

Baseball and softball seasons draw to a close

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The Illinois Valley baseball and softball teams are now officially done playing, which means a summer of introspection and practice awaits as their respective seasons are drawn to a close.

On Monday, May 13, the Cougars (2-10, No. 46) played their final game at home against the Lakeview Honkers (2-10, No. 11) in a double-header in which they lost games, 2-11 and 3-21, respectively.

“First game we were pretty competitive,” said head coach Jesse Dugas. “Our bats didn’t wake up in time and it was senior night so we lost all the seniors.”

According to Dugas, Bryce Bruner pitched a lights-out game, Reyes Dugas did a great job catching and Jacob Wade did a phenomenal job in right field.

Game two proved to be much more challenging for the team, but they worked on getting some of the younger players out there in preparation for next year.

“This wasn’t the year we were expecting or wanting by any means but the kids fought hard; they worked hard,” Dugas said. “We had some really good highlights as well as some things that weren’t so great, but on a positive note we have some terrific kids in this program and they’re gonna turn this around and we’re gonna be alright going forward.”

Throughout the summer, the boys will be playing other high schools in what Dugas described as “glorified scrimmage games.” There’s nothing at stake, but those games are good opportunities to gain experience.

On the softball side of things, the Lady Cougars (1-13, No. 45) lost a game against the Glide Wildcats (10-4, No. 15) Tuesday May 7with a final score of 2-16.

“We scored in the first inning,” said head coach Beth Boatman. “Our main catcher wasn’t there so we started with Alexis Navarro behind the plate and Mallorie Menning on the mound.”

Bailee Moore and Navarro both scored. Winter Hammersmith and Menning both got an RBI.

Then Saturday, May 11, the girls played a double-header at home against the Chiloquin Panthers (5-9, No. 36) in which they lost games, 1-3 and 5-15, respectively.

“That was actually a really good game,” Boatman said. “Looks like we held them defensively until the sixth inning when they scored one and then two in the seventh.”

Lisa Wylie scored the only point in that game. Menning pitched and had eight strikeouts.

In game two, Bailee Moore started on the mound due to an injury sustained by Menning and Taylor Hruska scored twice with an RBI.

“[Moore is] not quite the seasoned pitcher but definitely steps up and gives it a try,” Boatman said.

And for the final games of the season, the Lady Cougars played the Lakeview Honkers (9-5, No. 21) at home Monday, May 13, in another double-header in which they lost games, 4-16 and 1-11, respectively.

The girls went into the game with only nine players due to injuries. Menning and Moore scored in the first game and Jessie Paige was the only player to score in the second game.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Junior No. 3 Bailee Moore during a mid season homegame.

“I was really proud of the girls with Lakeview just having the nine players and everybody having good attitudes,” Boatman said. “We just kinda struggled this year getting

those green players in there and gettin’ em some game time. Hopefully next year we’ll be a little bit stronger.”

I.V. Safe House Alliance promotes ‘I ask’ to combat sexual assault

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Director Susie Ellwood of the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance often points out that although April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, every month is sexual assault action month. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a campaign to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. The campaign theme, I Ask, champions the message that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions.

Sexual violence is common in societies around the world and it impacts our society here in the United States in many harmful ways. Violent sexual assault can leave victims with an array of symptoms that deeply and negatively impact their lives and the lives of the people who love them. 81% of women and 35% of men report significant short- or long-term impacts such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

and health care is 16% higher for women who were sexually abused as children and 36% higher for women who were physically and sexually abused as children.

There is also a financial burden, in addition to increased healthcare costs shared by the entire population, of this kind of violence. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), the lifetime cost of rape per victim is \$122,461. Rape costs the U.S. more per year than any other crime (\$127 billion), followed by assault (\$93 billion), murder (\$71 billion), and drunk driving, including fatalities (\$61 billion).

Is it a problem here in Josephine County? Domestic violence and sexual violence is common enough that most counties in the U.S. have a domestic violence program that includes help for victims of sexual violence. Josephine County has two.

A few more numbers:

- One in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives.
- 91% of victims of rape and sexual

assault are female, and nine percent are male.

- Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police.
- The prevalence of false reporting is low — between 2% and 10%.
- 96% of people who sexually abuse

children are male, and 76.8% of people who sexually abuse children are adults.

These statistics are available (with citations) from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, along with other resources and information, at <https://www.nsvrc.org>.

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