Sports

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Repetition carries conviction: Top-seeded Greenwave targets another playoff push

By Robert Perea

WINNEMUCCA — The regular season is officially in the rearview mirror, and for the Churchill County High School football team, the opening chapter of their championship defense could not have been scripted much better.

With a dominant 49-7 victory over Lowry in the regular-season finale last Friday in the books, the top-seeded Greenwave are entering their postseason bye week exactly where they want to be

"We were great in all three phases," Fallon head coach Calvin Connors said of the final regular-season game in Winnemucca. "We scored on every drive but one of them and went four-and-out on a fourth-and-long. So just some things that we need to clean up offensively, defensively, and special teams-wise to prepare for whoever we play in the quarterfinals."

Against Lowry, the Greenwave put together another clinical performance, moving the ball with precision that made it look easy.

Fallon marched 57 yards in just four plays on the first drive of the night. That opening salvo was capped off by a 19-yard touchdown strike from Camden Richardson to Calin Anderson, who utilized his height to reach over a defender in the end zone for a quick 7-0 lead.

After a short Lowry punt on the ensuing possession, the Greenwave offense went right back to work on a 45-yard drive aided by a Buckaroos' pass interference call. Following a 20-yard completion to Maxton Richardson, Camden Richardson targeted Anderson again, finding him for a 5-yard score to push the margin to 14-0.

Fallon's defensive unit forced a turnover on downs at their own 36-yard line on Lowry's next possession, setting up a lightning-fast response from the offense. The Greenwave sliced 64 yards down the field in a mere 77 seconds, capped by a 1-yard touchdown pass from Camden Richardson to Maxton Richardson with just 12 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Lowry managed a defensive stand early in the second quarter, taking over at the Fallon 40-yard line, but the Greenwave defense promptly shut the door on a fourth-and-1 passing attempt to hand the ball right back to the offense at the 31.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Fallon's Blake Dinneen goes up for a catch, as he is closely defended by Lowry's Kayson Clifton in the Greenwave's 49-7 win over the Buckaroos on Friday night in Winnemucca.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Lowry's Dante Bautista fights for extra yardage, as Fallon's Rylan Clark fills the gap.

On the ensuing drive, Maxton Richardson provided the play of the night. Catching a short pass from Camden Richardson, he reversed field from one sideline to the other, making multiple Buckaroos defenders miss on his way to an electric 59-yard touchdown that extended the lead to 28-0.

While Lowry responded with its best drive of the night, an 85-yard, five-minute march that ended with a 12-yard touchdown pass from Ben Marvel to Manny Herrera, Fallon showed off masterclass time management to close the half.

Taking possession with just 1:11 remaining, Rylan Clark ignited the unit with a long kickoff return to the 45-yard line. From there, the Greenwave offense moved like glass, executing flawlessly before Camden Richardson threw a 9-yard touchdown strike to Blake Dinneen with just six seconds left on the clock, entering the locker room up 35-7.

On the third play of the third quarter, Alijah Juarez broke loose for a 21-yard run, with the Fallon offensive line pushing the entire pile the final seven yards into the end zone.

The score triggered a 42-7 running clock, which was later finalized by a 9-yard touchdown run from Rylan Clark with 9:50 left in the game.

With first-round bye, Connors said the Greenwave are making no changes to the blueprint that brought them an unblemished league record.

See GREENWAVE C8

Pershing County pulls away in second half to beat Battle Mountain, remain undefeated

Mustangs host Wolverines to close regular season; Longhorns head to Reno to play Coral Academy

By Peggy Jones

BATTLE MOUNTAIN — The Pershing County High School football team continued its undefeated, beating rival Battle Mountain 66-27 at Tim Knight Field this past Friday in Battle Mountain.

The victory improved the Mustangs' record to 8-0 overall and 5-0 in the Northern 2A league, keeping them in first place with one regular-season game remaining.

Although the final score favored the Mustangs by a wide margin, the Longhorns provided some early challenges.

The teams trade touchdowns like they were going out of style.

"The rivalry game is always exciting!" said PCHS head coach Mike Brooks. "Battle Mountain is well coached and always play with a lot of toughness. Add some cold weather and a road trip, and we were in a tight game."

Brooks said he was pleased with the way his players responded and continued competing throughout the game.

"We were really happy with the way our kids fought and played a full 4 quarters to come away with the league win," he said.

The two teams combined for eight touchdowns in the first half, starting with a 60-yard pass from Daniel Lara to Chase Lutz on the second play of the game. Lutz took the pass along the sideline and ran past the defense for a 7-0 lead.



SANDY BENGOA LUTZ • Great Basin Sports

Battle Mountain quarterback throws over the arms of Pershing County's Eduardo Aceves.



SANDY BENGOA LUTZ • Great Basin Sports

Pershing County's Quinton McKinney finds room to run in the Battle Mountain secondary.

Pershing County answered right back with a long drive and Ryan Houston scoring on a 6-yard run to take an 8-6 lead after the 2-point conversion.

Less than two minutes and three plays later, the Longhorns took back the lead 13-8 after a 12-yard run by Damian Solis.

The pinball machine struck again, as Eduardo Aceves broke free for a 73-yard on the next offensive play and Houston score a play later on a 7-yard run to make the score 16-13 Mustangs with 6:03 left in the opening quarter.

Four minutes later, Lara scampered for a 10-yard touchdown run to put the Longhorns up 21-16. However, Battle Mountain would score just six points the rest of the night.

Defense Adjusts After First Quarter

After the Longhorns found some early success against the Mustangs' defense, making several big plays during the first quarter, Pershing County made adjustments and limited those opportunities as the game continued.

"Defensively, we played really well after the first quarter," Brooks said. "They have several big play makers (which we found out the hard way early on!) but we were able to reduce the big plays for the most part after that."

The defensive improvement, combined with the Mustangs' productive running game, helped Pershing County pull away for the win.

The sixth touchdown of the quarter came with left as Quiton McKinney broke through the Battle Mountain defense for a 57-yard touchdown and a 24-21 Mustang advantage.

See FOOTBALL C2

SSR MINING
MARIGOLD
OUR TOWN HEROES



Our Town Hero: Nash Johnson

We are honored to recognize Nash Johnson.

Nash has called Humboldt County home since 1986. After graduating from Lowry High School, he went on to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

When he returned home, he began a career in the mining industry.

During those years, Nash became known for bringing people together and giving back to the communities around him. He organized community events in Winnemucca and Battle Mountain, including Ride for the Troops, a charity event honoring our veterans and fallen soldiers.

He also played an important role in the Willow Creek project, helping create opportunities for local families to come together and enjoy the outdoors through fishing events and other activities.

After 27 years in the mining industry, Nash took a chance on himself and began a new chapter, building a family business, Steam Store Equipment & Supply, with locations in Winnemucca and Elko.

Today, Nash and his wife Aimee continue to support Northern Nevada by providing local jobs, sponsoring youth sports, supporting nonprofit organizations, donating materials to local programs, including dirt for the Lowry High School baseball program, and volunteering time at community events.

Humboldt County is stronger because the Johnson family chose to invest their time, energy, and heart into the people around them.

Although Nash may not seek recognition for all that he does, tonight we want to thank him for his service, his generosity, and his commitment to his community.



SANDY BENGOA LUTZ • Great Basin Sports

The Battle Mountain and Pershing County linemen work in the trenches.

FOOTBALL —

Cont. From C1

Battle Mountain took its last lead with 9:25 to go in the second quarter on a 27-yard pass from Lara to Lutz. Those were the final points for the Longhorns.

Houston provided Pershing County the lead for good, taking the snap and going up the middle for an 18-yard touchdown. The Mustangs added the 2-point conversion to lead 32-27 at halftime.

Mustangs Find Success on the Ground

Pershing County relied heavily on its running game, with several players contributing to the offensive effort. McKinney helped lead the attack.

Entering the game, the junior had rushed for 802 yards and 15 touchdowns on 55 carries this season, averaging 14.6 yards per carry, according to MaxPreps. He also had seven receiving touchdowns, bringing his season total to 22.

