

View from 1B

Siuslaw Volleyball Club starts season with smash

A: Actually, Mary, since the dawn of man, fires have been an integral part of our celebrations... whether providing warmth in the form of a bonfire or firing the grills upon which we are preparing the sumptuous feasts for the occasion.

Dancing around a fire is one of our more primal forms of celebration. Seeing that it was 1 a.m., and with temperatures in the mid-teens, college students were smart enough to know that they needed a source of heat.

It would seem to us that college officials would be smart enough to recognize this and provide a safer alternative for students — perhaps bonfires staffed by actual firemen in streets cordoned off by officers of the peace who were there for the students' safety, instead of the way it was handled in Columbus, Ohio, after the big win.

No, there they decided to just attack students with tear gas and threaten their arrest, fanning the flames of riot and civil disobedience. Brilliant!

Q: Just watched the video (of the "riots"). Cammo? Really? It would seem that in confronting a crowd, the goal would be to announce a police presence, not make them blend into the shrubbery.

— Reader in Columbus

A: Maybe the Ohio officials were caught by surprise, what with Cleveland and Cincinnati's rich tradition of winning professional championships year-in and year-out.

Maybe they figured fans wouldn't care and would just go to bed after the game. Maybe they thought that Ohio's pristine reputation for coddling students during campus protests — and not in any way, shape or form inspiring protest anthems from Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young — would be enough of a deterrent.

Maybe the police were on a mission from the Knights Who Say "Ni!"

Was this even a question? Congratulations, Ohio State.



The Siuslaw Volleyball Club opened its season last Saturday, Jan. 10, with its 12U (left) and 14U teams each winning tournament titles in Albany. (courtesy photos)

The Siuslaw 12U gold team started the volleyball season last Saturday, Jan. 10, in Albany, winning all five matches en route to an undefeated day.

This young team of talented players dominated from the beginning, with Camryn Rose serving up an ace on match point to sweep the opener in two games.

Throughout the day all the girls served very well, said coach Cori Hanson.

Hailee Outlaw, in two separate games, served aces for the win to help propel the Vikings into the championship match

against NCVBC Red from Portland.

In that match, Brea Blankenship, Savannah Colton and Lauren Bogart each had key kills to secure the first game, 25-21. Then, in game two, Siuslaw sailed to a comfortable 25-12 win behind Kya Blake's nine consecutive service points.

"The team stayed very focused throughout the day, we served big and returned even better. It was a real team effort," said Hanson.

The following day, the 14U team also traveled to Albany, where they turned in the same

dominating performance as the 12U team, winning all four matches on the day to go undefeated.

In the championship match against CCE of Salem, Siuslaw took an early lead with Lakelee Charlton serving up five straight service points.

Raelee Dimon continued that momentum with a block on the attack to reclaim the serve.

With great volleys and fast footwork by Siuslaw libero Zoe Timmons and Falon Borgnino, the team went on to win the first match 25-15.

CCE had solid serving, but the play of Lupita Figueroa and

McKenzie Colton keep the ball in play. That, along with Samantha Scheer's serving, gave Siuslaw an early and commanding lead.

Kendall Robinson, who provided effective setting throughout the tournament, scored on a tip-kill for the championship win, 25-16.

"The team played some great volleyball," said coach Kelly Potter. "Even the parents and coaches from the other team congratulated us on how we ran our rotation and how well we returned serve."

The club currently has two teams with a total of 25 players

ranging in age from 9 to 18.

Players practice two to three times a week from mid-November through April.

Through the generosity of Siuslaw School District, the club uses the Siuslaw Middle School gym for practices. The teams play in one to two tournaments per month, competing against teams from all over Oregon and southern Washington.

These tournaments are usually one-day tournaments that start at 8 a.m. and continue into the early evening, with each team playing an average of five matches each day.

Cheer from 1B

and Andrea Sanchez.

"We don't have a feeder program," says Conlee. "For the freshmen, it's their first year, learning all the basics, dancing, showmanship. We have to build from the bottom up."

