

Sports

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Greenwave explodes in second half at Spring Creek to stay unbeaten

Fallon on the road at Dayton

By Robert Perea
Fallon

Trailing at halftime for the first time this season last Friday night in Spring Creek, Churchill County High School football coach saw no reason to overhaul the game plan.

Down 10-7 after running just three offensive series in the opening half of a low-possession game, the Greenwave erupted for a 40-point second half — 28 of them in the third quarter – to stay unbeaten with a 47-24 win over the Spartans.

“We didn’t hit the panic button by any means,” Connors said. “We brought the boys up and just told them hey, we only had three offensive possessions. We have to be able to capitalize in the second half whenever we get the ball.”

Instead, Connors told his team they just need to remember who they are and what they can do.

“Just very proud of how the kids handle adversity. It’s in our DNA and it’s in our blueprint of how to win games,” Connors said. “You have to be able to create

turnovers defensively and then capitalize offensively and then win that third phase of special teams. “

The early adversity came courtesy of Spring Creek’s opening drive, which used up half of the first quarter and ended with a touchdown run by Landon Boyle.

Then on Spring Creek’s second possession, a roughing the passer call against Fallon on a third-down play gave the Spartans a fresh set of downs, but the Greenwave defense held them to a field goal that made it 10-0 early in the second quarter.

Fallon struck back quickly with a 74-yard touchdown pass from Camden Richardson to Calin Anderson to get within 10-7, but Fallon’s third drive of the second half ended with an incomplete pass in the end zone on 4th-and-6 from the Spring Creek 12-yard line.

Then The Greenwave broke the game open with big plays on offense, defense and special teams in the third quarter.

Nathaniel Bianchi started the third quarter with a 60-yard touchdown run to put Fallon ahead 21-10.

Maxton Richardson’s 4-yard touchdown reception from Camden Richardson made it 28-10, then he followed that up with a 56-yard interception return for a touchdown.

See FALLON Page 2



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Fallon’s Calin Anderson stiff-arms Spring Creek’s Rigden Mittelstadt (2).

Title Town

Fallon to host NIAA 1A/2A, 3A, girls State Wrestling Championships in February

State basketball moved up a week, will be played in Las Vegas
By Tony Erquiaga
Fallon

For the second time in three years, Fallon and the Rafter 3C Arena will hold the NIAA State Wrestling Championships. The two-day event is set for Feb. 19-20.

Fallon was the host in 2025, with Winnemucca taking it on in 2026. Despite more grumbings and complaints from southern Nevada, the state championships will be back in northern Nevada. It will be a \$3,500 cost for the NIAA over the two days.

“I think it is great that we have the opportunity to host state wrestling again this year,” said Churchill County Athletic Director Brian Mello in an email to Range Media. “I believe Fallon and Winnemucca are both great sites — not only because of the facilities, but also because we have communities that truly care about and support high school athletics. We are excited about the opportunity and appreciate everyone who helps make State Wrestling such a great event for our student-athletes, coaches, and families.”

The 4A, which is southern Nevada based, and the 5A will hold its state championships Feb. 26-27 in Las Vegas. The girls, who are in its first year as a sanctioned sport, and the small schools will be in Fallon.

In a letter to the NIAA Board of Control, the Southern Nevada Wrestling Coaches Association did a survey of what they felt the to priorities were to fix the state tournament. That group showed the most displeasure of northern Nevada hosting for a third consecutive year.

They would like state tournament location and facility access. Over 56% of respondents ranked this as their No. 1 or No. 2 priority (21 combined votes). The SNWCA believes that the NIAA needs to go back to moving the state tournament every year from North to South. As well as look at appropriate venues.

As indicated by the previous head of CCSD athletics CCSD spends between \$100,000-\$120,000 for travel, lodging, and per diem each year the tournament is held in the North.

“It is not equitable for our school district to have to pay this amount multiple years in a row and is not equitable for families that want to support their student athletes to incur the costs of travel, lodging, and food,” the coaches said in a letter.

The coaches added the parents from the south have had to deal with inflated hotel prices, travel and possibly mak-



RANGE MEDIA
Fallon will once again be the host for the NIAA State Wrestling Championships, hosting the event of Feb. 19-20, at the Rafter 3C Arena.

ing accommodations for younger siblings. “This should be a rotating expense that is not consistently dumped on the southern schools. Not to mention 4A schools are completely left out of this experience. This is not fair to our athletes, parents or the school district.”

Interim Executive Director Sean Fitz-Simons countered that claim, noting it was one hotel that was price gouging in Winnemucca last year. He stated most who booked their rooms early got good rates.

Their recommendation was to re-implement the traditional North/South geographical rotation for the state tournament and prioritize venues capable of comfortably accommodating participating teams, spectators, and multi-mat configurations. The coaches would like to see adding 4A back to the state competition along with all other divisions.

When venues are offered for free, Churchill County and Lowry save the money the NIAA would have spent and hold it over to cover the more expensive cost of Southern Nevada Venues. They would like to seek long-term contracts in Southern Nevada every year, (rotating with basketball every other year) to help drive costs down.

What the coach’s association failed to realize and it was brought to the attention of the board that there is one postseason budget for all sports.

The fact that Fallon (the first time) and Winnemucca did for free doesn’t not change the budget for the NIAA.

1A/2A/3A NIAA State Basketball Championships moved

• The third weekend in February will be a busy one for the small schools, as the

1A/2A/3A state basketball tournament will now be played Feb. 18-20 in Las Vegas, the same weekend as state wrestling.

The move was started by small-school administrators stating the end of the winter season and the start of the spring season would have an ill effect on spring sports.

With state basketball set for Feb. 25-27, that is the same weekend the first contests of spring sports take place. A number of small schools that have multi-sport athletes would miss that first week of contests and there would be no preseason.

“For us, we have multiple two and three sport athletes and with stacking state basketball with our spring sports, it’s going to kill us,” said Lowry High School Principal Shaun Taylor. “What we haven’t discussed yet, is the number of coaches we (small schools) have that coach winter sports and spring sports. Some of those could be unavailable. Some of these schools will be jammed up with players and coaches not available to do both. Another element for us is the weather. We are fortunate to maybe get one preseason tournament in; this would exclude that. We need to do what is right for the kids and put administrative conferences aside for the best of the kids.”

The motion past unanimously to move the tournament up a week. A site in Las Vegas is nearly secured but has not been announced yet.

In other board meeting news

• Softball coaches will be able to electronically communicate with their pitcher and catcher. In the past, the coach was only able to communicate with the catcher. This was a rule addition by the National Federation of High School Associations.

Rationale: This change reflects the continued evolution of technology within the sport and provides coaches with an additional method to efficiently communicate defensive strategy and game management information.

• A second, first base will be implemented in baseball this year, helping player safety. Effective Jan. 1, 2027, the double first base or a larger first base with the dimensions of 18 inches square will be required. The double first base shall be a white base and a contrasting solid color.

The white portion of the base is located in fair territory, and the contrasting solid colored base shall be located in foul territory. The double first is split by the first base foul line.

The bases shall be installed with no space between the two portions of the double first base. Second and third bases shall be white bags, 15 inches square.

The larger first base will be white, 18 inches square and 2 to 5 inches in thickness, and made of canvas filled with a soft material, or molded rubber or synthetic material, and shall be securely attached to the ground or an anchor system.

Bases may have tapered edges and/or be designed to disengage from their anchor systems.

• The Nevada high school football state championship games in Southern Nevada — Open, 5A, 3A and 1A — will move from Tuesday, Nov. 24 to Friday, Nov. 20, which is the same week of the Formula 1 in Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas Raiders notified the NIAA that Allegiant Stadium was not available on Nov. 24.

“We were informed that Allegiant Stadium wasn’t going to be made available to us on the 24th,” NIAA assistant director Bartt Davis said during the meeting. “I asked (Myles) Hayes (of the Las Vegas Raiders) the rationale behind it, he doesn’t even know. He doesn’t run the building; he works for the Raiders. “What this board has told (the NIAA) several times: try to find the best facility that you can find. You can look forever and we are not going to find a better facility than Allegiant Stadium to host our state football championships.”

The state championship games have been held at Allegiant Stadium the past three years on the Tuesday following Formula 1 weekend because of high hotel rates for traveling schools.