Senior Eduardo "Eddie" Aceves and Amare Rosas also gained significant yardage on the ground, with Rosas scoring multiple touchdowns.

Jaxson Happy and Thomas Brooks contributed to the rushing attack as well.

Sophomore quarterback Ryan Houston completed one pass during the game, connecting with Happy for a long gain.

Brooks said the Mustangs executed well offensively, although one drive ended without a score.

He credited the offensive line and receivers for helping make the running game successful.

"None of which is possible without excellent line execution and perimeter blocking by the WR!" Brooks said.

McKinney provided the first points of the second half on a long run, to push the advantage to 40-27.

The Mustangs added four more touchdowns in the fourth quarter, scoring the final 42 points of the night. Pershing County scored three times in a two-and-a-half-minute span in the fourth quarter to go up 60-27.



SANDY BENGOA LUTZ • Great Basin Sports

Pershing County's Eduardo Aceves fights for extra yardage.

Pershing County will close out the regular season Thursday, when they host West Wendover for senior night. The Wolverines suffered their first league loss, as Coral Academy won on Saturday.

Pershing County enters the final game undefeated and in first place in the Northern 2A standings.

With the playoffs approaching, the Mustangs will look to finish the regular season with another victory and carry their momentum into postseason competition.

Battle Mountain travels to Reno on Thursday to play Coral Academy.

The Longhorns need to win the game to avoid the No. 4 seed.

Great Basin Sports director Tony Erquiaga contributed to this story.



Photo by Leanne Cruz, Cruz Down Memory Lane Photography

Fernley quarterback Elijah Devold stiff-arms Dayton defender Maximus Spann during last Friday's game.

The great robbery:

Strip-6 by Solis helps Vaqueros punch playoff ticket

By Robert Perea

FERNLEY — Several times this season, the Fernley High School football team has posted big numbers in the stat sheet that didn't get reflected on the scoreboard. Last Friday night, with the season on the line, the Vaqueros finally put the two together.

Turning yards into points when it mattered most, Fernley punched its playoff ticket and ended Dayton's season with a gritty 27-16 winner-take-all victory.

Both teams came into the game in the same situation, win and make the playoffs, or lose and the season was over. This time, in a game with no safety net, the Vaqueros didn't fall.

Jayden Esparza ran for 220 yards and two touchdowns on 24 carries, Jayse Jones also ran for a score, Elijah Devold added another 92 yards on the ground on his nine carries.

But it was Isaid Solis who made the play of the game, and considering the stakes, maybe of the season. With the Vaqueros leading 13-8 and Dayton facing second-and-12 from its own 23-yard line with about a minute and a half left in the first half, quarterback Abel Russell threw a short, seemingly safe pass to Silas Lokey near the sideline.

As Lokey caught the ball and started to run, Solis stripped the ball from Lokey's hands and took it 25 yards the other way for a strip-6 touchdown that put the Vaqueros up 20-8 at the half.

The Vaqueros extended the margin to 27-8 on a touchdown run by Jones with 9:20 left in the fourth quarter.

But very little has come easy for the Vaqueros this season, and Dayton's Duke Evans made sure it didn't Friday night either. Evans returned the kickoff following Jones' touchdown 75 yards for his own score.

The Vaqueros recovered Dayton's onside kick but fumbled the ball back to the DustDevils two plays later. Dayton drove the ball to the Fernley 22-yard line, but a touchdown run from there by Duke Evans was called back because of a holding penalty.

Three plays later, another Dayton touchdown, a 29-yard pass from Russell to Diego Enriquez, was called back by another holding penalty.

On third and long, Kole Miller sacked Russell, and because Russell's helmet came off on the play, he had to sit out the next play.

This time Miller sacked Mike Reitman, and the Vaqueros took possession of the ball and were able to run out the clock.

While the Vaqueros ran only 39 offensive plays in the game, they averaged 8.6 yards per rush and Devold completed his only pass attempt for 34 yards, to Keaunue Tolliver.

Sloan said that ability to control the ball for long stretches and limit the opponent's time of possession is the formula that makes the Vaqueros a scary underdog in the playoffs.

The Vaqueros are the No. 6 seed in the playoffs, and will play at Spring Creek at 7 p.m. Friday, a place they've lost five consecutive times, including 42-7 earlier this season.

But after that game coach Anfernee Sloan said the Vaqueros struggled with handling adversity and didn't play with enough intensity.

"It's hard to beat a team twice in the same season," he said. ""I guarantee it's going to be a different kind of game this time."



Northern 3A Rankings — Playoff Edition

Where did the time go. Where did the season go. Just like that the regular season is over and its time for the postseason to begin. Fallon is the heavy favorite to repeat as state champions.

Does anybody anything for them?

1. Fallon (8-0): When Fallon was challenged this year, the Greenwave responded in a big way. This team can beat you in so many ways. A very talented group.

When they are clicking and at full speed, no one will stop them. The Greenwave get a week off, before a matchup with Elko or South Tahoe.

2. Truckee (7-1): Truckee, remember them? The Wolverines are still here and haven't gone anywhere. This was probably the quietest season for Truckee, just going through its schedule.

The talent is not what it has been but the coaching staff gets the best out of its players. Trust me just about every school will still take the talent Truckee has.

If the Wolverines reach the semifinals, they would likely travel to Moapa Valley. There is no love lost between these two.

3. Spring Creek (6-2): This was my surprise or team to watch in August. I am not sure you can call the Spartans a surprise. Spring Creek is a physical squad and gets after it. Spring Creek led Fallon 10-7 at halftime this year.

The Spartans could be looking at a return trip to Truckee. It didn't go well for the first time. Anyone up for a snow game in November?

4. Elko (5-3): The season started out great for Elko but tailed off at the end of October. The Indians lost a ton of players from a season ago and also had a new coach.

Hosting South Tahoe this week will not be an easy chore. Your reward for getting a win, a trip to Fallon.

5. South Tahoe (4-4): South Tahoe certainly upped its game this year, getting back into the postseason.

But and there is always a but, the Vikings beat the teams they were suppose to but lost to the top four teams in the league. It is a long trip to Elko. An upset of the Indians would not surprise me.

6. Fernley (3-5): This was another team that was hit hard by graduation and spent this year trying to find some holes. This is a squad that took Truckee to the final minutes of their game but also lost to the other top four teams.

It will take the Vaqueros' best game to beat Spring Creek.

Lakers' volleyball claims No. 2 seed for 1A West Volleyball Tournament

By Robert Perea

PYRAMID LAKE — The Pyramid Lake High School volleyball team earned the No. 2 seed for the 1A West League Volleyball Tournament this Saturday in Smith Valley.

The Lakers will get a quick rematch of last week's five-set loss at Coleville, with the winner qualifying for the State Tournament.

The Lakers beat Excel Christian 25-10, 25-9, 26-24 on Oct 20, then lost in five sets to Coleville on Oct. 22. Stats or scores of the individual sets were not reported.

Against Excel Christian, Josie Lara and Aiyana Collins led the attack at the net. Lara had nine kills and Collins added seven. Chylie Querta had four kills and Evelyn Mix had three as the Lakers had a total of 27 in the match.

Despite the loss to Coleville, the Lakers won the tiebreaker for the No. 2 seed, but the two teams will face each other in the semifinals of the single-elimination tournament at 1:40 p.m. on Saturday. The winner face Smith Valley or Sage Ridge in the championship match at 4 p.m.

The champion and runner-up from the West League tournament advance to the NIAA Class 1A State Girls Volleyball Tournament Nov. 5-7 at Sierra Vista High School in Las Vegas.



Courtesy Pyramid Lake High School

Pyramid Lake junior Nadaya Centeno prepares to serve during the Lakers match against Excel Christian on Oct. 20.

Longhorns finishes regular season with split against Mustangs, Wolverines

Battle Mountain faces Sierra Lutheran in regional tournament opener

By Tony Erquiaga

BATTLE MOUNTAIN — Heading into the final week of the regular season, the top two seeds for the Northern 2A Regional Volleyball Championships were set in stone.

Those two spots belonged to North Tahoe and Yerington. Meanwhile, the seeding for the final four spots was a fun game of Operation.

