

# Sports+Outdoors

## PREP VOLLEYBALL



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Bend High's Riley Ahmuty (10) hits the ball over the net during the first set against Ridgeview at Caldera High School on Wednesday night.

# Ridgeview volleyball falls to Bend

BY BRIAN RATHBONE  
CO Media Group

For a team with a near-perfect record, hard-fought victories have been hard to come by for the Bend High volleyball team.

A 3-1 (23-25, 26-24, 25-9, 25-18) win over Ridgeview Wednesday night, in which two sets required late rallies to secure a match victory, was a hurdle the Lava Bears needed to clear as they enter the second half of 5A Intermountain Conference play.

Bend had played a couple of close matches over the weekend at the South Albany State Preview tournament, including a 2-0 loss to 5A contender Wilsonville, where they just could not land the knockout punches. So the emphasis leading into Wednesday's doubleheader against Caldera and Ridgeview was to find ways to win.

"We have been trying so hard to get those final points," said Bend junior outside hitter Chloe LeLuge. "And after doing it in the second set, we got through that mental block."

Added senior outside hitter Jill Stein: "We finally won and closed a game, that was nice." In all its nontournament matches, Bend (11-1 overall, 5-0 IMC) wasn't just undefeated, but had yet to lose a single set.

That was until the opening set of Wednesday's tilt against Ridgeview (6-6, 4-1), held at Caldera High.

The Ravens and the Lava Bears, both third-place finishers at the state tournament in different classifications last season, entered their first meeting against one another undefeated.

"We have been watching (Ridgeview) and they have been playing really good," Stein said. "So we were expecting that it was going to be good competition."

And it was just that. Having already swept Caldera in straight sets less than 30 minutes before facing Bend, Ridgeview outlasted the Lava Bears in the first set, taking a set that was tied at 12 and turning it into a 25-23 win.

After handing Bend its first set loss of the year, Ridgeview

nearly stole the second.

While the Lava Bears held a modest lead for most of the set, the Ravens rallied to tie it 20-20, then take a 23-21 lead before Bend stormed back for the 26-24 win.

Digging out of a late hole to steal a win was a welcoming sign for the Lava Bears moving forward.

"We were finally able to find that final push in the second game," said Bend High coach Kristin Cooper. "To find a way to win close matches was an important lesson for us to learn."

"Getting that win was all about finding your teammates and just knowing that you are all in it together and trusting each other fully," LeLuge said.

Perhaps Ridgeview was somewhat tired, having already played a match earlier, or perhaps the Lava Bears found a groove, because they turned an 8-4 lead into a 25-9 dominating win in the third set to take control of the match.

"Once we figured out how to push through that second game, it carried over to the third game and we were able to continue the momentum," LeLuge said.

Ridgeview has earned the reputation of being a scrappy and difficult team to play and that proved to be true in the fourth set.

The Ravens held a 15-12 lead in the fourth, but once again, Bend found a way to scrap out the final 13 points to win the fourth set 25-18 and seal the match victory.

"They have that really good team connectedness," Stein said of Ridgeview. "They just know who to feed, where to put the ball. They are super smart offensively, that is just something that we haven't played against yet. That was new."

It won't be long before the Lava Bears and Ravens square off again. They will face each other next Wednesday in a doubleheader with Redmond High before Bend hosts its annual Clearwater Classic on Oct. 8, when some of the state's top teams will play in Central Oregon.

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## PREP FOOTBALL



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Redmond's Colton Horner (8) runs down field during the second quarter Friday against Bend at Redmond.

# Redmond blanked by unbeaten Bend

BY BRIAN RATHBONE  
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When on its first offensive play Redmond executed a flea-flicker for a big gain, putting the Panthers deep in Bend's territory, it threatened to end the Lava Bears defense's streak of eight consecutive scoreless quarters.

But there was no panic from the Bend defense in its Intermountain Conference opener.

"We told each other, we are fine, we are good," said senior defensive end Trenton Karpstein. "Mistakes happen. It is just one play at the beginning of the game. We had a lot of time left."

The Lava Bears were, in fact, good. Two plays later, Bend (5-0, 1-0 IMC) recovered a Redmond (2-3, 0-1) fumble, for its first of three takeaways. And when the final horn sounded, the Lava Bears walked off with a 43-0 win over Redmond for its third consecutive shutout to remain undefeated.

No team in the 5A classification has had a start quite like the Lava Bears. No team has scored more than the 220 points, and no team given up fewer than the seven points Bend has surrendered this year. However, the first four wins over Lincoln, North Medford, Centennial and Canby don't carry nearly the same weight as picking up a



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Bend's Jackson Bishop (9) runs with the ball during the first quarter Friday against Redmond.

win against a conference opponent.

"The other games have been fun, but these league games count," said Bend coach Matt Craven. "Ultimately to get to where we want to go, you have to win league games."

The Lava Bears rushed for 316 yards on offense. Senior running back Jack Sorenson ran for three touchdowns, senior running back Malaki Nutter and sophomore running back Seth Klaus each ran the ball in for scores.

When the Lava Bears needed to throw, senior quarterback Logan Malinowski and senior wideout Blake Groshong connected six times for 85 yards and an early 16-yard touchdown on fourth and goal.

"It is always helpful when you are multidimensional and you have three or four guys who you can get the ball to," Craven said. "The unsung hero tonight, I thought, was Blake Groshong."

Sorenson sees the key to the offense a bit differently than his coach. "Honestly, it is our defense," said Sorenson, tipping his cap to the other side of the ball. "It is easy to win games when the other team can't score. Scoring a lot of points is nice, but it is a lot nicer when you don't worry about how many points you need to score because the other team isn't scoring."

Only North Medford — once, in the fourth quarter of the second game of the season — has been able to

score on the Lava Bears. Since then, it has been zeros across the board for opposing offenses. Senior defensive back Jackson Bishop and senior linebacker Austin Baker each had interceptions in the win. Baker also recovered a fumble.

The Lava Bears have a marquee Central Oregon matchup Friday at Summit (4-1), in a matchup between arguably the two best 5A teams

"I think everyone has that one circled on the calendar," Craven said. "I know they do; I know we do. It is going to be a fantastic atmosphere and we feel really fortunate to play in big games this year."

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## PREP SCOREBOARD

### Football

#### Friday's results

Mountain View 48, Caldera 6  
Summit 42, Ridgeview 8  
Bend 43, Redmond 0  
Madras 49, Pendleton 12

Ridgeview 3, Caldera 0

Summit 3, Redmond 0 (25-12, 25-15, 25-16)

Bend 3, Ridgeview 1 (23-25, 26-24, 25-9, 25-18)

Sisters 3, Elmira 0 (25-12, 25-13, 25-7)

### Boys soccer

#### Friday's results

Mountain View 3, Caldera 1

### Girls soccer

#### Wednesday's results

Sisters 5, Creswell 0

### Volleyball

#### Wednesday's results

Mountain View 3, Redmond 0 (25-17, 25-21, 25-16)

### Boys soccer

#### Wednesday's results

Sisters 3, East Linn Christian 1



Redmond's Ryker Altizer (4) pulls in a pass during the first quarter Friday against Bend in Redmond.

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