Allegiant Stadium has hosted the football state title games every year since 2021 at no cost to the NIAA.

The 4A and 2A state title games are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21, at a to-be-determined Northern Nevada site.

Pyramid Lake falls 32–18 to Owyhee, continues development with young roster

By Robert Perea
Pyramid Lake

The Pyramid Lake football team lost 32–18 to Owyhee on Sept. 24 in a physical, high-intensity matchup that head coach Brian Borden said showed progress for a young Lakers roster. Borden credited Owyhee’s growth and depth. “It was a very hard-nosed, intense football game,” he said. “A lot of respect and credit towards Owyhee. They are really turning the corner with their program. I’ve been with PL for six years and never seen that many young men out for their program. There were close to 30 players

on the team.” He said Pyramid Lake’s freshmen continue to gain valuable experience. “Overall, PL played really well considering how young we are,” he said. “Our freshmen are getting some great reps and have a very bright future ahead of them.” Borden also highlighted senior Bradley Lara, who has played nearly every position during his career. “This year he stepped up to the QB position and rotates at tight end as well,” Borden said. “He is one of our best line blockers and a great leader for the younger players. He has an amazing future ahead of him just by his work ethic.”



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Fallon’s Maxton Richardson attempts to get out of the tackle of Spring Creek’s Rigden Mittelstadt.

Fallon —

Cont. from Page 1

Bianchi added another 14-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter and set up another Richardson to Richardson touchdown pass with a kickoff return to the Spring Creek 8. “We turned it on and our kids answered the call and were able to step up when they needed to,” Connors said. “Very pleased with all three phases.” Connors said he also liked the way his team handled the bye week before the Spring Creek game. “I thought that was probably the best handling of a bye week that we’ve had here in my three years,” he said. “The kids were able to go to work every day and get better at technique, whether it was offense, defense, or special teams.” This week the Greenwave goes back on the road to face Dayton at 7 p.m. Friday. “It doesn’t matter who the opponent is, we’ve got to stick to the standard, and our standard is preparing the correct way,” Connors said. “So we’ll break down this Spring Creek film with the boys and then tell the boys our game plan for Dayton, and it’s just another week.” Fallon is back on the road Friday to take on Dayton at 7 p.m.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Fallon’s Dion Gocong tries to break a tackle after catching a pass during last Friday’s game in Spring Creek.

The Greenwave host Fernley on Oct. 9 and Elko on Oct. 16, before wrapping up the regular season in Winnemucca on Oct. 23.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Fallon’s Alijah Juarez runs past Spring Creek’s McCoy McArtor (22) during last Friday’s game in Spring Creek.

No Deal

Cutler turns down NIAA executive director position

Sgroi chosen as second choice, but hasn’t confirmed whether she will accept the role

By Robert Perea
Northern Nevada



Todd Cutler

A day after being chosen as the next executive director of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association, Todd Cutler announced that he and the NIAA were unable to agree on contract terms and he would not be taking the position. After interviewing the three finalists for the position during its Sept. 23 meeting at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas, the NIAA Board voted 7-5 to name Cutler as the next executive director. But on Sept. 24, Cutler said he would not be accepting the position. “The NIAA and I were unable to come to agreement and I will not be accepting the role,” Cutler said in an email statement to Range Media. Before the vote, Chairman Alex Woodley requested the Board vote on a second choice in case its first choice didn’t take the position. Woodley said he was involved in the hiring process of a Reno Police Chief in 2022 and said the candidate chosen for that position did not accept the position, but the committee had voted on a second choice. “I would recommend that we at least identify number one and number two in case we do have a situation with our first choice that we don’t have to start all over again,” Woodley said. The NIAA Board voted 12-0 to approve NIAA Assistant Director Cate Sgroi as the second choice.

As of Tuesday, the NIAA had not responded to an inquiry on whether it and Sgroi had reached an agreement. Before voting 7-5 in favor of Cutler, a motion to choose Sgroi as the executive director had failed in a 6-6 tie. Cutler is the Superintendent of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District. He has been a teacher and coach in Douglas and Clark Counties, a principal and assistant principal in Virginia City and Fernley, and has served as superintendent in four school districts. He was also mayor of Fernley from 2006-09. Sgroi has been an NIAA assistant director since July 2024. She worked in the Clark County School District from 2013-2024 as a biology teacher, coach, athletic director, student success instructional facilitator, and assistant principal at Sierra Vista High School, then in 2022 became Secondary Student Athletics Office Director for CCSD.



Leanne Cruz, Cruz Down Memory Lane Photography
Fernley football players celebrate an interception by Isaid Solis during the first half of last Friday’s game against Truckee.

Battered Vaqueros find their fight in narrow loss to Truckee

By Robert Perea
Fernley

Coaches rarely celebrate a loss, but Fernley High School football coach Anfernee Sloan saw something more valuable than a score last Friday night. He saw a team find its identity. Despite a roster trimmed from 42 players to 27 because of injuries and attrition, the Vaqueros took perennial state powerhouse Truckee down to the wire in a 14-7 defensive battle that he called a “moral victory: heading into the team’s bye week and an Oct. 9 showdown with rival Fallon, the defending 3A state champion. “I’m not happy about the loss, I’m happy about how we lost,” Sloan said. “I’m happy about the direction that we just took. I’ve been waiting to see the grit, the fight like last year’s team. It’s there.” After disappointing outings in their last two games, a 19-16 loss to South Tahoe and a 42-7 loss at Spring Creek, Sloan was looking to see a more competitive mindset against Truckee. The Vaqueros delivered that in spades, after Sloan told them all week it was up to them to believe, and to want it. “They rose up to the occasion,” he said. “All I asked them was to play a complete game, to understand the process. Am I happy? No. Am I pleased with the way we took a step as a program? Yes. That’s a big win for me.” The Vaqueros’ defense limited Truckee to 213 yards of offense, including consec-

utive 3-and-outs to start the second half, after the game was tied 7-7 at the half. Even when the Wolverines drove 55 yards on their third possession of the of the second half to take the lead 14-7, nothing came easy. The biggest gain of the 12-play drive was a 10-yard pass from Thomas Smart to Bodi McThorn, two plays before Smart connected with Bennett Jitloff for the 8-yard go-ahead touchdown. The Vaqueros scored first on a 4-yard touchdown run by Jayden Esparza after Isaid Solis intercepted a pass at the Truckee 39-yard line late in the first quarter. Truckee answered right back on a 17-play drive with three 3rd-down conversions and two on 4th down, including the 1-yard touchdown run on 4th and goal by Lukas Andrew to tie the game at 7. “We’re going to have a lot of highs, and we’re going to have a lot of lows, because we’ve been too inconsistent,” Sloan said. “We made a point of emphasis of that, and I think they get it.” At 2-5 overall and 1-4 in the Northern 3A, the Vaqueros have already spent much of the past two weeks doing the kind of soul-searching a team with its record might normally do during its bye week. Sloan said the Vaqueros are a little beat up and will use the bye week to try to get healthier and will spend a lot of the week on the mental aspects of the game. “We’re not going to go full pads at all this week, and it allows us kind of a mental reset, not just the kids but the coaches,” he said.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports
Battle Mountain's Neveah Serna looks on after hitting a drive.

Jorgensen earns runner-up finish on home course; Serna is sixth

Longhorns places second as a team; Battle Mountain to host 2A East regional on Oct. 6.

By Tony Erquiaga
Battle Mountain

With the Northern 2A East Regional Championship arriving soon, the Battle Mountain High School girls golf team provided a strong performance on Mountain View Golf Course.

That will be important, with the regional meet coming to the same Battle Mountain course on Oct. 6.

White Pine and Battle Mountain were 1-2 in the team standings, with Jaylee Jorgensen, finishing second in the individual standings with a round of 106. Freshman Neveah Serna had her best outing of the fall, placing sixth after carding a 116.

Jayci Villanueva shot a 118, followed by Neveah Shelton (116) and Brooklyn DiSimone (137).

The first tee times for the regional championships on Tuesday, Oct. 6, is set for 10 a.m.

State Qualifying

For teams and individuals, a qualifying standard will be utilized. The standard must be met in the region tournament in order to advance to the state tournament.

Team Qualifying

The region champion is guaranteed a spot in the state tournament. Additional teams (up to the maximum of three) may advance to state only if they shoot a qualifying score. 2A team qualifying standard: team score average of 200-over-par per round.