Battle Mountain Pershing County, Sierra Lutheran and West Wendover entered the week all at 8-6.

Something had to give early on, as Battle Mountain traveled to Lovelock to take on Pershing County on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

The Longhorns won the first league meeting in five sets in late September.

The second meeting belonged to the Mustangs, who won 25-18, 16-35, 25-21 and 25-18 to earn the tiebreaker in the standings.

Senior Paitynn Johns finished with 11 of Battle Mountain's 21 kills, with Ella Matheus and Yadira Vazquez contributing four kills apiece. Kamila Farias added two kills to go with a team-high six aces. Vazquez had four aces and four blocks and Matheus two aces and Johns one ace.

Farias had a team-high 17 assists and Sophia Andrade 19 digs. Keona Colver. Matheus and Farias each had six digs and Miranda Lomeli, Johns and Vazquez four digs apiece.

Battle Mountain closed the regular season with a Friday matinee against West Wendover. The Longhorns grew a large advantage in the first set but had to hold on for a 25-22 win.

Battle Mountain finished off the match, winning the final two sets 25-21 to finish fifth in the Northern 2A at 9-7. They were tied with Sierra Lutheran, but the Carson City school swept the season series to get the tiebreaker.

Six different players had kills, with Matheus leading the way with nine. Johns added five, Vazquez four and two each from Colver and Farias. The Longhorns finished 21 aces, including eight from Farias, five by Andrade and four each from Vaquez and Matheus.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Battle Mountain's Ella Matheus passes the ball after receiving a West Wendover serve.

Farias also had 20 assists, with Matheus having a team-high 14 digs. Andrade and Johns joined her in double figures with 11 each. Farias and Vaquez each had five digs.

"We closed our regular season out with some struggles on Wednesday night, but we were able to bounce back hard on our home court," said BMHS coach Julia Ramirez. "It's a special feeling to win on your home court, especially for my seniors. We are just looking to stay healthy and fine-tune some offensive rhythms that we look forward to using in the postseason."

Battle Mountain and Sierra Lutheran meet again in the opening round of the regional tournament at 5 p.m. on Friday at North Tahoe High School in Tahoe City, Calif. The winner plays top seeded North Tahoe on Saturday at noon.

Pershing County and West Wendover meet in the other semifinal, with the winner playing Yerington at 1:40 p.m. The championship is set for 4 p.m.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Battle Mountain's Paitynn Johns goes up for a kill.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Lowry's Ava Swensen battles for control of the ball with an Elko defender.

Lowry girls soccer drops two close matches to Elko County rivals

Buckaroos began playoffs on Tuesday

By Tony Erquiaga

WINNEMUCCA — There is never a dull moment in the Northern 3A and that was in full affect last week for the Lowry High School girls soccer team.

The Buckaroos wrapped up their regular last week with a pair of 3A East league matches. The week began with a road trip to Spring Creek on Tuesday, Oct. 20. The two rivals tied 1-1 earlier in the season and Winnemucca and the matches are usually on the more physical side.

It was no different in Spring Creek with nine yellow cards handed out. Eight of those went to Lowry. Throw in an unexpected rain and wind storm and it was wild day.

Lowry took a 1-0 lead in the first half, as Ava Swensen made a run down the sideline, fighting off two Spring Creek defenders. After one Spartan player went to the turf, Swensen crossed the ball to Julie Chavez, whose shot deflected off the goalie and into the net.

Spring Creek tied the match at 1-1 near the end of the opening half on a goal by Delilah Tindal.

Tindal was in the right spot at the right time and took a deflection of a Lowry player and found the net.

It went all wrong for the Buckaroos midway through the second half, as head coach Chris Enwistle was red carded and moments later, Adalyn Entwistle received a red card as well. Both cards were given for dissent.

That left Lowry down a player and later in the second half, Spring Creek's Sariah Knotts connected on a perfect free kick from 25 yards out for the winning goal.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press

Lowry's Allyson Barajas collects the ball for a save during the game with Spring Creek.

Later in the week and after reviewing video and sound from the match, the two red cards were rescinded by the officials association. The officials from the match resigned following that decision and are no longer officiating.

It was a much different story on Friday afternoon, as Lowry hosted Elko in the regular season finale. The contest was much calmer on both sides.

The Buckaroos grabbed the early lead once again, as Swensen took a pass from Yareli Garcia early in the first half and connected on a shot. Lowry had another goal called back on an offside call.

The Indians tied the match in the first half and converted the game-winning goal midway through the second half for the 2-1 win. The Buckaroos finished 2-5-1 in the Northern 3A East and 6-11-2 overall.

Lowry began play in the Northern 3A Regional Championships at South Tahoe on Tuesday. Results were not available at press time.

The semifinals and finals will be played Friday and Saturday at Lowry High School.

Battle Mountain girls fall to Pershing County in season finale

By Tony Erquiaga

BATTLE MOUNTAIN — The Battle Mountain High School girls soccer team concluded its season on Tuesday, Oct. 20, against rival Pershing County on Tim Knight Field.

The Mustangs netted the first three goals of the day, when Kiara Gonzlez got the Longhorns on the board in the 61st minute, as she took a pass in the box in the middle of the field and finished off the shot.

Pershing County scored just a couple minutes later and held on for the 4-1 victory. Nayeli Acosta and Lily Reynolds each had two goals for the Mustangs. Desaray Vidrio added a pair of assists.

Battle Mountain finished the season at 1-9-2.

Pershing County advanced the NIAA 2A State Championships at White Pine High School in Ely.

The Mustangs will play Yerington in one semifinal on Friday and Dayton and White Pine meet in the other contest.



Fernley girls soccer earns regional tournament berth

By Robert Perea

FERNLEY — The Fernley girls soccer team closed its regular season Saturday with a 3–0 loss at Fallon, finishing 0–8 in the Northern 3A East but securing the No. 8 seed for the regional tournament based on a strong showing in its crossover games against the West.

Fernley finished the season with a 4-13-1 overall record, including 3-2-1 in crossover games against the West Division to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2023.

The Vaqueros were scheduled to open the postseason Tuesday at 3:45 p.m. against Truckee.

The winner advances to Friday's regional semifinals at Lowry to play the winner of the quarterfinal between Fallon and North Tahoe.

Fallon girls soccer claims No. 4 tournament seed, second place in East

By Robert Perea

FALLON — For the fourth consecutive year, the Churchill County High School girls soccer team has finished as one of the top two teams in the East Division of the Northern 3A.

The Greenwave beat Fernley 3-0 last Saturday to finish with a 6-1-1 record in the East and 10-3-2 overall.

They also went 4-2-1 against the West Division, compiling 45 points in the combined standings to earn the No. 4 seed for the 3A North Region Tournament.

The Greenwave was scheduled to host North Tahoe on Tuesday, with the winner advancing to the semifinals on Friday at Lowry, where they would face the winner of No. 1 seed Truckee and No. 8 seed Fernley.

"I think what's happened in this program across the last five seasons is incredible," assistant coach Neill Tunstead said. "We are now constantly battling for first place and an expectation of playoff and more has become the norm. Academically we are always in the mix as a team and as individual players for All-State as well as strong case for many players to make league and state team in recognition of their efforts."

Fallon will try to duplicate its last playoff win, which was against North Tahoe in 2023. The Greenwave and Lakers tied 0-0 in the first game of the season on Aug. 21.

Kortnie Simper, Karlie Simper and Keily Ugalde each score a goal in last Saturday's season-finale against Fernley.

Evie Johnson, Karlie Simper and Rylee Hammond each had assists, while goalkeeper Shaylee Orduna made two saves.

Two Oasis Academy runners place in top 10 at Dave Marson Trail Race

By Robert Perea

FALLON — Oasis Academy placed two runners in the top 10 last Friday at the Dave Marson Trail Race hosted by Sierra Lutheran, led by Riley Davis in the girls race and Leonidas Arcoraci in the boys race.

Davis finished fourth in the girls race in 25:19. Sonora McInturff placed 11th in 36:07, and Faith Torres May finished 12th in 36:15.

Arcoraci led the boys team with a seventh place finish in 21:13.6. Keagan Craig finished 20th in 23:31.8, Zayden Maynez placed 23rd in 24:26.6.