The work culminates on Feb. 14 in Portland, where the state finals will be held at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, the former home of the Portland Trail Blazers.

It will be a major challenge for the Vikings and their coach.

"We have an all-new rules system, and it's kind'a scary," admits Conlee. "They wanted Oregon's competition to be more comparable to the national championships, so they made it more rigorous and challenging."

"We take it as a challenge, and I think we're up to it."

Siuslaw will be competing in the 4A small schools bracket (12 or fewer females), unless there are fewer than five

squads. Then they will be bunched with the 4A large schools (13-20 females).

"It's not fun to be thrown together (with the bigger schools)," says Conlee. "It hasn't happened in a while, but one year we got (only) third because we got thrown together."

First up for the Vikings is the Sheldon High School Invitational Jan. 31, in Eugene, then the Tualatin High School Last Chance Cheer Competition Feb. 7.

Then comes the state championships on Valentine's Day.

"We have some beautiful tumblers and jumpers," says Conlee, who credits gymnastics programs in North Bend and at Coast Fitness in Florence.

"This is the first year I've had this calibre of jumpers," says Conlee.

There are 16 sanctioned events this school year for schools wishing to qualify for the state championships. Teams must compete in at least two,

beginning with the Mt. Hood Cheer Competition in October at Centennial High School.

The Vikings will be competing in two of the final three events heading to states.

"They're young and really talented," Conlee says of her team. "If we can keep them together, they're going to be amazing their junior and senior years."

That would be for a five-minute shot at fame.

Two and a half minutes each year.

Flu from 1B

results for the HPAI H5N2 found in the Fern Ridge mallard yesterday. It is the same strain that was detected in a pintail duck in northwestern Washington state last month.

The strain has not caused noticeable disease for Oregon's wild waterfowl, which have evolved with the virus and usually do not get sick. The mallard did not show signs of sickness and there have been no reports of any recent waterfowl die-offs related to avian influenza anywhere in North

America.

This detection follows a December detection of another avian influenza strain, HPAI H5N8, in backyard poultry near Winston, Ore. It marks the second highly pathogenic avian influenza virus identified in Oregon.

The detection is not a surprise for wildlife managers. "After seeing initial results from other states, we suspected the HPAI strains (H5N2 and H5N8) would be found in wild waterfowl in Oregon," said Brandon Reishus, ODFW migratory bird coordinator. "California has also document-

ed the virus in waterfowl and it has been found as far west as Davis County, Utah."

This time of year, migratory waterbirds (ducks, geese, shorebirds) are on wintering areas throughout the Pacific Flyway, which extends from Alaska to South America.

In the coming months these birds will migrate back to nesting areas to the north, potentially spreading the virus to new areas. Wild birds can pass the influenza virus to their species or other bird species inhabiting shared wetlands or through predator and prey interactions.

While this strain often does not sicken waterfowl, it may be a threat to falcons and hawks,

which can exhibit symptoms and die. ODFW is advising falconers to refrain from hunting wild waterfowl or feeding their birds wild waterfowl meat or organ tissue.

Hunters need to practice safe bird handling.

The strain of avian influenza found in Oregon and other western states is no immediate threat to human health. But hunters should always practice safe bird handling and cooking techniques:

- Wear rubber or latex gloves when handling and cleaning game birds.

- Do not eat, drink, smoke or touch your face when handling birds.

- Keep the game bird and its juices away from other foods.

- Thoroughly clean knives and any other equipment or surfaces that touch birds. Use a solution of one third cup of

chlorine bleach per one gallon of water.

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after handling birds (or with alcohol-based hand products if your hands are not visibly soiled).

- Cook all game meat thoroughly (up to at least 165° F) to kill disease organisms and parasites. Use a food thermometer to ensure the inside of the bird has reached at least 165° F.

Upland bird and waterfowl (duck, goose) hunting seasons are open through Jan. 25 in Oregon. Goose hunting is also open in parts of the state during late January, February and March.

Any sick domestic birds should be reported to the State Veterinarian's office at 1-800-347-7028 or USDA at 1-866-536-7593.

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