

FOOTBALL from page B1

the Hawks on fourth down with 1:20 to play and successfully ran out the clock from there.

Fourth quarter drama is becoming the norm for the Viking football team. Luckily, when a team is well coached, they are ready for situations just like these.

"When a team starts coming back on you, it's a bit of a 'What's not working? Where are we softening up?'" said Smith. "It definitely is discouraging, but one thing Coach Fleming and Coach Sam Johnson say is that you have to love the guy next to you and trust that they're going to do their job. I know on the other side of the defense that Camp is doing whatever he can to make sure nothing comes out his way. I know that Braydon (Thornton) and Isaac have my back as cornerbacks and that they won't give up the deep ball. I also know that Ian Sissel won't let runs go up the middle. Without being able to

count on each other, we'd never win a game."

With the win, the Vikings continue marching towards their goal: the 3A State Championship.

"To put it simply, the end goal has always been a ring," said Smith. "Before Coach Johnson came to Siuslaw, Braydon texted him and said, 'Come win a state championship with us.' It's been our goal since day one with him. To be 12-0 at the end of the season, you have to win one game at a time."

In the Special District 2 North Division game of the week, undefeated Junction City crushed Santiam Christian, 42-13.

In an intersectional match-up with statewide implications, 4A #3 Marshfield met 3A #1 Rainier on a neutral field in Cottage Grove. The day after he received a scholarship offer from Division 1 Portland State, Marshfield quarterback Dom Montiel threw 5 touchdown passes and the Pirates helped their fellow coastal school, the Viks, by downing the Columbians 43-16.

The loss by Rainier allowed Siuslaw to move up to the top spot in the OSAA 3A rankings.

Next week's opponent, Pleasant Hill, lost a close one to Sisters, 28-26. Last week's opponent Cascade Christian beat St. Mary's 35-7. Siuslaw's former rivals to the south, Reedsport, won by forfeit over Illinois Valley, 1-0.

Both the JC Tigers and Siuslaw Viks sit undefeated, each with two games remaining before the Oct. 29 showdown between the two teams in Junction City. If both teams' records remain unblemished, this match-up would be a quasi-Special Division 2 North Division Championship Game and will determine who is the #1 seed from the league in the state playoffs.

This week's game is a rare Thursday game. On Oct. 14, the Vikings host the Pleasant Hill Billies at 7 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/o/siuslaw-high-school/page/siusla.w-on-line-ticketing.

TIME OUT from page B1

Viking football game was at Hans Petersen Field. Our location was the field below the event center. We had an excellent view of the field, except when the rain came into the booth. We had free popcorn, Lutero Burgers and soft drinks. We had a solid counter for player programs and stat sheets to write on and refer to. The connection to the KCST station was clear. Unfortunately, only half the games were at home during these years. Visiting broadcast locations were sometimes quite challenging.

The worst line of site location was at Myrtle Point. We were near ground level behind the goal posts on a sideline. The bleachers blocked our view of one sideline of the field after 50 yards. Forget trying to see jersey numbers and down and distance when the ball was on the other half of the field.

At Douglas and Brookings, we were located in the stands. Fans would be yelling and standing up all around us. This made it difficult to transmit on plays we only briefly witnessed. We also had nowhere to write information or stats to keep our audiences in the know.

During these games, we would update our home listeners during time outs and at halftime. On more than one occasion, we would have a fan from the local field unplug us for a temporary loss of signals.

Even though Reedsport was our rival school, they always treated our broadcasting team with respect. They provided us with all the amenities we had

at our home games. We responded in kind when they came to play the Vikings.

The action on the field is what mattered to our listeners and to their listeners.

The furthest I ever broadcast from was in Klamath Falls. Mike was unable to travel, so Wayne Sharpe and I drove the distance to broadcast a Saturday Viking play-off game. My son Brandon went with us. It was his first time watching a Viking game away from home. We were able to travel there and back home on the same day. Wayne was also my neighbor at the time, so I only had to walk next door carrying my exhausted son.

Sometimes radio and TV commentators walk a fine line when second guessing the decisions of coaches. Unlike some professional TV commentators I have listened to over the years, a high school broadcast reaches the ears of a players' parents, siblings and friends who may take offense to criticism of their players' actions.

When Mike and I broadcast our games, we emphasized the positive contributions of players from both teams.

As I have listened to the current KCST team of commentators, they too are in tune to the good plays made from both teams and only occasionally question a coaches' decision to go against time-honored situational calls.

What an exciting and great game last Friday, Vikings. Plus, the cross country teams were off and running at Woahink on Saturday. Let's not forget about the soccer and volleyball teams.

Go Viks!!!!

COUNTRY from page B1

Jacob Blankenship (32nd, 18:15.40).

"Great races from Chad to run away from a really good field," said Siuslaw coach Chris Johnson. "Dylan and Talan really gave us some fire power to go with what has been a really strong and consistent top three."

The Siuslaw boys finished with 35 team points. Home team Philomath was next with 91 points, followed by Cottage Grove (117) and Bandon (120).

The girls team was a close second in their race. They finished just behind league

rival Marist and the two teams figure to battle for the league title at the Sky-Em League Championships on Oct. 28. The Spartans had 44 points and the Vikings had 65. Next was meet host Philomath with 85 then Bandon with 115.

Senior Rylee Colton (19:47.70) continued to be the leader for the Siuslaw girls team, finishing second in the race to Marist's Jennifer Tsai (19:24.90). Freshmen Addison McNeill (8th, 20:36.00) and Maya Wells (20th, 21:33.10) and sophomore Jane Lacouture (21:10.30) were right behind Colton and had outstanding

"The girls had big breakthrough performances from Addison, Jane (Lacouture) and Maya," Johnson said. "We still have some work to do but we are beginning to see that potential for this team."

Freshman Macy McNeill (34th, 22:23.00) and sophomore Corduroy Holbrook

(36th, 22:35.60) rounded out an outstanding team effort by the Vikings.

Siuslaw travels to Alderbrook Golf Course in Tillamook for a rare Friday race this week. The junior varsity girls race starts at 3 p.m., followed by JV boys at 3:45 p.m. Varsity girls race at 4:15 p.m. and boys at 5 p.m.

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