Connor Tolman finished 31st in 26:30.9, Elijah Jones placed 35th in 28:28.3, and Kamron Bracken finished 36th in 28:28.7. Tristan Bracken finished in 36:19.2.

Oasis Academy next competes this Friday at the 2A North Region Meet at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno.

Chavez wins boys race, Redstone 5th in girls race for Pyramid Lake at Sierra Lutheran

By Robert Perea

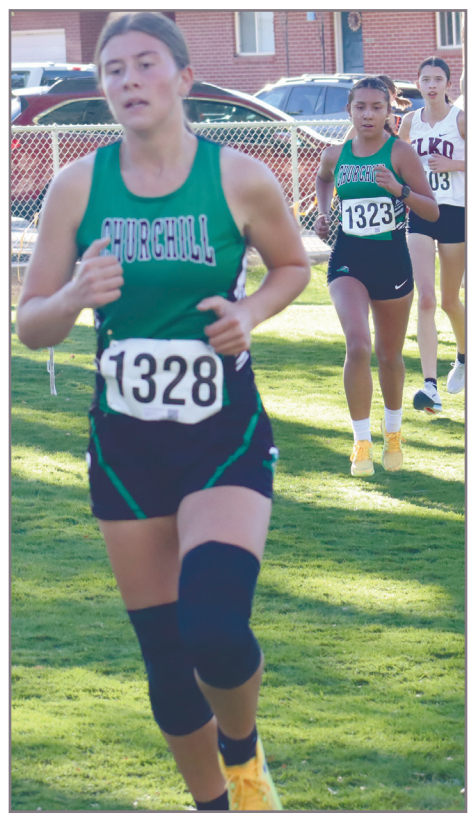
PYRAMID LAKE — Pyramid Lake High School freshman Jayar Chavez won the boys race at the Dave Marson Trail Race hosted by Sierra Lutheran last Friday, while senior Koge Redstone placed fifth in the girls race.

Chavez won the boys race with his time of 19:12.17. Redstone finished fifth in the girls race with a time of 25:31.

The Lakers are scheduled to compete this Friday at the 2A North Region Meet at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno.

Greenwave runners tune up for regional meet

By Robert Perea



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Fallon's Aubrey Strickland (1328) and Cassandra Hooper (1323) run at the Lowry Invitational in Winnemucca.

FALLON — In the final tuneup before this week's 3A Northern Region Meet, the Churchill County High School cross country teams posted full varsity and JV results at the Flat SAC Invitational and the Galena JV Invitational, with strong individual showings at both meets.

At the Flat SAC Invitational in Elverta, Calif., last Saturday, the Fallon varsity boys placed nine runners.

Senior Jackson Barbee led the team with an 81st place finish in 18:41.8. Cody Frey finished 110th in 19:01.7, and Tayven Martinez placed 114th in 19:05.5.

Lars Rasmussen finished 129th in 19:21.7, followed by Levi Bradford in 172nd at 20:30.2, Landon Liston in 186th at 20:48.8, and Michael Lister in 189th at 20:52.4.

Isaac Frederick placed 214th in 22:21.7, and Cayson Lacow finished 217th in 22:52.6.

Fallon also entered three runners in the JV boys race at Flat SAC. Ryan Centimano finished 170th in 22:39.4. Alex Bacallo placed 217th in 26:06.8, and Thomas Alvarado finished 224th in 27:11.1.

The Fallon girls placed seven runners in the varsity field. Freshman Issabelle Walter Chicas Garibay led the team with a 21st place finish in 20:40.0.

Aubrey Strickland finished 63rd in 22:28.2, and Casandra Hooper placed 94th in 24:21.1.

Ella Bassham finished 114th in 26:11, followed by Abigail Lacow in 135th at 28:13.0, Kylee Moore in 136th at 28:25.5, and Zoe Rasmussen in 149th at 30:05.2.

At the Galena JV Invitational on Oct. 20, Fallon's boys placed three runners in the top 25. Bradford led the JV squad with a 21st place finish in 21:24. McBride finished 24th in 21:26, and Liston placed 25th in 21:27. Lister finished 41st in 22:25, Centimano placed 43rd in 23:00, Frederick finished 46th in 23:23, and Alvarado placed 79th in 30:49.

The Fallon girls JV team placed four runners at Galena.

Bassham finished 30th in 28:08, followed by Lacow in 53rd at 30:56, Moore in 55th at 31:11, and Rasmussen in 58th at 32:07.

This week's Regional Meet will be held Friday at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno.



Fernley Women's Golf Club Results, Oct. 20
Game: Hallowthankmas!

Low Gross: Patty Liljeberg, 80
Low Net: (3-way tie) Linda Garrett, Val Montgomery and Bonnie MacQuarrie, 55
Closest to Pin #7: Linda Garrett. 13'3"
Closest to Pin #11: Rita Hanifen, 22"4"
Fewest Putts: (Tie) Val Montgomery and Bonnie MacQuarrie, 28
Most Putts: (Tie) Karen Holcher and Rita Hanifen, 35

Lakers host Virginia City Thursday in season finale

By Robert Perea

PYRAMID LAKE — After Coleville was required by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association to forfeit last Thursday's game, the Pyramid Lake High School football team is scheduled to wrap up its season this Thursday for its homecoming game when it hosts Virginia City at 7 p.m.

Seniors for football and cross country will be honored and Homecoming royalty will be announced and the Parade of Class Floats will take place during halftime.

After the NIAA investigated a fight during the previous week's game between Owyhee and Coleville, both teams were required to forfeit their next game.

The Lakers were scheduled to play at Coleville on Oct. 22.

The forfeit gave the Lakers their second win of the season. Pyramid Lake is now 2-6 overall and 2-5 in the Northern 1A.

Vaqueros finish season with 3-0 loss in Fallon

By Robert Perea

FERNLEY — The Fernley High School boys soccer team closed its season last Friday with a 3–0 loss at Fallon.

The Vaqueros had six shots on goal, including four by Harrison O'Donnell, and goalkeeper Travis Lyle made eight saves. Fallon led 1-0 at halftime, then pulled away with two goals in the second half.

The Vaqueros finished the season 0-10 in the Northern 3A East and 0-20 overall, but coach Angel Muniz said the team continued to compete despite a difficult season.

"The boys fought a good battle but fell short," Muniz said. "Unfortunately, we had a rough season this year, but even with all these losses these boys stayed positive and kept pushing till the end. I'm proud of them and watching their progress throughout the season. I look forward to seeing this team continue to grow."



PEGGY JONES • Great Basin Sports

Coaches Kelly Brooks, Eva Nelson and the Mustangs soccer team cool off during a break in the action earlier in the season.

Mustangs return to state soccer playoffs after 10-year absence

By Peggy Jones

LOVELOCK — For only the second time in program history, the Pershing County High School girls soccer team is headed to the playoffs, advancing to the 2A state semifinals.

The Mustangs secured the fourth seed with a 4-1 victory over rival Battle Mountain, ending a 10-year absence from postseason competition.

The last playoff appearance came in 2016 under coach Matt Fuller. On Nov. 3, of that year, Pershing County faced South Tahoe in the Northern 3A playoffs, falling 8-1 to the Vikings.

Mikayla Renfroe scored the Mustangs' lone goal, assisted by Madeline Gonzalez. The team finished that season with an 11-10 record.

Now, a decade later, a new generation of Mustangs has earned the opportunity to compete in the postseason.

Victory Over Battle Mountain

The Mustangs entered the Battle Mountain game believing they needed a victory to qualify for the playoffs, although they later learned their postseason position had already been secured.

PCHS coach Kelly Brooks explained why the team approached the game as a must-win contest.

"We didn't feel comfortable taking another loss for the season just in case there was something we hadn't considered."

The Mustangs took a little time to find their rhythm in the first half, but Nayeli Acosta put Pershing County on the scoreboard with a goal assisted by Alejandra Piñeda.

Several minutes later, Acosta scored again, this time off an assist from Desaray Vidrio.

Pershing County's defense kept Battle Mountain from advancing deep into Mustang territory for much of the first half.