Teams within the maximum allotment per region and that meet the qualifying standard may bring four golfers, regardless of whether or not each golfer meets the individual qualifying standard.

A fifth and/or sixth golfer must meet the



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports
Battle Mountain's Jaylee Jorgenson putts on the first hole at Mountain View Golf Course.

individual qualifying standard of 50-over-par per round in order to join the team at state.

Exception: If a team's fifth golfer does not meet the individual qualifying standard, the team may bring a fifth golfer to serve ONLY as an alternate in the event one of the four team members can't play due to injury or illness.

Individual Qualifying

Note: This section also applies to a qualifying team's fifth or sixth golfer.

The individual with the best (lowest) score not already on a qualifying team is guaranteed a spot in the state tournament. Additional golfers up to a maximum of six may advance to state only if they shoot a qualifying score. 2A individual qualifying standard: score average of 50-over-par per round.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports
Above left: Battle Mountain's Neveah Shelton hits a shot from the fairway. Above right: Battle Mountain's Brooklyn DiSimone putts on the ninth hole.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
Battle Mountain's Jayci Villanueva hits her drive on the par-3, second hole.

Fernley girls golf tunes up for regional meet

By Robert Perea
Fernley

With the regional meet coming up Oct. 5-6 in Lake Tahoe and Truckee, the Fernley girls golf team used last week's tournaments in Fallon and Fernley to sharpen individual rounds and position two golfers for potential state qualification.

At Fallon on Sept. 21, Brylee Harry led Fernley with a 103, and Hailey Hall finished at 130.

Izzy Martinez shot 128 and Scarlet Garvin 134, giving Fernley a 495 for fifth place. Elko edged Truckee for the team win, 392-398, and Elko's Caitlyn Nielson was the low medalist with an 88.

On Sept. 22 at Fernley, Hall shot 94 to lead the Vaqueros. Harry finished at 107, Martinez at 115, Garvin at 117 and Ainsley Blackorby at 121.

Fernley totaled 433 for sixth place. Truckee won with a 373, seven strokes ahead of Elko, and Allison Mortimeyer was the low medalist with a 69.

Coach Brian O'Neill said the team continues to trend upward.

"I'm proud of the ladies getting better each tournament," he said. "I'm excited



to see Brylee and Hailey both do well last week. They've positioned themselves to make a run at qualifying as individuals for the state tournament. I hope the team has a good week of practice before our last two events at South Lake Tahoe and Truckee."

The individual with the lowest score not already on a qualifying team is guaranteed a spot in the state tournament. Additional golfers up to a maximum of six may advance to state only if they shoot a qualifying score of an average of 35-over-par per round.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Lowry's Iris Ramirez looks on after hitting a shot during an earlier tournament in Elko

Lowry finishes third at Fernley Lake Dunes

Hislop places third in individual standings

By Tony Erquiaga
Winnemucca

The Lowry High School girls golf team finished off a stretch of six tournaments in three weeks, with a third-place finish at Fernley Lake Dunes on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

The top three team finishers remained the same as they have for much of the fall. Truckee shot a 373 to win the team title, with Elko eight strokes behind in second and Lowry placed third with a four-score total of 398.

South Tahoe (419), Fernley (433), Debbie Smith CTE Academy (496) and Sparks (511) rounded out the scores.

Truckee's Allison Mortimeyer was the low medalist with a 3-under par round of 69. Elko's Caitlyn Nielson (82) was second and Lowry's Makinley Hislop (92) third.

Bailey Miller, carded her best round of the year, shooting 100, followed by Maite Bengochea (101) and Hadlee Corbitt (105). In addition, Iris Ramirez shot 106 and Savannah Ortiz (107).

The Northern 3A returns to the course on Monday, Oct. 5, at Lake Tahoe Golf Course and the Northern 3A Regional Championship is set for Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Tahoe Donner Golf Course in Truckee.

The NIAA 3A State Championships is scheduled for Oct. 13-14, in Elko.

State Qualifying

For teams and individuals, a qualifying standard will be utilized. The standard must be met in the league/region tournament in order to advance to the state tournament.

Team Qualifying

The league/region champion is guaranteed a spot in the state tournament. Additional teams (up to the maximum of three) may advance to state only if they shoot a qualifying score. 3A team qualifying standard: team score average of 140-over-par per round.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Lowry's Savannah Ortiz chips on the green at Ruby View Golf Course in Elko.

Teams within the maximum allotment per league/region and that meet the qualifying standard may bring four golfers, regardless of whether or not each golfer meets the individual qualifying standard.

A fifth and/or sixth golfer must meet the individual qualifying standard of 35-over-par per round in order to join the team at state.

Exception: If a team's fifth golfer does not meet the individual qualifying standard, the team may bring a fifth golfer to serve ONLY as an alternate in the event one of the four team members cannot play due to injury or illness.

Individual Qualifying

This section also applies to a qualifying team's fifth or sixth golfer.

The individual with the best (lowest) score not already on a qualifying team is guaranteed a spot in the state tournament. Additional golfers up to a maximum of six may advance to state only if they shoot a qualifying score.

3A individual qualifying standard: score average of 35-over-par per round.

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Mustangs split road matches; return home for homecoming week

By Peggy Jones
Lovelock

The Pershing County High School volleyball team split a pair of road matches last week, falling to Battle Mountain in five sets before rebounding with a four-set victory over West Wendover.

The Mustangs opened the week at Battle Mountain, where they lost a back-and-forth match 25-22, 20-25, 25-17, 17-25, 9-15.

PCHS coach Monica Halverson said the Mustangs started strong but struggled



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports
Pershing County's Jerzie Jones serves.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports
Pershing County's Ali Montes tips the ball over the net during the Mustangs' road match at Battle Mountain.

at times with errors, energy and communication.

"My girls started off strong and ended up wavering in the third set," Halverson said. "Forced errors, not a lot of energy and lack of communication contributed to losing to the Longhorns."

Khloe Montes led the Mustangs offensively with 11 kills while adding an ace and 14 digs.

"Khloe had a great night with 11 kills," Halverson said. "She is proving to be the deliverer of excitement when she connects with that ball and drives that hit down fast."

Arya Garland recorded an ace, four assists and 18 digs. Katelynn Elerick had three aces, one kill, eight assists and two



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports
Pershing County's Arya Garland slides to the floor for a dig in the match against Battle Mountain.

digs, while Jerzie Jones added an ace, two kills and four digs. Avani Rosa had an ace and four assists; Cami Watson recorded one kill and Whitlee Diaz finished with an ace and a kill.

The Mustangs then traveled east Saturday to face West Wendover during the Wolverines' Homecoming week and came away with a 3-1 victory (25-13, 25-13, 21-25, 25-21).

Despite the win, Halverson said the Mustangs did not play their best volleyball.

"We struggle with having a high-energy game when we travel east," she said. "Lots of forced errors and no energy. It is something that we are working on, but it is a real obstacle for our team."

Halverson said she was nevertheless proud of the way the team pushed through those difficulties and brought home the win.

Montes again had a strong all-around performance, finishing with six aces,

seven kills and 13 digs. Garland recorded 17 digs, while Rosas had an ace, one kill, 12 assists and five digs.

Elerick contributed three kills, 12 assists and four digs. Jerzie Jones had one kill and eight digs, Magdalena Ramirez finished with two kills and seven digs, Watson recorded seven kills and two solo blocks, and Bella Zelaya added a dig.

Following the West Wendover win, the Mustangs were 4-4 in league play as they headed into the second half of the season.

The Mustangs returned home for Homecoming week, facing Oasis Sept. 30, results were not available at press time. They will host North Tahoe Oct. 3 for their Dig Pink game.

Halverson said the team was looking forward to being back on its home court and feeding off the energy of its fans and families.

"It's going to be a fast-paced week, but I know that my girls are determined to continue pushing and get better, individually and collectively as a team," she said.

Pershing County girls soccer battles top 2A league teams on the road

By Peggy Jones
Lovelock

The Pershing County girls soccer team faced a difficult pair of road games last week, taking on Dayton and Yerington, the No. 2 and No. 1 teams in the league, respectively.

The Mustangs fell 7-0 to Dayton. Coach Kelly Brooks said the team did not play poorly overall, but allowed several goals that she felt could have been prevented.

