

Sports+Outdoors

GIRLS SOCCER

Redmond beats Ridgeview to remain in playoff chase

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
CO Media Group

Tuesday evening's girls soccer match between Redmond and Ridgeview was not a typical Intermountain Conference matchup between intracity rivals.

It was basically a playoff game two weeks before the postseason starts.

Leading into the critical matchup, Redmond coach Martha Segura showed her team a video of Duke University women's basketball coach Kara Lawson. The theme from the Blue Devils' coach was how to best handle challenges.

"It is never going to get easier," Segura said. "You learn how to deal with hard, better. And you become more successful through that. And I feel like we did that tonight, we learned how to deal with hard, better."

The Panthers made Tuesday night's challenge at Ridgeview High look fairly easy. With two goals in the first 15 minutes and three more in the second half, Redmond (6-7 overall, 3-6 IMC) got the season sweep of the Ravens (4-9, 2-7) for the first time since Ridgeview opened in 2012 with a 5-0 victory.

Junior midfielder Andreyah Johnson broke the scoreless tie in the first three minutes of the match, then junior forward Reese Wedding scored her first of three goals in the 15th minute to jumpstart the Panthers.

Midway through the second half, the Panthers went on a scoring spurt to put the game out of reach. Wedding scored her second goal in the 65th minute, three minutes later junior Jillian Bremont scored, then Wedding completed the hat trick with her third goal of the match in the 72nd minute.

"Getting an early lead gets everyone going," Wedding said. "I think it helps everyone play better. Because we are like, 'We got two, let's keep going.' They



Redmond's Reese Wedding dribbles past a Ridgeview defender during the Panthers' 5-0 win over the Ravens on Tuesday evening at Ridgeview High School.

got everyone really excited in the moment."

Entering Tuesday's slate of soccer matches, both Summit and Caldera had separated themselves from the rest of the conference. The Storm and the Wolfpack clinched two of the three available automatic bids for the playoffs and are on a collision course for a winner-take-all conference title match next Tuesday at Caldera.

Redmond, Ridgeview, Bend High

and Mountain View all entered this week in contention for the final automatic bid to the Class 5A state playoffs, which start Nov. 2.

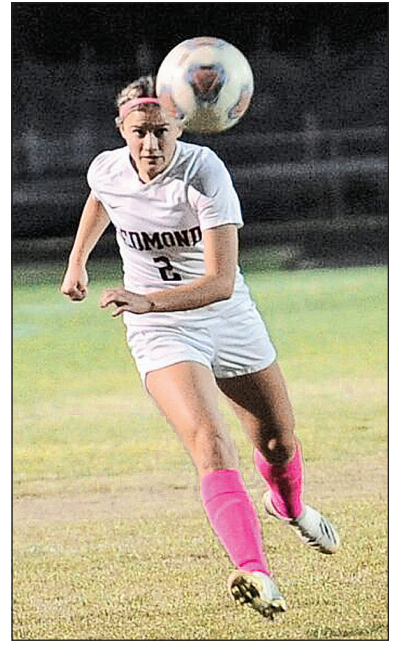
After Tuesday's results, Redmond and Mountain View have the inside track going into the final matchups of the season.

"Everyone knows that every game we play to our full potential," Wedding said. "Mistakes are obviously going to happen, but we need to try and min-

imize them. We just kept a positive mindset knowing we would have another chance if we played better the second time around."

And now they are going into the final game of the season Thursday against the Lava Bears — who won the first match 2-1 on Oct. 3 — with a chance to clinch a spot in the playoffs.

It's an incredible feat, considering the last time the Bend and Redmond schools were in the same conference,



Redmond's Jillian Bremont takes a shot on goal during the Panthers' 5-0 win over Ridgeview Tuesday evening.

"Getting an early lead gets everyone going. I think it helps everyone play better. Because we are like, 'We got two, let's keep going.' They got everyone really excited in the moment."

— Reese Wedding, Panthers forward

the Panthers had only one tie and 39 losses without a win in league play between 2013 and 2017.

"When I first took over this program it was the 'Bend League,' and we didn't do so well," Segura said. "Having that in the back of my mind knowing that the last time we were in the same league we were at the bottom of the pack, it is so exciting to go back to these Bend schools and compete and have a program that can fight for a playoff spot."

■ Reporter: 541-383-0307, brathbone@bendbulletin.com

VOLLEYBALL

Ridgeview ready for postseason challenges

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
CO Media Group

Ridgeview volleyball coach Kurtis Bower admitted he was nervous coming into the season taking over a program with a long history of not only making the playoffs, but advancing to state tournaments.

