

**POINTS from page B1**

and Macy McNeill, rounding out the finishers for the Vikings.

The boys race was also dominated by SHS. Senior Chad Hughes finished at top of his fourth consecutive race. Junior Sam Ulrich was just 16 seconds behind his teammate for second place, followed by classmates Kyle Hughes and Jacob Blankenship. The sophomore trio of Dylan Jensen, Talen Ross and Braydon Linton rounded it out for the Viks.

The Run for the Brownies is the warmup race for the Sky-Em League Championships on Oct. 28. It appears Siuslaw harriers are getting hot at just the right

time. Viking Coach Chris Johnson has his team gradually improving, as is his strategy. The runners try and get a little better each week and, if his plan works, end up surprising even themselves with the endurance and speed they've acquired as the season has progressed.

"As of Saturday, we feel like we are on the right trajectory," Johnson said.

The Sky-Em League district meet is held on the campus of Lane Community College in Eugene.

Siuslaw and Marist figure to be the favorites for the team title in the girls race. Both teams feature senior leaders that will, most likely, battle each other

for the race's individual title. Marist's Jennifer Tsai edged Siuslaw's Colton by less than 13 seconds at a race in Philomath on Oct. 9, the only other time the two have met this season. Thursday's race could go to either, as Colton has been steadily improving each week and appears to be peaking at just the right time.

"The girls are getting better and better," said Johnson. "I keep telling all six of them that they are way better than they think they are. Rylee should compete for the individual championship."

Odds are also in the boys team's favor. Cottage Grove and Marshfield are the leading contenders to de-

# Run for the Brownies

**Boys Top 10**

1. Chad Hughes (12) 9:39 Siuslaw
2. Sam Ulrich (11) 9:55 Siuslaw
3. Kyle Hughes (11) 10:23 Siuslaw
4. Jacob Blankenship (11) 10:26 Siuslaw
5. Jacob Calvert (12) 10:40 Marshfield
6. Dylan Jensen (10) 10:41 Siuslaw
7. Talen Ross (10) 10:46 Siuslaw
8. Elijah Callura (9) 10:50 Marshfield
9. Braydon Linton (10) 10:51 Siuslaw
10. Jack Washington (11) 11:26 Marshfield

**Girls Top 10**

1. Rylee Colton (12) 11:34 Siuslaw
2. Addison McNeill (9) 11:59 Siuslaw
3. Corduroy Holbrook (10) 12:31 Siuslaw
4. Jane Lacouture (10) 12:36 Siuslaw
5. Maya Wells (9) 12:41 Siuslaw
6. Bailey Wallack (12) 12:44 Marshfield
7. Macy McNeill (9) 12:52 Siuslaw
8. Iris Donovan (11) 14:16 Waldport
9. Sara Weatherly (11) 15:05 Marshfield
10. Jenna Erickson (10) 17:06 Marshfield

throne the Viks, who won district when it was last raced in the spring.

Marshfield junior Alexander Garcia-Silver will challenge the Hughes brothers and Sam Ulrich for individual honors.

"The boys team race

should be a fun one too," said Johnson. "There are four teams who look like they can qualify on paper. Individually, Alex Garcia-Silver is a clear favorite, but I'm sure Chad and Sam are excited to throw their hats in the ring."

The Sky-Em League Championships are on Thursday, Oct. 28. The girls varsity race begins at noon and the boys at 12:45 p.m. The state championships, also held at Lane Community College, is the following weekend.

**FOOTBALL from page B1**

point. That made the score 21-0 Viks.

By halftime, it appeared Siuslaw had things well in hand, but the visitors from Florence may have lost their momentum during the halftime break

The second half was a different ball game than the first.

Early in the third, junior John Rose recovered an Eagle fumble, but before long the Vikings fumbled it right back. Both teams' drives stalled until Santiam Christian got on the move and running back Jaydon Christy rushed in from one yard out to cut into the Siuslaw lead 21-7. That was the score at the end of the third.