Pershing County then traveled to Yerington, where the Mustangs struggled through the first half and went into half-time trailing 4-0.

Brooks said the team responded much differently after the break.

The Mustangs made adjustments in the second half, and Mary McBride scored off a goal kick by Nayeli Acosta. Brooks said the offense also began working together to take some of the pressure off a defense that had been under attack much of the weekend.

Desaray Vidrio, Josie Brooks, Fatima Arteaga, Elanie DeLosReyes and Mili Gonzalez handled much of the work along



the back line and received little rest as both opponents spent considerable time near the Pershing County goal.

Camila Garcia, Acosta and McBride were able to connect passes and move the ball up the field several times, giving the defense some needed breathing room.

The Mustangs return home Thursday, Oct. 1, to host Fernley at 6 p.m. They will remain at home Tuesday, Oct. 6, when they face Quincy at 4 p.m.

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Pyramid Lake competes at Truckee Invitational, heads to Leo Mikelonis meet

By Robert Perea
Pyramid Lake

Pyramid Lake cross country ran at the Truckee Invitational on Saturday, with one varsity girl and four varsity boys competing ahead of this weekend’s Leo Mikelonis Memorial Invitational in Sparks.

In the varsity girls race, Koge Redstone finished 98th in 24:35.

In the varsity boys race, Jayar Chavez led Pyramid Lake in 55th with a time of 18:27. Zeke Davis placed 115th (20:25), William Darrough 145th (21:35) and John Kelly 172nd (22:35).

Pyramid Lake returns to competition Saturday at the Leo Mikelonis Memorial Invitational at Golden Eagle Park in Sparks, with the first race scheduled for 9 a.m.

Battle Mountain cross country team races in Truckee

By Tony Erquiaga
Battle Mountain

The Battle Mountain High School cross country team traveled to Truckee this past Saturday for one of its biggest meets of the year at Ponderosa Golf Course.

The Longhorns’ Libby Preece and Megan Aguilar competed in the girls 5,000-meter varsity race.

Preece, a sophomore, stopped the clock at 26 minutes, 18 seconds and Aguilar, a junior finished in a time of 34:10.

There were 142 runners in the race, paced by Spanish Springs senior Taizley Felsted at 18:53 and Truckee freshman Avery Aldrich was the runner-up in a time

of 18:59.

Sixteen teams posted scores, with 5A powers Reno (71) and Galena (81) first and second, respectfully. Truckee (105), Pleasant Grover (123) and Carson rounded out the top five.

In the boys race, sophomore Kaleb Hart finished in a time of 22:43. There were 210 runners in the race. Reno’s Zachary Folen topped the field with a time of 15:58, followed by Galena’s Ayden Mosby (16:03) and Caleb Pasillas (16:15).

Galena won the team title with 43 points and Reno (69) was second.

Battle Mountain travels to Reno on Saturday for the Leo Mikelonis Invitational

Fallon cross country competes at Truckee Invitational

By Robert Perea
Range Media

The Churchill County High School cross country teams ran last Saturday at the Truckee Invitational, with JV boys, varsity girls and varsity boys all competing in large fields.

Fallon’s varsity girls placed 12th with 311 points. Issabelle WalterChicasGaribay led the team in 29th with a time of 21:31.

Cassandra Hooper finished 56th (22:47), Aubrey Strickland 68th (23:06), Ella Bassham 124th (28:21), Kylee Moore 125th (28:46), Melody GarciaBishop 131st (30:06), Abigail Lacow 134th (30:57) and Zoe Rasmussen 138th (32:46).

In the varsity boys race, Fallon placed

14th with 428 points.

Jackson Barbee finished 92nd in 19:29, Landon Liston 96th (19:35), Cody Frey 106th (19:49), Lars Rasmussen 113th (20:17), Tayven Martinez 116th (20:26), Michael Lister 137th (21:04), Levi Bradford 142nd (21:24) and Isaac Frederick 144th (21:29).

In the JV boys race, Fallon placed 14th with 408 points. Alexander McBride finished 70th in 21:49, Ryan Centimano 90th (22:28), Alex Bacallo 151st (25:56), Thomas Alvarado 167th (30:06) and Nikko Martinez 174th (37:10).

This Saturday the Greenwave is scheduled to run in the Leo Mikelonis Memorial Invitational hosted by Spanish Springs starting at 9 a.m. at Golden Eagle Park.

Six Oasis runners post personal bests at Truckee Invitational

By Robert Perea
Fallon

Six Oasis Academy cross country runners posted personal best times at the Truckee Invitational last Saturday while the middle school team placed four runners in the top six at Yerington.

Coach Krista Smith said the Truckee Invitational is one of the toughest meets of the season, with more than 700 runners.

“Each week, I see our athletes persevere through adversity and emerge stronger. I’m excited to see what the remainder of the season holds as we work toward the Regional championships at the end of October,” Smith said.



Courtesy • Oasis Academy
Sonora McInturff of Oasis Academy runs during the Truckee Invitational last Saturday.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Lowry’s Natalia Cassinelli makes her way around the 5,000-meter course at the Run the Rubies Invitational.

Lowry cross country takes on best of northern Nevada, California

Thomas finishes 12th in girls varsity race

By Tony Erquiaga
Winnemucca

As the season is quickly heading to a conclusion, the Lowry High School cross country team is ramping up its training for the upcoming postseason.

The Buckaroos took part in the Truckee Invitational this past Saturday at Ponderosa Golf Course, in a meet that featured some of the top runners in northern Nevada and California.

The host Wolverines showed they will be a contender for the 3A state championship.

The Lowry and Truckee girls battled for the top spot in the 3A season ago and its looking like the same thing this year. The Buckaroos added a pair of freshmen but so did the reigning champions. The Wolverines got the best of the Buckaroos on their home course.

Alyla Thomas led the Lowry girls with a 12th-place finish in a time of 20 minutes, 29 seconds. The freshmen duo of Ajerra Thomas (22:21) and Makylah Thomas (22:26), were 48th and 50th, respectfully.

Juniors Taylor Soderstrom (23:35) and Azure Sagers (23:36), crossed the line neck-to-neck in 81st and 82nd. Natalia Cassinelli finished in a time of 25:13.

Taizley Felsted at 18:53 and Truckee freshman Avery Aldrich was the runner-up in a time of 18:59.

Sixteen teams posted scores, with 5A powers Reno (71) and Galena (81) first and second, respectfully. Truckee (105), Pleasant Grover (123) and Carson rounded out the top five. Lowry finished ninth with 227 points.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Above: Lowry’s Azure Sagers paces herself at the Run the Rubies Invitational in Elko. Makaylah Thomas runs during the Run the Rubies Invitational in Elko.

Lowry boys finish second as team in JV race



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press
Above left: Lowry’s Patrick Moses paces himself at the Run the Rubies Invitational in Elko. Right: Makaylah Thomas runs during the Run the Rubies Invitational in Elko.

Brooks named NIAA Wrestling Coach of the Year

By Peggy Jones
Lovelock

Pershing County High School wrestling coach Mike Brooks has been named the 2025-26 Nevada Wrestling Coach of the Year by the NIAA.

Brooks, who also serves as PCHS athletic director and head football coach, led the Mustangs to the 2026 Nevada 2A state championship after an undefeated 11-0 dual season.

Pershing County also won the Northern 2A Regional Championship and had three individual boys state champions and 11 state placers.

In 10 seasons as head wrestling coach, Brooks has led the Mustangs to two state championships, two regional championships and four state runner-up finishes.

Brooks has said that while winning is important, he sees athletics as a way to prepare young people for life beyond competition. “Character development through sports is the ultimate goal, but championships are nice along the way,” Brooks previously told Nevada Sports Local.

His influence reaches far beyond the high school wrestling room. Coach Brooks serves as PCHS Athletic Director, Northern 2A League President, PCHS head football coach, middle school wrestling coach, youth wrestling coach, summer strength and conditioning coordinator, and volunteer track coach.

He hosts wrestling and football camps, organizes flag football events, supports Little League, and creates opportunities for hundreds of local students and athletes. He also represents Nevada through the NIAAA, the National Wrestling Coaches Association, the Northern 2A Wrestling Rules Committee, and the Tah-Neva Wrestling League.