After the regular season came to an end Wednesday night with a 3-0 (25-19, 25-15, 25-16) sweep of Mountain View, the Ravens are right back where they usually are — in the playoffs and a win away from advancing to the 5A state tournament.

"I knew I had a great team coming in," Bower said. "But getting it to a point where we are getting to the playoffs and having that goal in mind, and to finally getting there and achieving it is kind of surreal."

Perhaps just as, if not more, important is how the Ridgeview players feel entering the postseason. They believe they are playing their best volleyball of the season.

"I feel like everything is coming together," said senior outside hitter Madie Vaughn. "I think we are ready to go into the playoffs because we have played a lot of the toughest teams in all these tournaments. We are ready to go out there and give it everything we have got."

While Ridgeview had a second-place finish in the Intermountain Conference behind IMC-champion Bend High and will be in contention to host a playoff match once the brackets are finalized, neither Bower nor Vaughn would say that it has been a smooth ride for the Ravens this season.

The year started off with three consecutive losses and when playing in tournaments against some of the state's top competition nearly every weekend of the season, the Ravens struggled.

With the regular season winding down, Ridgeview met in the team room for what Vaughn called a "come to Jesus moment" to get everyone on the same page as they embarked on another



Ridgeview's Madie Vaughn (8) hits the ball past a pair of Mountain View defenders during the first set in Redmond on Wednesday night.

run to the postseason.

"We talked about what needed to be fixed and then we went out and executed," Vaughn said. "A lot of things went unsaid. We just had a sit-down talk and realized that we have the postseason coming and that we need to turn it on."

Out of the meeting, players wrote down mission statements and reiterated the goals for the team, which was coming off a third-place finish at last year's 5A state tournament.

"It is just a reminder of all the principles we want to use in our game," Vaughn said. "We don't want to forget that when we are playing."

What became evident though the meetings was that the team was going through perhaps some self-doubt on the court, especially in matches against tougher opponents.

"Our team is so talented and has so much potential," Vaughn said. "We just need to believe in ourselves. I feel like in games we started getting frazzled when things weren't going our way. It

"We just had a sit-down talk and realized that we have the postseason coming and that we need to turn it on."

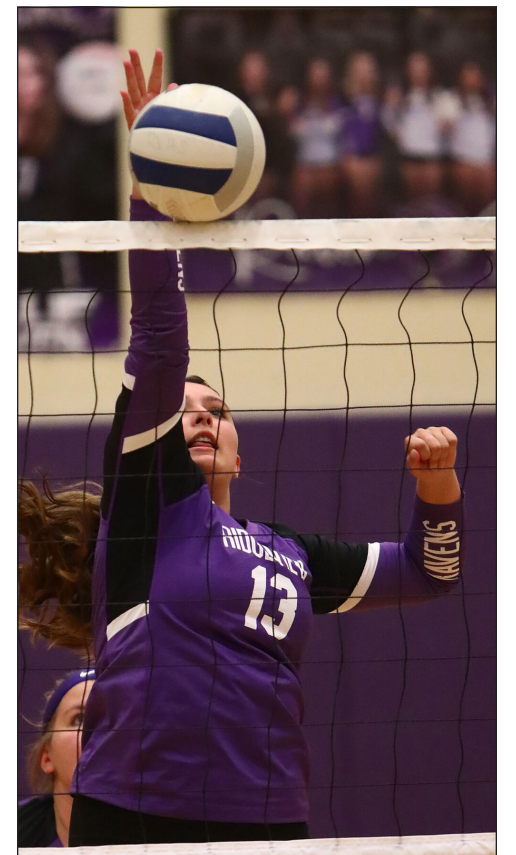
— Madie Vaughn, senior outside hitter



Ridgeview's Sidnee Roan (12) returns a serve during the first set against Mountain View in Redmond on Wednesday night.

comes down to being confident and believing that we can do it."

The belief is now there that this team can make another run though the postseason as it has in recent years. The IMC, which is also sending Bend and Summit to the postseason, wrapped up its



Ridgeview's Jaylah Forester (13) hits the ball over the net during the first set against Mountain View in Redmond on Wednesday night.

regular season well before the rankings freeze on Tuesday and the playoff brackets are released.

"We want to go to state and win state," Bower said. "I want to enjoy the experience and take it all in and do the best that I can for these girls."

■ Reporter: 541-383-0307, brathbone@bendbulletin.com

PREP SCOREBOARD

Football

Friday's results

Summit 49, Mountain View 23

Caldera 20, Redmond 19

Siuslaw 20, Sisters 7

Boys soccer

Friday

Damascus Christian at Central Christian, canceled