



(Courtesy photos for the Illinois Valley News)

No. 3 freshman wide receiver Sam Hess, scored a touchdown with a short-yardage reception in the second quarter of the home victory Friday Sept. 7.

Cougars lose dogfight

“We have a good mix of young players and older players on our team, that said we need to understand the game better,” said Reece. “We need to improve before the league starts.”

Bruce Reece, IVHS head coach

Donnell Suggs
IVN Contributing Writer

The Cougars lost their first game of the season Friday night, falling 27-24 at Creswell High School. Being 2-1 overall would normally not be a problem, in fact it would be a positive start to any football season, in particularly during the Bruce Reece era, but the way the Cougars lost their first game of the season may need some examination.

Both Creswell and Illinois Valley scored four touchdowns during their game with only one team being successful more often than not during the extra point phase. The Cougars were 0-4 on extra point attempts. That would ultimately finish Reece and his team off in the end. “We are working on the swinging and we didn’t convert,” said Reece Monday following the loss. We played hard but we need to develop our football sense.”

The Cougars traded scores with Creswell throughout the game while displaying the offensive ability that had them averaging more than 40 points per game thus far this season following wins over Culver and Gold Beach/Pacific. Senior quarterback Caleb Hess (13-34 for 198 yards and 103 yards rushing) and receiver Rayes



No. 20 sophomore running back Tristan Konrad, scam-pers for yardage.

Dugas hooked up twice for touchdowns during the first and third quarters and on defense during the second quarter Austin Sherier recovered a Creswell fumble and returned it 20 yards for another score.

The versatility of the Cougars on both sides of the ball will ultimately bode well for this season but Friday night it wasn’t enough. “We have a good mix of young players and older players on our team, that said we need to understand the game better,” said Reece. “We need to improve before the league starts.”

Illinois Valley will be back home Friday to face Reedsport High School (1-2 overall after losing 46-0 at Glide High School Friday) with the kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m. This will be the last non-league game for the Cougars before opening league play at Bandon High School Friday, Oct. 5.

Meet Oregon’s youngest certified soccer referee

Donnell Sugs
IVN Contributing Writer

Imagine you’re a high school soccer player and all is going well in a match until a rough tackle gets you red carded. That is bad enough until you realize the referee that handed you that card is 11-year-old Cameron Beck, the youngest International Federation of Football (FIFA) certified soccer referee in the state. “A lot of parents questioned Beck’s refereeing at first but now a lot of the players and parents respect him,” said Becks’s mother Denise Fry, herself a former high school athlete. “He’s in charge when he’s on the field, he’s the ref.”

There are only 24 FIFA international status referees in the United States and those numbers can rise by one on the future if Cameron keeps racking up matches and certifications. There is a real chance that Beck could be refereeing an international match before he’s legally allowed to drive or vote.

Beck is in the “Guinness Book of Records” as the youngest person in Oregon to become a certified FIFA referee, something he had accomplished two years ago at the age of nine. Imagine being of the best in your state at something, anything, before you got into the fourth grade. “They had me referee for the first time at 8 years old,” said Beck about a day a youth game was missing a referee and he took the missing ref’s place. “I didn’t know what I was doing but then I got into it and was doing it every week.”

“He has a patch and a card and everything,” said his aunt Amy Beck, who Fry credits for helping her with the children, for her nephew being an honest to goodness soccer referee. “I think it awesome, he likes it and he’s doing a great job.”

His mother agrees. “I think it is phenomenal, I love it,” said Fry of her son’s passion. “Cameron’s super-stoked about it.”

Asked why he enjoys being the bane of the existence of the players and coaches he’s refereeing for, Beck answered, “The game is calming for me. If I’m angry on a game day knowing that I have a game later will calm me down.”

SEE BECK ON A-10

No. 20 Ducks get San Jose State tuneup before Pac-12 opener

By
Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — The challenge for Oregon is to not look past San Jose State this Saturday in preparing for Stanford next weekend.

It may not be easy given the mismatch. San Jose State is 0-2, with losses to FCS-level UC Davis and to Washington State. The Spartans rank 113th among FBS teams (out of 129) in total offense with an average of 315 yards game, and 125th in total defense, allowing 566.6 yards a game.

The Ducks, meanwhile, have a pair of wins over Bowling Green and Portland State and moved up in the rankings to No. 20 this week . Quarterback Justin Herbert has thrown nine touchdown passes and ranks sixth in the nation for passing efficiency (213.4) while the Ducks’ scoring offense is ranked fourth (60 per game).

On top of that, Oregon has won 22 straight nonconference matchups at Autzen Stadium. So it’s no surprise the Ducks are 41-point favorites.

It was inevitable that in previewing the game coach Mario Cristobal was asked if he anticipated his team being focused on Saturday with Pac-12 conference play on the horizon.

“Not only anticipate it. Expect it. Demand it. Demand it from each other,” he said. “It’s just our approach and it has to stay that way.”

San Jose State’s offense sputtered last weekend in a 31-0 loss to the Cougars, with only nine rushing yards on 23 carries. The Spartans had 109 total yards.

But one bright spot so far this season has been Josh Oliver, who leads the nation among tight ends with an average of 6.5 catches per game through the team’s first two games. He’s got 137 total receiving yards this season. And nine of his catches resulted in a first down.

Spartans coach Brent Brennan realizes the challenge.

“I would just like to see us play better across the board. I don’t think you can look at any one position and be like, ‘Wow, this group really played well and this group didn’t.’ We were stifled by Washington State’s personnel and their scheme,” Brennan said. “So we’re trying to keep it simple. Trying to give the guys stuff we think they can execute at a high level. Combine that with our tempo and some formation and hopefully give our quarterback a chance to see the field and deliver the football.”

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