Coach Brooks believes athletics are about much more than wins and losses. His athletes are taught to work hard, remain accountable, face adversity, accept challenges, and understand that the process is greater than the outcome. He meets athletes where they are, walks beside them through their individual journeys, and reminds them that they represent their teammates, families, school, and community.



PEGGY JONES • Great Basin Sports
Pershing County High School football coach Mike Brooks reads with his daughter, Allie, during Family Literacy Night at Lovelock Elementary School. The activity used a light to reveal hidden pictures in the book, although Allie seemed just as interested in the glowing light itself.

Battle Mountain soccer roundup —

By Tony Erquiaga
Battle Mountain

After 10 days off, the Battle Mountain High School girls soccer team returned to action this past weekend, with two road matches in Lyon County.

Battle Mountain faced Yerington on Friday and lost 9-0 and were shut out 8-0 on Saturday afternoon by Dayton.

The Longhorns travel to Whittell on Friday for a 3 p.m. match with the Warriors.

Battle Mountain is 1-5-2 in the Northern 2A, the top four teams qualify for the state championships.

Yerington leads the league at 8-0-0, followed by Dayton 6-1-1, White Pine (5-1-1) and Whittell (2-4-1).



BMHS boys drop a pair of matches

The Battle Mountain boys were knocked off by Yerington as well but the Longhorns are still in a postseason berth. Battle Mountain is 1-4-0 in the Northern 2A and the top four teams qualify for state. Yerington (4-0-0), Dayton (4-1-0) and White Pine (3-1-0) are the top three teams.

Battle Mountain travels to Sage Ridge on Saturday for a noon start.

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PEGGY JONES • Great Basin Sports
The Mustang spirit squad stunts during the JV game on Friday night in Lovelock. Left to right: top Kynndel Ruiz, bottom Wilma Knisley, top Annie Uhart, bottom Kylie Rackley, back Isabelle and Anderson Adriannah Reitz.

Pershing County remains perfect on the season, routs North Tahoe in shutout performance

Incline visits Lovelock for homecoming showdown

By Peggy Jones
Lovelock

The Pershing County High School football team remained undefeated with a dominant and business like 51-0 win over North Tahoe in Tahoe City, Calif., on Saturday afternoon.

The Mustangs took control early, scoring 36 points in the first quarter and adding eight in the second to take a 44-0 lead into halftime.

After a scoreless third quarter, Pershing County added seven more points in the fourth.

Quinton McKinney scored three touchdowns, two on the ground and another

on a punt return. Eddie Aceves added two rushing touchdowns, while Thomas Brooks and Jorden Fitch also scored for the Mustangs.

PCHS coach Mike Brooks also praised the defensive performances of Israel Knight, Brayden Padgett, Elijah Dickerman and Anthony Gibson as Pershing County held North Tahoe scoreless.

“We were pleased with the effort and are ready for Homecoming!” Brooks said.

The win improved Pershing County to 5-0 overall and 2-0 in league play, putting the Mustangs in first place in the 2A Northern standings.

Pershing County returns home Friday, Oct. 2, to host the Incline Highlanders for Homecoming. Incline enters the game with a 3-2 record and is coming off a 28-7 loss to Coral Academy.



PEGGY JONES • Great Basin Sports
Zac Charles closes in on a Coral Academy ball carrier during the Mustangs' 48-19 victory.

Mustangs JV rolls past Coral Academy, 48-19

By Peggy Jones
Lovelock

The Pershing County High School junior varsity football team turned in a strong performance against Coral Academy, picking up a 48-19 victory behind a productive offense and a defense that PCHS coach Buzz Brooks said allowed just one score on the night.

Isaiah Rivas led the Mustangs with three touchdowns. Rivas scored on two long receptions and added another touchdown on the ground.

Brayden Baca scored twice for Pershing County, catching one touchdown pass and rushing for another. Elias Kingsbury and Riley Essling each added a rushing touchdown.

Brooks was particularly pleased with the defensive effort, saying the Mustang defense allowed only one score.

While several players found the end zone, Brooks emphasized that the victory was a team effort.

“There were many players that contributed to our team’s victory,” Brooks said. “We are growing and learning as players, improving every week. Our effort from



PEGGY JONES • Great Basin Sports
Isaiah Rivas carries the ball through the Coral Academy defense during the Mustangs' 48-19 victory.

every person on the team is exceptional.”

The win improved the Mustangs’ season record to 4-1 and gave them another opportunity to build experience as they continue through the season.



PEGGY JONES • Great Basin Sports
Coach Buzz Brooks speaks with OL/DL Damian Tognio.

Lowry falls to Fallon in three sets

Lowry back on home floor on Oct. 2-3
By Tony Erquiaga
Winnemucca

You have to feel for the Lowry High School volleyball team. The Buckaroos have played 20 matches this year and have been on their home floor just twice.

After a home match with South Tahoe just before Labor Day weekend, Lowry went back on the road for three straight weeks and six matches. The brutal stretch ended on Wednesday, Sept. 23, as Lowry traveled to Fallon for a Northern 3A East

matchup.

The Greenwave swept the Buckaroos 25-13, 25-16, 25-23. Lowry dropped to 0-3 in league play and 6-14 overall.

Emma Deputy knocked down five kills, with Tessa Jenkins adding four and Raegan Terry and Hazen Root three each. Peyton Anguiano added two kills.

Emelia Mentaberry, Jekins and Root each had six digs, Yareli Ojendiz, three and Finn Christean and Deputy two each. Root and Jenkins each finished with eight assists.

Lowry hosts Spring Creek on Friday, Oct. 2m, at 6 p.m., and Elko on Saturday, Oct. 3, at noon.

Silver Stage volleyball falls to Sierra Lutheran, prepares for two home matches

By Robert Perea
Silver Springs

The Silver Stage High School volleyball team lost in three sets to Sierra Lutheran on Sept. 25, falling 25-11, 25-13, 25-16 in Northern 2A play.

The Nighthawks are 314 overall and 27 in league heading into two home matches this week. Silver Stage hosts Battle Mountain on Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. and West Wendover on Oct. 3 at noon.

The Silver Stage football team is scheduled to play the Lovelock JV team at 4:30 p.m. Friday in Lovelock.

Owyhee takes down McDermitt in three sets in 1A East play

By Tony Erquiaga
McDermitt

The McDermitt High School volleyball team was back on its home floor this past Friday afternoon, hosting the league-leading Owyhee Braves in a 1A East contest.

Owyhee maintained its lead in the league, beating McDermitt in three sets. The Bulldogs had closed the gap to 13-10 midway through the opening set but used a 13-3 run to close out the first set, 25-13.

The momentum quickly shifter, as McDermitt scored 11 of the first 13 points of the second set.

The Bulldogs maintained a 17-9, 20-10

and 23-13 advantage but it was all Owyhee after that.

The Braves completed a huge come-back, scoring the final 12 points ending the set with a kill and a 25-23 win.

Owyhee won the final six points of the third to win 25-16 and complete the sweep.

McDermitt dropped 2-4 in the 1A East and is in fifth place in the league. The Bulldogs are 4-11 overall.

McDermitt travels to Wells on Thursday for a 5 p.m. start and host Pyramid Lake on Saturday at noon. The Lakers are 7-5 overall and in second place in the 1A West.

Fernley volleyball earns split on Elko County road trip

By Robert Perea
Range Media

After winning a nonleague match against Smith Valley on Sept. 22, the Fernley High School volleyball team split two matches on its eastern road trip to Elko and Spring Creek.

The Vaqueros began their week by beating Smith Valley 25-23, 25-13, 20-25, 25-22.

Trista Menesini tallied 21 kills, Grace Chapin added nine kills and three blocks and Emma Masters had six kills and 15 digs.

Alauna Escartin set up the attack with 37 assists and Jocelyn Escartin received 35 serves and made 20 digs.

The Vaqueros started their weekend trip with a 25-19, 20-25, 25-22, 25-22 win at Elko.

Menesini had 21 kills, 10 digs and three blocks, Masters added 12 kills and Chapin contributed seven kills and three blocks. Jocelyn Escartin had 22 digs and Alauna Escartin matched Tuesday’s effort with

37 digs.

Spring Creek spoiled the Vaqueros hopes of a road sweep on Saturday, beating Fernley 26-24, 17-25, 25-23, 18-25, 15-9.