The Vikings became their own worst enemy for much of the first half of the fourth quarter. The officials repeatedly flagged the SHS offense for delay of game causing much confusion amongst players, coaches and fans as to when exactly the play clock was supposed to start.

The Eagles' Christy scored again with 7:38 to go in the fourth to bring the Eagles within a touchdown,

21-14. The Vikings received the kick and started at their own 5 yard line. With 95 yards and seven-and-a-half minutes to go to clinch victory, Siuslaw began to



PHOTO BY ZAC BURTT/SIUSLAW NEWS

**The Siuslaw defense is at the ready as they attempt to stop Santiam Christian on fourth down.**

methodically run the clock using their Lacouture-led running game. On two different occasions, the run game stalled and the Viks faced 4th down.

The play callers turned to Thornton and the receiver, who, all season, has made clutch catches when SHS has had their back against the wall and needed a first down — senior Isaac Garza.

"When it comes to critical situations, I know I can be counted on because my brothers on the team and

the coaching staff trust me to do my job," said Garza. "Stats and accolades go out the window, and it comes down to execution and carrying the team's hope with me throughout the game."



PHOTO BY ZAC BURTT/SIUSLAW NEWS

ger reason to celebrate afterward for Siuslaw junior lineman Victor Ayala and the entire Viking team.

"I had a huge chip on my shoulder going into that game, not only because we haven't been able to beat them the past couple of years, but because I knew my teammates and coaches had that game circled on their calendar. I'm more than happy we pulled out with the victory," said Ayala.

Garza agreed. "Beating Santiam Christian was extremely gratifying," he said. "It's a great program that has given us a rough time in the past, so it felt pretty good to finally hit them back."

The win in the penultimate game of the regular season only solidified the bond this team feels with their coaches and each other. Most of the upperclassmen on this team have spent the three years of Coach Sam Johnson's tenure becoming well versed in the mantra "live for today."

Garza has heard the message loud and clear. "My goal is to give 110% to this family in every practice and in every game and to make us the best we can be," he said. "I'm sure other

seniors will give a similar answer. Our goal as a team has always been a state title, but Coach (Sam) Johnson tells us all the time, goals like that are met by taking it week by week, not dwelling on the future, flushing the past, and taking care of business on Friday night."

Ayala repeats a similar sentiment and, personally, sees the importance of respecting each opponent and always trying to get better.

"The team's goal for the rest of the season is to take every game one by one and to stay within ourselves when things don't go as planned," said Ayala. "My goal for the rest of the season is to not overlook an opponent and to get myself ready for my senior year."

On the day after the game, Thornton announced that he had received his first college athletic scholarship offer, from Southern Oregon University in Ashland. Viking Coach Sam Johnson anticipates this will not be the last.

"It's the first of many (scholarship offers)," said Johnson. "Lots of buzz about him. Lots of college coaches are reaching out."

Lacouture also received his first "offer," his from

Pacific University in Forest Grove.

With next week's games being the final ones before the end-of-the-season OSA computer rankings and the 3A playoffs, this past week's games took on an added importance.

As mentioned earlier, #10 Junction City lost to #5 La Pine. The Falcons dispatched the Tigers with relative ease, 40-8. #2 South Umpqua had its first close game of the season, squeaking by #11 Cascade Christian 28-26 to remain unbeaten. #1 Rainier beat Onalaska, a school from Washington, 28-14.

On Friday, Oct. 29, the start of Halloween weekend, #2 Siuslaw faces an appropriately scary opponent in Junction City. Undeclared until last week, the Tigers will be hungry for a victory as a win would put them in a 3-way tie for first place in the Special District 2 North Division.

The game, at Junction City, is at 7 p.m. The matchup between two of the top teams in SD2N is the "KEZI Game of the Week" and will be televised in Florence on MeTV, antenna channel 9.2 or Spectrum cable channel 186.

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