Both teams came out stronger after halftime.

Lily Reynolds added the Mustangs' third goal off an assist from Vidrio, but Battle Mountain began creating more scoring opportunities.

Goalkeeper Aaliyah Lora made several important saves to help protect the Mustangs' lead.

Josie Brooks and Mary McBride controlled the center of the defensive line, while Fatima Arteaga and Mili Gonzalez defended the outside positions.

Late in the game, Elanie DeLosReyes connected with Reynolds, who scored on a long shot to complete Pershing County's four-goal performance.



KELLY BROOKS • Provided to Great Basin Sports

Soccer seniors Mili Gonzalez (11), Alejandra Piñeda (2) and Nayeli Acosta (4) get ready to compete in the 2A state soccer semifinals.

A Milestone for the Seniors

For the team's seniors, the playoff berth represents the culmination of years of dedication to the soccer program.

"It's very rewarding to see the team, especially the seniors, reach this milestone," Brooks said.

The team's three seniors, Nayeli Acosta, Alejandra Piñeda and Mili Gonzalez, have demonstrated a strong commitment to the program.

Acosta has been practicing with the Mustangs since middle school and has served as a team captain for the past two seasons.

Piñeda and Gonzalez have also made countless sacrifices for the program.

"That is the type of dedication that makes all the difference in a season like this."

The team's success has also been built on its ability to work together and move the ball effectively.

"On the field, I think our team is very cohesive and has really focused on connecting smart, simple passes," Brooks said.

Looking Ahead to the State Semifinals

The Mustangs will face top-seeded Yerington in the 2A state semifinals Friday, Oct. 30, at noon at White Pine High School in Ely.

The winner will advance to the state championship game Saturday, Oct. 31, at 10 a.m., also at White Pine High School.

For a team whose seniors were still in elementary school when Pershing County last reached the postseason, the opportunity marks an important milestone.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press

Lowry's Cruz Flores battles for control of the ball with Elko's Aritz Aizpurua.

Lowry boys split with Elko, West Wendover, earn No. 5 seed

By Tony Erquiaga

WINNEMUCCA — The Lowry High School boys soccer team did what it needed to do to keep its playoff positioning for the Northern 3A Regional Championships.

The Buckaroos rounded out the regular season with road trips to Elko and West Wendover this past weekend. The first stop was a tough one, losing 5-0 to league-leading Elko.

The Indians broke open a 1-0 at halftime advantage, with four goals in the final 40 minutes to win 5-0.

Up next, in the regular-season finale, it was a trip to West Wendover on the Utah/Nevada border to face West Wendover. The Wolverine boys play in the 3A, while the West Wendover girls are in the 2A.

Goals by Cris Arriola and Johnny Leon provided the shots that Lowry needed in the 2-1 victory.

The Buckaroos finished the regular season 4-6-0 in the Northern 3A East and 9-10-1 overall.

Lowry opened the regional tournament in Spring Creek on Tuesday. Results were not available at press time. The Spartans beat the Buckaroos 6-1 and 2-1 during the league season.

A Lowry win against Spring Creek would advance them to the semifinals of the Northern 3A Regional Championships against South Tahoe or Debbie Smith CTE Academy. Incline and Truckee and Elko and Churchill County play in the other first round matches.

The semifinals and finals will be played in Winnemucca and at Lowry on Friday and Saturday.

Times for Friday have not been announced. The girls championship is set for 10 a.m., with the boys to follow at noon.





ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press

Lowry's Tessa Jenkins goes up for a kill against Spring Creek.

Lowry volleyball closes season with losses to Elko, Spring Creek

By Tony Erquiaga

WINNEMUCCA — The Lowry High School volleyball team finished its season this past weekend with road matches at Elko and Spring Creek.

The first stop was in Elko on Friday night, where the Indians won 25-18, 25-13 and 25-17.

The Buckaroos knocked down 25 kills, including seven from Hazen Root, six by Josie Jenkins and four from Tessa Jenkins. All three are seniors. Peyton Anguiano and Yareli Ojendiz each had two kills.

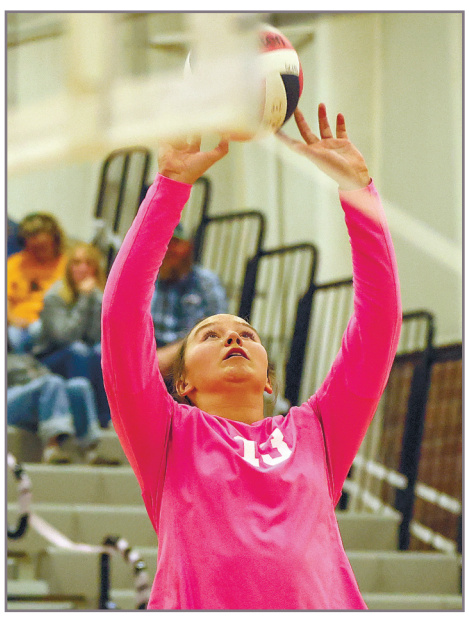
Breylin Johnson contributed two blocks and Raegan Terry and Josie Jenkins each had an ace. Root and Tessa Jenkins dished out nine assists apiece and Emelia Mentaberry had a team-high 23 digs.

Josie Jenkins added nine digs, Ojendiz eight, Root seven, Terry six, Tessa Jenkins three and Finn Christean two.

In the season finale on Saturday, Lowry was looking to collect its first league win of the season. The Spartans claimed the first two sets 25-14 and 25-23. The Buckaroos led the second set 22-21 but could not hold on for the victory.

Lowry came back to claim the third set 26-24 but Spring Creek finished off the match in the fourth set, 25-23. The Buckaroos finished the year at 0-10 in the Northern 3A East and 6-21 overall.

In their final high school match, Josie Jenkins and Tessa Jenkins finished with 12 and 11 kills, respectfully. Root added five digs, Emma Deputy three and Terry and Ojendiz two each.



ANTHONY MORI • Elko Daily Free Press

Lowry's Hazen Root sets the ball for a teammate.

Lowry had 12 aces, with three each from Root and Ojendiz and two from Terry. Root had four blocks and Breylin Johnson, Josie Jenkins, Ojendiz and Terry one each.

The Buckaroos were busy on defense with 125 digs, including 38 from Mentaberry, 32 by Ojendiz, 14 each from Terry and Root, 11 by Tessa Jenkins and 10 from Joise Jenkins.

Tessa Jenkins and Root added 19 and 12 assists, respectfully and Mentaberry had four assists.

McDermitt final game at Owyhee canceled, Bulldogs win by forfeit

By Tony Erquiaga

MCDERMITT — The McDermitt High School football team was scheduled to close out its season this past Saturday at Owyhee but circumstances led the Braves to cancel the game and forfeit the contest.

The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) completed and investigation into an incident early last week that occurred during the Owyhee/Coleville football game Saturday, Oct. 17, in Owyhee.

NIAA policy is for the teams to forfeit that game and the next one on their respective schedules. The two teams got into a fight during the game.

"We ask parents, families, and community members to take this opportunity to visit with their student-athletes about the importance of good sportsmanship, self-control, and personal responsibility," said Owyhee principal Lynn Manning John in a Facebook post. "When our students take the field or court, they represent more than themselves. They represent our school, their families, and our entire community. How we conduct ourselves matters, both during competition and beyond. We hold our student-athletes, coaches, spectators, and everyone involved in school activities to high standards of conduct. Respect for opponents, officials, teammates, and one another is an expectation, regardless of the circumstances or outcome of a contest.

We accept our role in the events that led to these consequences and remain committed to helping our students learn, grow, and move forward. Accountability is an important part of that process."

It was a strange season for McDermitt, who started with 10 players, but had to forfeit three games of its own due to a lack of players.

McDermitt finished the season 1-7.

McDermitt splits final two regular season matches, gets ready for regional playoffs

Bulldogs to face Wells on Saturday in Elko

By Tony Erquiaga

MCDERMITT — The McDermitt High School volleyball team rounded out the regular season with road matches in eastern Nevada on the border with Idaho.