Menesini had 19 kills, Chapin added nine and Masters had seven, with Alauna Escartin tallying 41 assists.

Coach Diane Chapin said the Vaqueros played two very tough matches against good teams.

“We played well both offensively and defensively against Elk. The one set we lost was due to our errors,” she said. “Saturday at Spring Creek, even though we lost the match the girls played great on defense. I felt we could have been more aggressive on offense.”

The split left the Vaqueros with an 18-7 overall record and in a tie with Elko for second place at 2-1 in the Northern 3A East, behind Fallon, which is 2-0.

Fernley was scheduled to host Fallon on Tuesday evening, then play at Dayton at 5 p.m. Friday.

Oasis volleyball to host North Tahoe, Coral Academy this weekend

By Robert Perea
Fallon

The Oasis Academy volleyball team mounted a resilient effort in its match in Yerington last Friday but ultimately fell to Yerington in straight sets, 25-20, 2508, 25-22.

Despite a tough second set, the Bighorns refused to go down quietly pushing Yerington down to the wire in a hard-fought third set.

Pyramid Lake volleyball improves to 5–1 in 1A West

By Robert Perea
Pyramid Lake

Pyramid Lake won twice last week, beating Coleville in five sets on Sept. 21 and sweeping Excel Christian on Sept. 22 to move to 5–1 in the 1A West and 15–7 overall.

Against Coleville, the Lakers won 2520, 2513, 1525, 1925, 1511. Pyramid Lake followed with a straightset win over Excel Christian, 2514, 258, 2510.

Pyramid Lake was scheduled to host Mineral County on Sept. 29. The Lakers face Whittell on Thursday at 5 p.m., play at McDermitt at noon Saturday, and host Smith Valley next Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Fernley Women’s Golf Club Results, Sept. 22

Game: Odds or Evens

Red Tees

1st: Kathy Kennedy, 36
2nd: Bonnie MacQuarrie, 36
3rd: Nancy Newton, 37

Purple Tees

1st: Verl-Lee Ely, 36
2nd: Karen Holcher, 36

Fewest Putts: Verl-Lee Ely, 28
Birdie: Kathy Kennedy, #16
Closest to Pin #7: Jolene Coverston, 15’1”
Closest to Pin #11: Cheri Grutkowski, 6’7”
Chip Ins: Juncil Key, Holes #13 and #15; Sandi Sewchok, #10; Verl-Lee Ely; #2 & #12; Loretta Bradley; #18

Fallon girls golf wraps up final tuneups ahead of regional championship Oct. 5–6

By Robert Perea
Fallon

With the regional meet set for Oct. 5–6, Fallon girls golf closed its regularseason schedule with two individual rounds at Fallon on Sept. 21 and at Fernley on Sept. 22.

At Fallon, Riley Guerrero shot a 100, and Lexie MalamaGomes finished at 144.

The next day at Fernley, Guerrero shot a 103, and MalamaGomes finished at 114.

Fallon did not have enough golfers for a team score in either event.

The Northern 3 Regional Meet will be held Monday at Lake Tahoe Golf Course and Tuesday at Tahoe Donner Golf Course.

The individual with the lowest score not already on a qualifying team is guaranteed a spot in the state tournament.

Additional golfers up to a maximum of six may advance to state only if they shoot a qualifying score of an average of 35-over-par per round.

Lowry boys soccer team secures two important road wins over Fallon, Buckaroos host West Wendover, Elko

By Tony Erquiaga
Winnemucca

After dropping its Northern 3A East opener to Spring Creek at home, the Lowry High School boys soccer team was looking to get back on track with important road matches this past weekend.

The Buckaroos stayed in the postseason hunt, with a 2-1 win over Fallon on Friday and a 4-0 blanking of Fernley on Saturday to improve to 2-1 in league play.

Caedon Entwistle and David Becerra,

the winning goals for the Buckaroos. Josue Barajas added an assist.

On Saturday afternoon, Lowry scored two goals apiece in each half pm its way to the easy win. Four different players scored for the Buckaroos, with Cris Arriola, Giovanni Diaz, Kale Webber and Barajas finding the back of the net. Becerra had two assists.

Elko and Spring Creek share the lead the Northern 3A East at 3-0-0, followed by Lowry at 2-1-0 and West Wendover 1-2-0.

The Buckaroos host West Wendover on Friday at 3:45 p.m. and Elko on Saturday at 11:45 a.m.

Fallon girls soccer splits weekend road trip

By Robert Perea
Fallon

Elko scored four times in the second half last Friday to hold off the Churchill County High School girls soccer team in the first game of its road trip last week, but the Greenwave bounced back Saturday to beat Spring Creek 4-2.

Goal by Karlie Simper in the 13th minute and Zayrah Miranda in the 24th had the Greenwave leading 2-1 at the half, but Elko scored in the 43rd, 48th and 65th minutes to move ahead 4-2.

Simper’s second goal in the 66th minute pulled Fallon within 4-3, but Elko scored an insurance goal in the 76th minute and held on for the win.

The Greenwave had eight shots on goal to Lowry’s 17. Goalkeeper Shaylee Orduna made 12 saves and both Evie Johnson and Miranda had one assist.

Saturday at Spring Creek the Greenwave built a 4-0 lead then held odd a late Spartan rally.

Miranda, Kortnie Simper, Johnson and

Kaena Willaims each had a goal for Fallon. The Spartans got on the board in the 71st minute and scored again in the final minute.

Fallon had 28 total shots, 14 on goal, while Spring Creek managed 29 shots and 18 on goal, but Orduna made 16 saves.

Assistant coach Neill Tunstead said it was an enjoyable week in terms of the level of challenge Elko and Spring Creek presented.

He also said the games were closer than the scores reflect and looks forward to hosting them both in Fallon.

“The ladies traveled well and played even better,” he said. “Great ambassadors of their school both on and off the field.”

The Greenwave is scheduled to host Fernley at 11:45 a.m. and go to Lowry next Thursday for a game at 5:45 p.m.

Boys soccer: Fallon lost 2–1 to Lowry last Friday and 3–0 to Spring Creek last Saturday. The Greenwave play Thursday at North Tahoe at 3:45 p.m. and Saturday at Fernley at 11:45 a.m.

Greenwave volleyball goes 2-2 at Gridley tournament after league win over Lowry

Fallon hosts Elko, Spring Creek in crucial league matches
By Robert Perea
Fallon

After beating Lowry last Wednesday for their second league win of the season, the Churchill County High School volleyball team went 2-2 Saturday in the Gridley Invitational Volleyball Tournament in Gridley, CA.

The Greenwave defeated Lowry 25-13, 25-16, 25-23 on Sept. 23 behind 17 kills by Raegan Johnson and a balanced defensive effort. Layla Walker had 10 dis from the back row, while Kalaya Downs added nine, Hayden Dooley had seven and seven other players had at least two. Downs also had 21 assists.

18 assists and walker led the defense with 12 digs.

In the second match, Fallon beat North Tahoe 25-20, 23-25, 15-9. Johnson had 22 kills and Audrey Fruzza added nine, Walker had 18 digs and Downs had 30 assists and nine digs.

In the third match, the Greenwave lost to Gridley, 25-23, 25-21. Johnson was strong at the net again with 15 kills, Walker had 20 digs and Downs dished out 19 assists.

In the final match, Woodland Christian beat Fallon 25-18, 25-18. Fruzza and Johnson each had four kills and Downs had 11 assists and 10 digs.

The Greenwave was scheduled to play in Fernley Tuesday night, then host Elko and Spring Creek this weekend, with the Elko match at 6 p.m. Friday and Spring Creek at noon Saturday.

“We’re looking forward to a big week of league play with three important games,” coach Tristin Johnson said. “We’re playing well and everyone is getting more comfortable with their roles. Should be an exciting week.”

Saturday the Greenwave won the first two matches in the Gridley Tournament before losing the next two.

They started with a 26-24, 25-14 win over Argonaut (Jackson, CA). Johnson had 13 kills and three blocks, Downs had

Battle Mountain rallies for five-set win over Pershing County

***Longhorns currently in
fourth place in Northern 2A***

By Tony Erquiaga
Battle Mountain

When you get small schools and rivals together, anything can happen and usually does. The Northern 2A features a number of these matches and games throughout the season.

