

Friday night’s game was about more than football



Siuslaw and Pleasant Hill fans, families and players gather in the center of the field after last Friday’s emotional game, which was played just days after the tragic death of Pleasant Hill junior football player Jordan Jeffs.

(Editor’s note: Jesse Chapman has contributed to Siuslaw athletics as an All-State football player as well as a photographer in recent years. Thursday, he will address the varsity football team in preparation for its first home game of the season. Here are some of his thoughts on his experience from last week’s game, which followed the tragic death of 17-year-old Pleasant Hill football player Jordan Jeffs.)

The real story of last Friday night’s football game at Pleasant Hill wasn’t about the final score at the end of the game, but the tragic death of one of the Billies’ student players who died in an auto accident on the scene earlier in the week. All students and coaches at Pleasant Hill High School

wore white jerseys baring the name “Jeffs” on the back in blue letters for the game. There were a lot of tears being shared by the whole community; the parking lot was packed leaving the overflow with room only to park on very narrow shoulders along the street around the stadium. After the game, I came to a conclusion following a difficult loss for the Viks: Rather than focusing on the win/loss aspect of the evening’s matchup, something bigger — and much more important — had taken place on the field. Everyone in attendance became part of it during conversations with grieving, teary-eyed students who had just lost

their comrade, player or friend. Surely, all who attended will be forever impacted by witnessing two opposing teams coming together as one community with one purpose and one heart, kneeling together centerfield for prayer. As a result, I hope we in our own community, living in a world filled with competitive activity all around us on a daily basis, can humble ourselves and learn from these two groups of young people who demonstrated what our priorities should be on every “playground of life.” I respect those who took part in the post-game events, and a lot of praise should go to

our own coaching staff, which rallied to the emotional need of the moment. In last week’s sports section, head coach Jamin Pool spoke of character building and its relationship to our own team. The evidence of that happening was revealed by more than just words; the evidence of strong character was shown in the deeds of our own team last Friday night — and can be directly attributed to coaches who realize there is more to be learned from football than the final digits on a scoreboard. What these coaches sow into the lives of their players will produce a bounty of character that can be harvested for generations ahead. If you see any coach, of any sport, reach out and give them a handshake and thank them for their time, sacrifice and

contribution to our childrens’ character. This Friday night is Siuslaw’s first home game of the new season under coach Pool. The Vikings will go into that game with a record of 0-2. While I can’t guarantee the win/loss outcome of the game, I can promise members of this team will play with their hearts. That is the trademark of Siuslaw football. This Friday night, let’s give these players the biggest attendance we’ve ever seen for a home opener. Let’s support them with all our hearts as they play with all of theirs — and share with each other the kind of character that defines Siuslaw athletics. Go Viks!

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By JESSE CHAPMAN
1973 SIUSLAW GRADUATE
ALL-STATE DEFENSIVE TEAM

TOP AMATEUR GOLFERS AT SANDPINES

Starting yesterday, the Northwest’s top amateur golfers are teeing off during a three-day, 54-hole tournament for the Pacific Northwest Golf Association’s 32nd annual Men’s Mid-Amateur Championship.

The tournament is being held at Sandpines Golf Links through Thursday, Sept. 15. The format is a 54-hole Stroke Play Competition with golfers from British Columbia, Canada, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Tee time is 8 to 10:40 a.m. each day. The public is invited to come watch some of the Northwest’s top amateurs play Sandpines under tournament conditions.

Siuslaw from 1C

of the varsity lineup, “We’re still sorting out who our top seven will be,” said Johnson, who noted that four freshmen are vying for varsity time. “Wednesday will tell us a lot more,” Johnson said, referring to today’s North Bend Invitational at Tugman State Park, which includes all six Far West League teams — Siuslaw, Brookings-Harbor, Douglas, Marshfield, North Bend and South Umpqua — as well as lower-classification schools Bandon, Coquille, Crow, Gold Beach, Myrtle Point, Pacific, Reedsport and Waldport. For Mans, it will be her final opportunity to claim the Far West League title after finishing second to Bandon’s Sailor Hutton the last two years, and second to Marshfield’s Shaylen Crook as a freshman.

For Johnson, it will be a chance to get a look at what this year’s varsity profile could look like. “We’re looking forward to putting up marks that are more representative of what we can expect to see this season, at a venue we are familiar with,” Johnson said. Today’s meet gets underway with the varsity girls race at 4 p.m., followed by the varsity boys race at 4:30 p.m., and the combined junior varsity race at 5 p.m.



Siuslaw’s Isaac Griffes fights for position in the final stretch of Saturday’s Ash Creek cross country meet.

Saturday, Siuslaw will be in Eugene for the Northwest Classic at Lane Community College, which will give Viking runners a chance to preview the

state course. Siuslaw’s annual home meet, the Woahink Invitational, is set for Oct. 1 at Honeyman State Park.

Mapleton from 1C

Schwertfeger, has joined the team as a non-competing athlete. At the Ash Creek meet, junior Cole Spencer finished

258th out of more than 400 runners with a time of 22:42.3. Freshman Richy Gastelum was 264th in 24:07.0. “The kids ran a great race,” said Longo. “We should have Gabe running this week with us at Marshfield, and Nathen

will be joining us as our first crossover football and cross country athlete. “Hopefully we can pick up another runner in the coming days.”

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK



Jared Brandt



The senior quarterback completed 20 of 31 passes for 234 yards and two touchdowns, plus carried the ball six times for 62 yards in the Vikings loss on the road to Pleasant Hill.

Honorable Mention Celie Mans

The Siuslaw distance runner was tenth out of 241 runners in the girls’ varsity division at last week’s Ash Creek XC Festival in Monmouth.

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