

**Viks** from 1B

edge, with Marshfield scoring first and only allowing Siuslaw only one lead in the set.

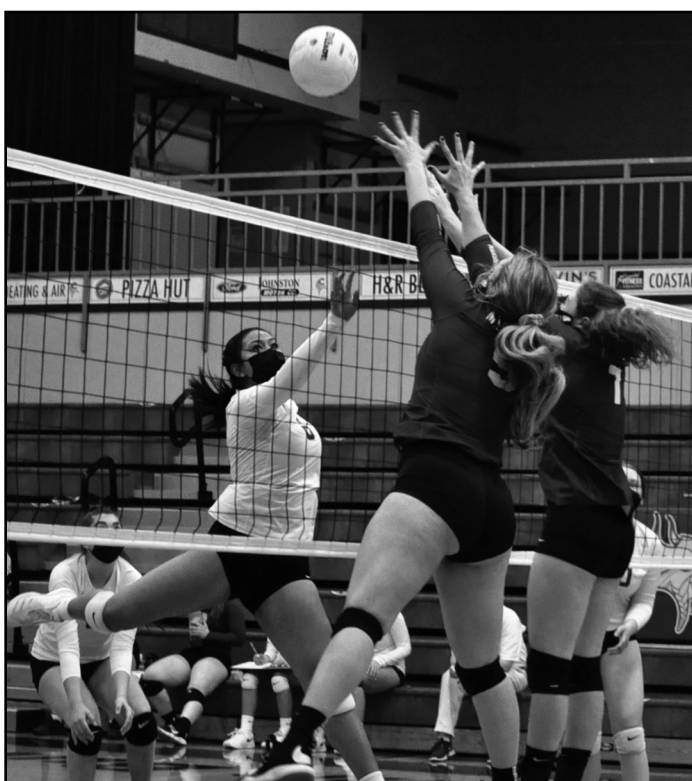
The Vikings struggled to return service for the majority of the set and, aside from very reliable serving from Hayden Muller and Alberty, the girls also had a hard time completing their own serves.

After taking a second time-out when the score had reached 15-21 in favor of the Pirates, the Vikings seemed to come back with a vengeance. Desiree Tupua had five kills in the set, helping Siuslaw get the score back to a tie at 22-22.

However, service returns defeated the Vikings by the end of the set, the final score being 22-25.

"Really it shouldn't have gone into five [sets]," said Cole. "I told them yesterday (March 22) in practice — because we did not have a very good practice — that if we came here and played like that in the game today, [the Pirates] were going to be right there with us. And that's kind of what happened, besides that first game where we just blew them away. If we could have kept that up, it would have been done and over with."

Going into the third set, the Vikings still seemed to struggle to find their focus as they had in the first set. Blake and Tupua played great offense on the net, with several kills each. But the whole team still struggled to return service and Siuslaw was behind on the scoreboard



ZEAHNA YOUNG/SIUSLAW NEWS

**Siuslaw's Desi Tupua scores a kill between two Marshfield defenders. Tupua had 17 kills against the Pirates.**

for most of the set. Finally, the Viks found their stride and made a 6-point comeback. With two kills from Blake and an ace from Muller, the score was tied at 20-20 — and the Pirates would not take back the lead for the set's remainder. A very sneaky tip from Blake sealed the win at 25-23.

In the fourth set, Siuslaw took the lead early on, but again had trouble making and returning serves throughout, costing them many points.

The entire set was very close, with neither team holding more than a 4-point lead throughout. In the end, error receiving service proved too costly to win the set as Marshfield came out on top, 25-21.

Said Cole, "We missed 10 serves this match, and that's the most [we've missed this season] since our first game."

Cole explained how, over the years, the rivalry with the Pirates had made it difficult for the Vikings to maintain their focus consistently.

"There's this thing here, it's like a Marshfield curse," said Cole. "They always seem to get into your head, and it happened. It took them a set to do it, but there's something they do... it happened when I played [here], and it's always been there. I don't know how to explain it, but it gets into our heads and messes us up."

Despite the curse of the Pirates, the Vikings did not give up, and fought even harder in the fifth set. Serving was back on point, with aces from Ashley Hennessee, Meika Shappell and Tupua. Blake, Tupua, Hennessee, and Muller all had kills in the set, with a final kill from Hailee Outlaw seal-

ing the win at 15-10 for the Vikings.

Although her team had trouble defensively, Cole was very proud of its work on offense for the night.

"Desi had a great game, and Hailee really showed up today," said Cole.

Tupua had 17 kills and two blocks, and Outlaw had eight kills and one block. Blake also had 10 kills and a block.

In the front row, Alberty had two blocks for kills and two tip-kills.

"She kind of finally realized, 'Yeah, I'm actually a front row player, I'm not just a setter up here,' which is good to see," said Cole. "I know she's been dying to hit the ball, so when she gets that chance, she usually takes it. It's a different side of her to see and it's really fun."

Although the Pirates were able to get into the Vikings' heads at certain points in the match, it wasn't enough to take the win, effectively ending the Marshfield curse for this group of girls.

"It was stressful, but we did come out on top," said Cole, "which was good to see. They definitely didn't give up, and that's kind of been their thing all season; they fight until that last point. We hadn't beaten them in four years. So now, hopefully when we play them next, it's not going to be that way."

"[Our girls are] going to realize, hey, we beat them, and we can beat them again!"

On Thursday (March 25), the Lady Viks were on the road at Elmira for their second match with the Falcons this season.

Siuslaw beat Elmira handily in three sets, with Tupua executing 10 kills and six aces, and Blake nabbing nine kills and five aces.

Siuslaw's last two sched-

uled league games for this season are both at home.

The first is Tuesday (March 30) against Junction City, followed by their final game on Thursday (April 1), when they host the league's No. 2 team, Cottage Grove.

Both matches begin at 6:45 p.m.

**Little** from 1B

Television was limited to ABC, NBC and CBS. My brother and I would certainly not sit down to watch daytime "soap operas" so common on those channels.

Right now, playing sports out of their regular season seems weird — fall now, with spring season starting in a couple of weeks, followed by winter sports in mid-May.

Yet professional teams overlap all three sport seasons of high schools nationwide. More club sports are playing out of Oregon seasonal guidelines by playing tournaments during other sport seasons.

Even successful high school programs can have an overlap into the next sport season with the play-offs. Regardless of how odd it may seem playing basketball in May and June this year, I am thankful the OSAA has decided to give the high school athletes of Oregon an opportunity to play.

Oregon high schools have limited options in choosing their competition, but they have options. Those options depend on the leadership of athletic directors and principals of each school. There is an online option to watch our Vikings by streaming it to your on-line devices.

To accommodate the seasons after not starting until this last January, each sport season is shortened considerably (six weeks) to allow all sports to have a chance to revive that 3:30 to 6 p.m. mentality.

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