We got another one on Wednesday, Sept. 23, as the Battle Mountain High School volleyball team hosted Pershing County. Both squads were playing for important playoff positioning.

In a back-and-forth fight, Pershing County claimed the first set 25-22 and the third set 25-17, while Battle Mountain notched a set two victory at 25-20 and set

four, 25-17. The Longhorns jumped out to an early lead in the fifth set and cruised to a 15-9 victory.

“The girls are meshing with each other and making the offensive plays that we need to be successful,” said BMHS coach Julia Ramirez. “I look forward to the work and gains we hope to have as we start the next chapter of game play.”

BMHS senior Paitynn Johns went off for 15 kills, with Ella Matheus adding seven, Yadira Vaquez (five), Kamila Farias (four) and Keona Colver (three).

The Longhorns served 18 aces, with Vazquez providing eight, Faia's four, Colver three and Matheus two. Sophia Andrade and Johns each had 22 digs and Matheus (14) and Farias (13) joined them in double figures in digs. Colver added eight digs



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Battle Mountain's Keona Colver passes the ball after receiving a serve.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports
Battle Mountain's Sofia Andrade sets the ball for a teammate during the Sept. 23, match with Pershing County.

and Farias had 27 assists.

North Tahoe leads the Northern 2A at 9-0, with Yerington (8-1) and Sierra Lutheran (6-3) in second and third, respectfully. Battle Mountain is fourth at 5-3 and Pershing County and West Wendover are both 4-4 and tied for fifth. The top six teams qualify for the Northern 2A

Regional Championships at North Tahoe High School in Tahoe City, Calif.

Battle Mountain travels to Silver Stage on Friday for a 5 p.m. start and Sierra Lutheran on Saturday at noon. The Longhorns play five of their final six matches at home.



Battle Mountain's Kamila Farias sets the ball.

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Gold Rush 10u finishes third at Legacy Softball Stay Humble Tournament

The Winnemucca Gold 10u traveled to Fernley this past weekend and placed third at the Legacy Softball Stay Humble Tournament. Winnemucca went 3-3 over the two days beating Nevada National Maxwell 9-4 and Bidwell Bombers 6-2 and lost 10-5 to Gladiators Gold on day one. The Gold Rush split games on Sunday, beating Gladiators Black 7-1 and losing 7-0 to Nevada National Maxwell.

Courtesy Photos



Wilson paces Fernley runners at Truckee Invitational

By Robert Perea
Fernley

Fernley competed Saturday at the Truckee Invitational, with JV boys, varsity girls and varsity boys all racing in large fields.

Fernley’s varsity girls placed 15th with 401 points. Corbyn Gillespie led the Vaqueros in 90th place with a time of 24:00. Regan Scott finished 97th (24:29), JoJo Cardinal 110th (25:32), Kaylee Nicolas 117th (26:18) and Wynter Angus 120th

(26:55).

The varsity boys placed 16th with 432 points. Cael Wilson finished 40th in 18:03, Ayden Johnson 101st (19:42), Zachary Petersen 117th (20:26), Daniel Hiles 125th (20:40), Mason Varner 159th (22:08) and Addison Davis 176th (22:43).

In the JV boys race, Cameron Farr finished 124th in 24:20.

Fernley returns to competition Saturday at the Leo Mikelonis Memorial Invitational at Golden Eagle Park in Sparks, with the first race at 9 a.m.

Late rally not enough as Lowry falls to South Tahoe 30-20

Buckaroos back in Winnemucca for homecoming against Spring Creek

By Tony Erquiaga
Winnemucca

Looking to remain the postseason hunt in the Northern 3A, the Lowry High School football team packed its bag for the trip to South Lake Tahoe this past Friday.

The Vikings, who celebrated their homecoming week, is much improved this fall and picked up a 30-20 win over the Buckaroos. Lowry dropped to 2-4 overall and 1-3 in league play.

Following a Lowry turnover deep in its own territory, South Tahoe needed just 14 yards and less than 30 seconds to take a 7-0 lead on a 13-yard touchdown pass on its second offensive play of the night.

After a Buckaroo punt, the Vikings were back on the board midway through the first quarter on a 1-yard run after a 22-yard pass that got them there.

After starting with a turnover and punt, Lowry marched down the field in a little over five minutes for its first points of the night. Ben Marvel us a quarterback sneak to score from two yards out to make

the score 13-7, with 2:16 left in the first quarter.

South Tahoe made it 3-for-3 on scoring touchdowns, with a short touchdown pass for a 20-7 lead with seven minutes to play in the first half. That would be the same score at the break.

The Buckaroos were back deep in Viking territory on the following drive but saw it end downs at the South Tahoe 23-yard line.

Following a defensive stop to begin the third quarter, Lowry drove the length of the field and capped off a time-consuming drive on a 4-yard by Marvel on fourth down to close the gap to 20-14 with 4:55 to go in the third quarter.

South Tahoe added a 25-yard field goal less than a minute into the fourth quarter to go up 23-14 less than a minute in the period.

The Vikings used a 44-yard run with 5:25 top lay to put the game out of reach with a 30-14 advantage.

Lowry didn’t go away, scoring with 70 seconds to play on an 18-yard pass from Marvel to Nathannel Gordon.

The Buckaroos ensuing on-side quick was bobbled and recovered by the Vikings to end the game.

Lowry is back home Friday to play Spring Creek at 7 p.m.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

The Lowry High School football team returns to Jerry Tobin Field on Friday for its homecoming game with Spring Creek.

Fallon boys tennis takes down Sparks

By Tony Erquiaga
Fallon

The Churchill County High School boys tennis team traveled to Sparks on Tuesday, Sept. 15, and picked up a 12-5 win over the Railroaders.

In round one, Caleb West, Zander Lewis and Rhett Beach collected wins in singles play. Kasen Bullock and Nate Nuckolls won in doubles.

Round two saw Beach and West easily win in singles 6-1 and 6-0, respectfully and Lakai Zachary and Cole Powell won their doubles match 6-3

In round three Beach and West won in singles and Bullock and Nuckolls won their doubles match.

Fallon hosts Debbie Smith CTE Academy on Thursday.



Courtesy Fallon Tennis

The Fallon boys soccer team knocked off Sparks 12-5 on Sept. 15, and head to the postseason this week.





Northern 3A Power Rankings

By Tony Erquiaga
Winnemucca

Sometimes you will have one of those weeks in the schedule that makes you scratch your head and say, huh? Fallon struggles for a half at Spring Creek as the Spartans show they are a serious contender. Fernley nearly surprises Truckee and Lowry looked to do the same against South Tahoe.

1. Fallon (6-0, 4-0) (LW: 1) You can't win every game by 40 points, right? This past Friday showed how tough the Northern 3A can be. Following a week off, Fallon hit the road to Spring Creek.

As I said at the beginning of the season, I said lookout for the Spartans. Spring Creek led 10-7 at halftime, before order was restored in the final 24 minutes.

This week: at Dayton

2. Elko (4-1, 4-0) (LW: 2) It was Elko's turn to rest up, receiving the bye in the Northern 3A schedule. It is a good thing to have some time off in the middle of the season to get healthy. The second half of the Indians' schedule gets tougher.

This week: vs. Truckee

3. Truckee (4-2, 3-1) (LW: 3) I can all but repeat what I said for Fallon. Truckee hit the road to play Fernley last week and a defensive battle erupted. The Vaqueros, who have mightily struggled to find their way this year.

All of a sudden, Fernley was the Fernley of the past few years. The Vaqueros led 7-0, only to see the Wolverines fight back for a 14-7 win.

Not sure if I am encouraged by Fernley or disappointed by Truckee.

This week @ Elko

4. Spring Creek (4-2, 2-2) (LW: 4) My sleeper in the Northern 3A at the start of the season, gave the reigning 3A state champion everything they could handle and more. Spring Creek's finale against

Elko will determine a lot in the final standings. Besides that, contest, the Spartans should comfortably win their other remaining games.

This week @ Lowry

5. South Tahoe (5-2, 3-2) (LW: 5) South Tahoe is much improved this fall but Lowry almost put a wrench in the Vikings' season. South Tahoe had to hold on for a 30-20 win, all but securing a playoff berth.