The Bulldogs' first stop was in Jackpot on Friday and they swept the Jaguars to complete the season sweep. McDermitt was in Owyhee on Saturday afternoon and lost to the Braves.

McDermitt finished 3-7 in the 1A East and 7-14 overall.

McDermitt is the No. 5 seed for the regional tournament and will play Wells, the No. 4 seed, on Saturday at 10 a.m. at Elko High School.

The winner plays Lund at 1:20 p.m. Owyhee and Eureka play the other semifinal at 11:40 a.m. The championship is set for 3:30 p.m.

Greenwave boys soccer earns No. 6 seed for 3A North Region Tournament

By Robert Perea

FALLON — After beating Fernley 3-0 last Friday to end the regular season, the Churchill County High School boys soccer team was scheduled to face Elko on Tuesday in the first round of the 3A Northern Region Tournament.

Kyle Shawcroft, Arad Duenas and Raul Sanchez each scored a goal against Fernley, and Acen Williams had one assist.

The Greenwave finished the regular season 4-5-1 in the Northern 3A East and 7-10-3 overall.

They earned the No. 6 seed for the regional tournament with 27 total points in the standings, including crossover games against the West Division. Elko finished tied with Spring Creek for first place in the East with an 8-0-2 record.

Both teams also had 44 points which tied them for third in the combined standings, but Elko won the tiebreaker for the No. 3 seed based on allowing fewer goals in all league games.

Fallon was scheduled to play at Elko at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday. The winner advances to the region semifinals at Lowry on Friday. Times for the semifinal matchups were not determined before press time.

South Tahoe is the No. 1 overall seed for the tournament, winning the West at 8-0 and compiling 60 points in the combined standings. Truckee is the No. 2 seed.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

The Fallon volleyball team earned the sixth seed for the Northern 3A Regional Championships and played South Tahoe on Tuesday.

Strong finish earns Fallon No. 6 seed for 3A North Region Volleyball Tournament

By Robert Perea

FALLON — The Churchill County High School volleyball team won two of three matches last week to close the regular season at 14–15 overall and 5–5 in the Northern 3A East, earning the No. 6 seed for the regional tournament.

The Greenwave tied with Dayton and Spring Creek for third place in the East Division with that 5-5 record. A Northern 3A crossover win over incline last Wednesday helped Fallon earn the No. 6 seed for the tournament with 13 points in the combined standings and dropped Incline to No. 7.

Fernley won the East at 9-1 with 19 points, creating a 3-way tie for first with Truckee and South Tahoe, which were both also 9-1 with 19 points. Truckee won the tiebreaker for the No. 1 seed and Fernley won the tiebreaker for No. 2

The tournament was scheduled to begin Tuesday, with Fallon playing in the quarterfinals at South Tahoe.

The winner advances to Friday's semifinals at South Tahoe to face Fernley or Incline at 5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Fallon won two of its final three matches of the regular season last week, including the straight set win over Incline on Oct. 21.

The Vaqueros defeated Incline 25 22, 25 20, 25 18, led by Raegan Johnson's 16 kills. Kadence Wiessmer added six kills and Audrey Fruzza finished with five.

Layla Walker led the defense with 10 digs, and Kalaya Downs and Amillya Bishop each recorded 13 assists.

Last Friday at Spring Creek, Fallon lost the first two sets but won the next three behind a dominant night from Johnson, who finished with 28 kills, 12 digs, three blocks and five aces.

Fruzza added 12 kills and 14 digs, Ava Bunyard had 11 digs and five aces, Walker posted 29 digs, and Downs finished with 14 digs and 41 assists.

At Elko, Fallon again dropped the first two sets, won the third, but their comeback attempt in the fourth fell short.

Johnson finished with 21 kills and 16 digs, Fruzza added seven kills and 11 digs, Walker had 18 digs, and Downs recorded 11 digs and 26 assists.

Fernley volleyball wins East Division, takes No. 2 seed for Regional Tournament

By Robert Perea

FERNLEY — After one tiebreaker went against them and another went in their favor; the Fernley High School volleyball team enters the Northern 3A volleyball playoffs as the No. 2 seed.

The Vaqueros were scheduled to host Incline, the No. 8 seed, Tuesday night in the first round.

The winner of that match advances to Friday's semifinals at South Tahoe to face either South Tahoe or Fallon at 5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Fernley finished the regular season 9-1 in the Northern 3A West and as part of a three way tie with Truckee and South Tahoe for first place.

Truckee earned the No. 1 seed with a 2-1 record against Fernley and South Tahoe, and Fernley claimed the No. 2 seed because it won the head to head match with South Tahoe.

The Vaqueros closed the regular season last Thursday with a four set win over Dayton, 25 22, 25 11, 22 25, 25 18.

Trista Menesini led with 16 kills, and Emma Masters added 15. Fernley's back row handled a heavy workload, finishing with 66 digs.

Jocelyn Escartin had 15 of them, Alauna Escartin added 14, Masters had 11, and Menesini recorded 10. Alauna Escartin also finished with 32 assists.

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MONICA HALVERSON • Provided to Great Basin Sports

The Pershing County High School volleyball team celebrates the end of its regular season with a Halloween costume tournament before heading into the Northern 2A playoffs. Pictured from left are Katelynn Elerick, Whitlee Diaz, Magdalena Ramirez, Cami Watson, Avani Rosas, Jerzie Jones, Arya Garland, Ali Montes, Khloe Montes, Kelsey Collins, Mollee Houston, Millie Canchola and Bella Zelaya.

Mustangs finish regular season strong, head to regional tournament

By Peggy Jones



PEGGY JONES • Great Basin Sports

Arya Garland of the Pershing County Mustangs receives a serve during the Oct. 22 Senior Night volleyball game against West Wendover.

LOVELOCK — The Pershing County High School volleyball team closed out its regular season with two victories over league rivals, defeating Battle Mountain and West Wendover on consecutive nights to secure the No. 3 seed in the Northern 2A playoffs.

The Mustangs celebrated Senior Night on Oct. 22 with a thrilling five-set victory over West Wendover, overcoming a determined Wolverines team to win 17-25, 25-11, 25-18, 25-27 and 15-10.

The victory followed a four-set win over Battle Mountain on Oct. 21, giving Pershing County momentum heading into postseason competition.

Senior Night Thriller

Six Mustang seniors and their families were recognized before the West Wendover match. Each player received gifts from the team and guests as the seniors prepared to play their final home game.

PCHS coach Monica Halverson said the occasion was especially meaningful.

"It goes by way too fast," she said, reflecting on the seniors' final appearance on their home court.

West Wendover proved to be a challenging opponent, taking the opening set 25-17 before Pershing County responded with convincing victories in the second and third sets.

The Wolverines fought back to claim the fourth set 27-25, forcing a deciding fifth set.

The Mustangs held their composure and finished the match with a 15-10 victory.

"The Wolverines came to play and they were not backing down," Halverson said. "Whatever we threw at them, they threw back at us."

She praised her players for adjusting their approach throughout the match and continuing to compete when the pressure increased.

"Each girl contributed and even though we went 5 sets, the girls never gave up or gave in when the going got tough," she said.

Khloe Montes led the Mustangs offensively with 22 kills, which Halverson identified as a game high and possibly a season high. Montes also contributed two service aces and 12 digs.

Magdalena Ramirez recorded a season-high five kills along with seven digs, while Jerzie Jones added nine kills, two aces and eight digs.

Avani Rosas contributed five service aces and 13 assists, while Katelynn Elerick added 11 assists, seven digs and an ace. Arya Garland finished with 13 digs, three back-row kills, four assists and an ace.

Halverson highlighted the connection between Rosas and Montes, Ramirez's attacks from the right side and Jones's ability to place shots over West Wendover's blockers.

The Mustangs played without Cami Watson, who suffered an injury during the Battle Mountain match. Halverson said she is recovering and is expected to return for regionals.

PCHS Defeats Battle Mountain

The previous evening, Pershing County traveled to Battle Mountain to face its longtime rival and came away with a four-set victory, winning 25-18, 16-25, 25-21 and 25-18.

Halverson said her players entered the match determined to finish the regular season on a strong note.

Her three senior captains, Garland, Montes and Elerick, challenged their teammates to play to win and finish the season "Mustang style."

The Mustangs took the opening set with controlled play and strong teamwork.

"We weren't stressed and we proved that we could play some great volleyball," Halverson said. "Everyone was synced and supportive."

Battle Mountain responded in the second set as communication problems and unforced errors disrupted Pershing County's rhythm. The Mustangs regrouped in the third and fourth sets, improving their defensive coverage and connecting more consistently with their hitters.

Montes again led the offensive effort with 10 kills, along with 10 digs and an ace.

Jones contributed seven kills and six digs, while Watson recorded four kills and two blocks before suffering her injury.

Elerick finished with 13 assists, two aces, two kills and two digs. Rosas added 12 assists and three digs.

Garland contributed five assists, seven digs, one kill and an ace.

The victory gave the Mustangs another important league win as they prepared for their final regular-season match.

Playoffs Begin Friday

With the two victories, Pershing County secured third place in the Northern 2A standings and earned a berth in the league playoffs.

The Northern 2A tournament will take place Friday and Saturday, at North Tahoe High School.

The Mustangs will face sixth-seeded West Wendover in the quarterfinals Friday at 6:40 p.m., just eight days after their five-set Senior Night battle.

A victory would advance Pershing County to Saturday's semifinal against second-seeded Yerington at 1:40 p.m.

Top-seeded North Tahoe awaits the winner of the quarterfinal between fourth-seeded Sierra Lutheran and fifth-seeded Battle Mountain in the other semifinal.

The Northern 2A league championship match is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 31, at 4 p.m.

With two important wins to close out the regular season, the Mustangs head into the playoffs with confidence and momentum.

They have worked hard to earn their place in the tournament, and now they have a chance to show what they can do against the top teams in the league.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Lowry's Alyla Thomas runs the course at the Lowry Invitational.

Lowry cross country team finishes regular schedule at Flat SAC Invite

Buckaroo girls fifth in small-school varsity race

By Tony Erquiaga

WINNEMUCCA — The Lowry High School cross country team took a weekend trip over the Sierra Nevada Mountains to finish the regular season at the Flat SAC Invitational in Sacramento, Calif.

The Lowry girls finished fifth in the small-school varsity race that 18 teams post scores.

Senior Alyla Thomas was the top Buckaroo finisher, placing sixth in a time of 19 minutes, 26.9 seconds. The course for this race was set up for speed.

Her younger freshmen sisters Makaylah Thomas (20:49.7) and Ajerra Thomas (21:27.1) were 24th and 40th, respectfully. Junior Taylor Soderstrom (21:24.4) and Azure Sagers (22:09.2) placed 56st and 81st.

Natalia Cassinelli (23:22.5), Adel Hall (23:55.1) and Lexie Salvino (26:26) rounded out the Buckaroo finishers.

Rogue Cutler from University Prep won the race at 18:03.0. El Dorado won the team title with 83 points, followed by Chico (100), Hope (117), Westlake Charter (125) and Lowry (153).

Lowry featured seven runners in the boys race, with junior Patrick Moses (18:01.5) and Anden Thomas (18:31.1) placing 52nd and 59th, respectfully.

Josiah Merki finished 103rd in a time of 18:58.3, followed by Francisco Renteria (19:21.7) and Ben Bales (19:22) close behind. Edward Moyer (19:49.5) and Sebastian Fuchslin (21:05.4) wrapped up the Lowry finishers. There were 259 runners in the boys race. Union Mine's Patick Pimjuv won the race at 16:06.6.

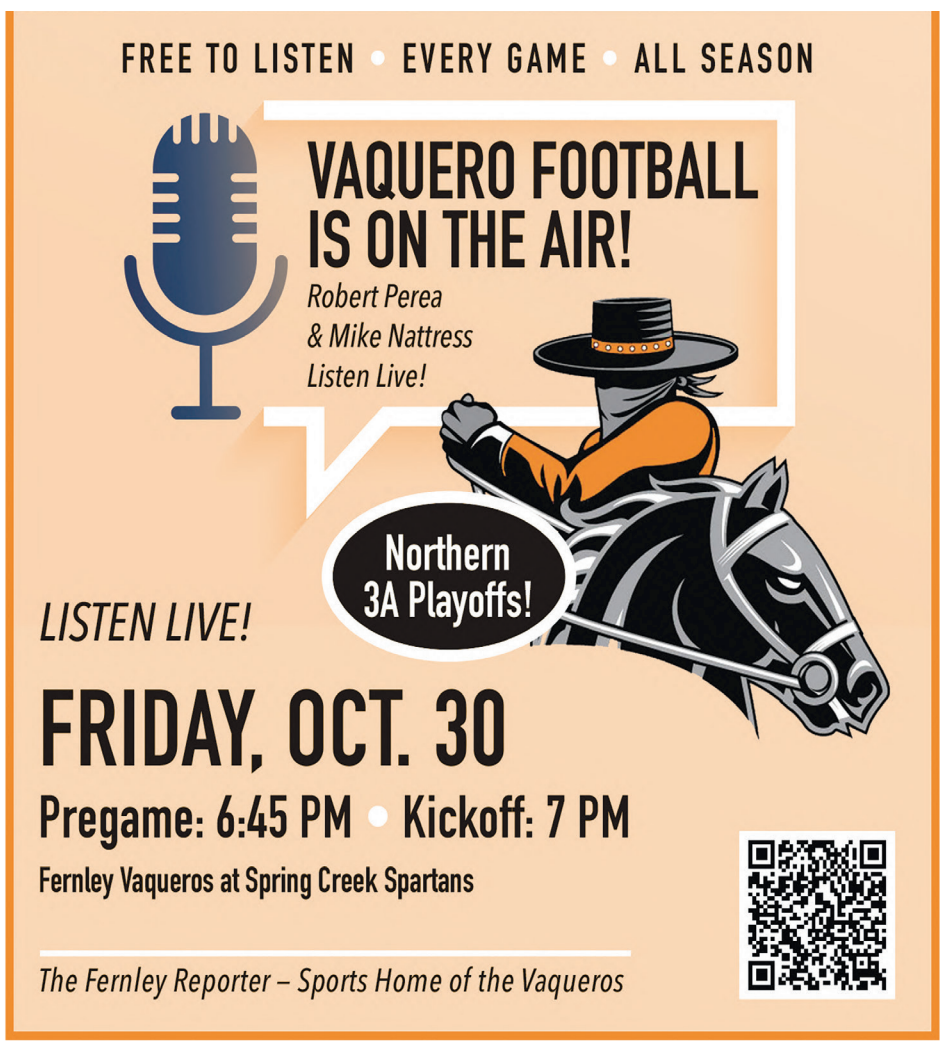


TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Lowry's Azure Sagers makes her way through the 5,000-meter course in Winnemucca.

The boys had 32 teams post scores, with Lowry in 14th with 404 points. Union Mine won with 59 points.

Lowry travels to Reno on Friday for the Northern 3A Regional Championships at Rancho San Rafael Park.



GREENWAVE —

Cont from C1

"You know, we've kind of approached it the same way," Connors noted. "There's things that you have to work on for the bye, like getting guys healthy and making sure that we feel 100% going into that game here in a week, but overall, it's the same thing."

As the No. 1 seed, Fallon will play the winner of the matchup between No. 4 Elko and No. 5 South Tahoe. Since they won't know their opponent until the end of the week, Connors said the Greenwave coaching staff is using the immediate days ahead to focus inward rather than obsessing over an unknown target.

"We'll break down the Lowry film today with the team, clean up some stuff, and answer any questions that the kids may have," Connors said. "We'll work on technique and really fine-tune what we need to fine-tune in order to prepare for that game next week."

That obsessive focus on daily improvement is at the core of Connors' philosophy.

"If you're not adapting, you're not getting better," he said. "If you're complacent, you're going to end up losing or being left in the dust. You have to adapt and adjust with your players, with what you have, and what you can accomplish in each phase of the game."



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Fallon's Alijah Juarez breaks free for a long run

That adaptability was on full display against Lowry, where getting off to a big lead in the first quarter allowed Fallon to show off its next-man-up capability.