This week: @ Sparks

6. Fernley (2-5, 1-4) (LW: 6) I am probably the last person that thought Fernley would have five losses and be 1-4 in the Northern 3A. The Vaqueros nearly made their season last week giving Truckee a fight to the end. If Fernley can stop the self-inflicted wounds, it's a top 3-4 team in the league.

This week: Bue

7. Dayton (3-4, 2-3) (LW 7) Dayton needed to do what it needed to do playing Sparks. The Dust Devils cruised to a 56-0 win. Dayton will have to shock a few teams down the road for any playoff berth. The Dust Devils will have to wait a week, hosting Fallon on Friday.

This week: vs. Fallon

8. Lowry (2-4, 1-3) (LW 8) Lowry used its momentum from a win over Sparks into a near victory at South Tahoe. When the Buckaroos don't turn the ball over or have drives ended by penalties, they can move the ball and score points, they can be very competitive. The last four games are brutal, with Spring Creek, Truckee, Fernley and Fallon.

This week: vs. Spring Creek

9. Sparks (0-7, 0-6) (LW: 9) Oh Sparks. I try not to drag a team down but it is getting worse for the Railroaders. It is time to go independent and try to rebuild the program.

This week vs. South Tahoe

Nevada Football Standings

Northern 3A		
1. Fallon	4-0	6-0
2. Elko	4-0	4-1
3. Truckee	3-1	4-2
4. South Tahoe	3-2	5-2
5. Spring Creek	2-2	4-2
6. Dayton	2-3	3-4
7. Lowry	1-3	2-4
8. Fernley	1-4	2-5
9. Sparks	0-5	0-7



Northern 2A		
1. Pershing County	2-0	5-0
2. Coral Academy Reno	2-1	3-2
3. Battle Mountain	1-0	3-1
4. West Wendover	1-0	3-1
5. Incline	1-2	3-2
6. Yerington	0-1	0-4
7. North Tahoe	0-3	0-5

Southern 3A		
1. Pahrump Valley	1-0	4-3
2. Boulder City	0-0	2-1
3. Moapa Valley	0-0	4-2
4. Virgin Valley	0-1	0-6

Southern 2A		
1. Lincoln County	0-0	6-0
2. GV Christian	0-0	2-1
3. Lake Mead	0-0	2-2
4. Needles	0-0	0-4

Northern 1A		
1. Eureka	4-0	4-1
2. Mineral County	3-0	3-0
3. Carlin	3-0	3-2
4. Wells	3-1	4-1
5. Coleville	2-2	2-2
6. Virginia City	1-3	2-4
7. Pyramid Lake	0-2	0-3
8. Owyhee	0-2	0-3
9. McDermitt	0-5	0-5

Southern 1A		
1. Sandy Valley	4-0	4-0
2. Pahrnagat Valley	3-0	4-1
3. Tonopah	3-0	4-0
4. Spring Mountain	2-2	2-2
5. Indian Springs	1-2	3-2
6. Round Mountain	1-2	1-2
7. Laughlin	1-3	1-3
8. Beaver Dam	1-3	1-4
9. Beatty	0-4	0-5



Northern 5A		
1. Damonte Ranch	1-0	5-1
2. McQueen	1-0	4-2
3. Spanish Springs	1-0	3-3
4. Bishop Manogue	0-1	1-5
5. Douglas	0-1	2-4
6. Reed	0-1	2-4

Northern 4A		
1. Carson	1-0	2-4
2. Reno	1-0	3-3
3. Wooster	1-0	1-5
4. Galena	0-1	2-4
5. North Valleys	0-1	1-5
6. Hug	0-1	1-5

Fernley girls soccer comes up empty on road trip

By Robert Perea
Fernley

The road was unkind to the Fernley girls soccer team last weekend. Last Friday, the Vaqueros lost 3-0 to Spring Creek last Friday. Bronwynn Garrett took two shots on goal for the Vaqueros. Saturday lost 4-0 at Elko. Angel Pochop made four steals for the Vaqueros, Garrett had one steal and a corner kick and Reese Johnson added two steals. Garrett, Pochop and Melissa Yokoi each took one shot for the Vaqueros. Saturday the Vaqueros will play at Fallon at 11:45 a.m. and next Tuesday they will host Dayton at 6:30 p.m.

Fernley boys soccer drops matches to Spring Creek, Lowry

By Robert Perea
Fernley

The Fernley High School boys soccer team lost a pair of matches last weekend to Spring Creek and Lowry. On Sept. 26, Fernley lost 8-0 to Spring Creek. The Spartans led 7-0 in the first half, then added one more goal in the second to end the game at the 60-minute mark. Goalkeeper Travis Lyle made 10 saves for the Vaqueros. Dominic Medina led the Vaqueros in the field with 10 steals, Sebastian Rodriguez made seven and Oswaldo Ortega had five. Saturday's game with Lowry was more evenly matched. The Buckaroos scored two goals in each half to claim the 4-0 win. The Vaqueros managed six shots on goal, including two each by Harrison O'Donnell and Damien Ruiz, but were unable to get any past the Lowry keeper. Lyle made 11 saves on the 15 shots he faced for the Vaqueros. Ortega and Ruiz both has seven steals for the Vaqueros, while Parker Bacon had six and O'Donnell and Medina had five each. The Vaqueros host Fallon at 11:45 a.m. Saturday, and they also host Dayton next Tuesday at 4:45 p.m.

Vandals split with Knights, Mustangs

Eureka travels to Owyhee on Saturday

By Tony Erquiaga
Eureka

The Eureka High School volleyball team split a pair road matches this past weekend. The Vandals stepped out of league play on Friday night, traveling to Round Mountain and beating the Knights in four sets 28-26, 18-25, 25-20, 25-19. Eureka jumped back into 1A East play on Saturday and lost 25-20, 25-21, 25-17 to Lund. The Vandals sit in third place in league play at 3-3 and are 8-11 overall. Eureka hosts Carlin on Thursday and travels to Owyhee on Saturday.

Eureka blanks Wells 42-0 to improve to 4-1 on the season

By Tony Erquiaga
Eureka

The Eureka High School football team continued its winning ways with a 42-0 win over Wells on Friday, Sept. 24, in Eureka. The Vandals jumped out to a 14-0 advantage in the first quarter and extended the margin to 22-0. A 14-0 run in the fourth quarter sealed the victory in Northern 1A play. Eureka, who has won three games in a row, travel to Owyhee on Saturday for a 1 p.m. kickoff.



University of Nevada Athletics

Nevada basketball coach Steve Alford to retire at end of upcoming season

RENO (AP) — Nevada coach Steve Alford is retiring at the end of the upcoming season, ending a 36-year coaching career that also included stops at Iowa, New Mexico and UCLA. Alford is entering his eighth season at Nevada, where he has gone 137-88 with NCAA tournament appearances in 2023 and 2024. He is 724-386 overall. “After 36 years, I feel like this is the right time to step away from the bench,” Alford said in a statement Thursday. “Tanya and I have loved our time in Reno, and have embraced this amazing community and built lifelong friendships. I want to thank the University of Nevada for the opportunity to lead this program, and I am looking forward to finishing this season the right way, with a team I believe in.” Alford, 61, previously coached at UCLA, leading the Bruins to consecutive Sweet 16 appearances in 2014 and 2015 during an up-and-down six-year tenure. He was a star player at Indiana, winning a national championship under Bob Knight. Alford played four NBA seasons before going into coaching at age 26. Alford led Manchester College in Indiana to the 1995 Division III championship game and moved to Missouri State, taking the Bears to the Sweet 16 in the final of his four seasons. He coached at Iowa from 1998 to 2007, leading the Hawkeyes to two Big Ten tournament titles and three NCAA tournament appearances. Alford made a surprising move from the Big 10 to coach New Mexico of the Mountain West Conference in 2007 but had some of his greatest coaching success in Albuquerque. He led the Lobos to four Mountain West regular-season titles and three NCAA tournament appearances, reaching the second round twice. “Steve Alford has been an important part of Nevada athletics and Wolf Pack basketball for nearly a decade, leading the program with consistency, integrity and a deep commitment to developing outstanding young men,” Nevada athletic director Stephanie Rempe said in a statement. “Throughout his tenure, he helped Nevada remain one of the Mountain West Conference’s most competitive programs while navigating a period of significant change in college athletics.”