"Shout out to our second-string offense and defense," Connors said. "In that Lowry game they were clicking, they were communicating, and it's very cool to see kids step up when their opportunity is presented. They've earned that."

Connors said last Friday was the first game of the second half of the season in which Fallon didn't have a player get injured. Because so many players have been out of the lineup during the past five weeks, the Greenwave has had to lean on its depth, and in so doing, many of those backup players have shown they are capable of contributing.

"Without a doubt," Connors emphasized. "We talk about it all the time. You're always one play away from success, but you're also one play away from playing, one grade check away from playing, or one injury away from playing. We've had great leaders being able to help those guys who might have questions."

Connors said the players on the Greenwave's scout team have gotten better just by practicing against the best team in the league every day. To help build that confidence, Connors leans heavily on one of his foundational philosophies: repetition carries conviction.

"All that means is the more reps that you have, the more convicted you are in your confidence for executing," Connors said. "Those kids have done an amazing job of that. You see that when they get out there and make the most of their opportunity."

Navigating playing time can often fracture a high school locker room, but Connors credits the unselfish culture of this year's squad for keeping the championship train on the tracks.

"Some kids might get discouraged because they're not starting or not getting enough plays, or not getting the ball," Connors said. "But at the end of the day, football is a team game; there are 11 spots on the field. You have to be able to put your personal wants to the side and focus on the team, and that's what this team embodies the most. It's rewarding to see kids be so selfless and not care about their personal accolades. They just want to win, and they want to see their teammates succeed."

As they wait to see who survives the opening round to earn a trip to Fallon, Connors said the Greenwave aren't looking past their own daily grind.

"Our regular season provides that confidence that you need in order to win the postseason," Connors said. "We have to maintain that momentum."



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Fallon quarterback Camden Richardson throws a pass over the arms of Lowry's Robin Braatz, as the Greenwave's Trayden Huckaby blocks.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Great Basin Sports

Lowry's Juan Mendoza finds room to run in the Fallon secondary.

Sighting in Your Big Game Rifle

Into the Wild

Commentary by Tom Claycomb

It surprises me how many people half-heartedly sight in their rifle before a hunt (Or don't do it at all). This is one of the key elements of being successful. If you don't sight in your rifle you end up spending a week's vacation and a lot of money all for naught. AND… you might wound an animal.

I'd suggest you shoot at different distances so you know where your bullet is landing. For instance, 50 yards, 100 yards, 200 yards. and 300 yards.

That way you'll know right where to aim, especially important if all you have is a head or neck shot. (As a side note this year, I zeroed my rifle in at 200 yards so I can hold right on at 50-300 yards and have a clean kill).

I shoot a lot of Hornady ammo. On my box of ammo, it tells me that if my shot is 1.7″ high at 100 yards, that it will be dead on at 200 yards., -7.2″ at 300 yards., -20.5″ at 400 yards. and -40.7″ yards. at 500 yards. You can also find the ballistics on their website.

Of course, every rifle shoots a little different and I can only assume extreme altitude differences will alter things as well. So, I'd advise using all of these factory charts as a starting point but verify everything for yourself. (In the end, I always check with Ron Spomer at RonSpomerOutdoors for all of my ballistic questions).

One thing we encounter out West in the wide-open spaces where we sight in our rifles is the wind.

Not only does that affect our bullet flight and our ability to hold still but if we don't have our target tacked on a stable base it can be moving big time which totally messes up our group.

I finally made a solid 2x4 portable frame that works great and is super stable. It is semi compact and easy to throw in the truck when I go out shooting. See the picture if you want to make one.

The next big item you have to have is a stable shooting bench. I used to use a card table but I got a Caldwell stable table and love it. It folds up so it is easy to store in your garage.



Provided to Great Basin Sports

You can see what the Hydrosled looks like. I even lay a couple of sandbags on it to further reduce recoil. It has adjustments to obtain the desired elevation.

Then you'll need sandbags to shoot off of. I have a variety of sizes so I can get a perfect rest. There are also bags with little Styrofoam balls in them so you can squeeze them to get the proper elevation when shooting.

If you're sighting in a larger sized rifle with a lot of recoil, after a couple of shots, you're going to be flinching. Especially so if you have multiple rifles to shoot or are testing ammo from multiple manufacturers and doing a lot of shooting.

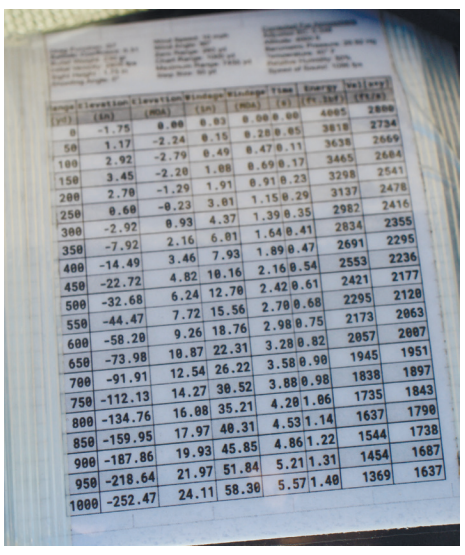
I am freshly aware of this since I drew a good bull tag down in the Owhees and am not bow hunting this year but am going to be using my .338 Win. Mag with some Hornady 240 gr. ammo.

If you're just shooting a couple of shots to ensure that your rifle is on sight then no biggee but this year I'm totally recalibrating my scope. Plus, I'm then testing it at different distances. A day of that will pound you.

But have no fear, outdoorsmen came out with a cure-the Caldwell Lead Sled. In a nutshell it is a cradle that you set your rifle in. In the old days shooters laid bags of bird shot on the sled to weigh it down so it didn't kick as much.

Most shooters quickly transitioned to just laying their heavy sandbags on the sled.

So, for years, no, decades the lead sled saved shoulders but then about 8-years ago Caldwell came out with something they named the Hydrosled.



Range	Elevation	Elevation	Windage	Windage	Time	Energy	Velocity
(yds)	(in)	(MOA)	(in)	(MOA)	(s)	(ft. lbs)	(ft/s)
0	-1.75	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	4005	2800
50	1.17	-2.24	0.15	0.28	0.05	3818	2734
100	2.92	-2.79	0.49	0.47	0.11	3638	2669
150	3.45	-2.20	1.08	0.69	0.17	3465	2604
200	2.70	-1.29	1.91	0.91	0.23	3298	2541
250	0.60	-0.23	3.01	1.15	0.29	3137	2478
300	-2.92	0.93	4.37	1.39	0.35	2982	2416
350	-7.92	2.16	6.01	1.64	0.41	2834	2355
400	-14.49	3.46	7.93	1.89	0.47	2691	2295
450	-22.72	4.82	10.16	2.16	0.54	2553	2236
500	-32.68	6.24	12.70	2.42	0.61	2421	2177
550	-44.47	7.72	15.56	2.70	0.68	2295	2120
600	-58.20	9.26	18.76	2.98	0.75	2173	2063
650	-73.98	10.87	22.31	3.28	0.82	2057	2007
700	-91.91	12.54	26.22	3.58	0.90	1945	1951
750	-112.13	14.27	30.52	3.88	0.98	1838	1897
800	-134.76	16.08	35.21	4.20	1.06	1735	1843
850	-159.95	17.97	40.31	4.53	1.14	1637	1790
900	-187.86	19.93	45.85	4.86	1.22	1544	1738
950	-218.64	21.97	51.84	5.21	1.31	1454	1687
1000	-252.47	24.11	58.30	5.57	1.40	1369	1637

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I'd advise you type out a ballistic chart, laminate it and tape to the stock of your rifle. I go to RonSpomerOutdoors for all of my ballistic questions.



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This is a simple and easy to make target holder but super stable.

You fill it with water which is where it gets its weight from. It is super user friendly. I carry a couple of water jugs out to the range and fill it up.

I'm reminded of how handy the Hydrosled is since I went out yesterday shooting to make one last little tweak. So, we now have a lot more aids than we did when I was a kid. Take advantage of them.

Tom Claycomb is an outdoor enthusiast that writes a bi-monthly column for Great Basin Sports.