

Sports

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The Road to Recovery

Gerhard shares story of heartbreak, darkness after scary concussion playing soccer

By Tony Erquiaga

Range Media

Editor’s note: This article contains discussions of suicide. Reader discretion is advised. If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, you can find resources in your area on the National Crisis Line website or by calling 988.

All Nevaeh Gerhard ever wanted to do was to play soccer. It was going to be her way out of Winnemucca and into college. Her hope was securing a scholarship and she had played soccer since she was a little kid.

When she made her way to Lowry High School, she played two years on the junior varsity team, scoring five goals her sophomore year.

Gerhard was ready to make the jump to the varsity squad in 2025 during her junior year, where a lot of her friends were.

She made the varsity team and hit the field for the opening tournament in South Lake Tahoe. Little did she know at the time, that would be her final weekend playing competitive soccer.

In the last match of the weekend against the South Tahoe JV, Gerhard took a forearm to the back of the head and would never play again.

“My memory from that is very blurred for sure,” Gerhard said, now a senior. “I remember everything leading up to it, where we were playing and who we were playing. Of course, it took me a while to piece things together. After I got hit, I don’t remember anything and it was just told to me from people that were there. It was definitely in a blur.”

After getting knocked down, Gerhard got back up to play but quickly stopped and went down again, as her teammates yelled to the bench for help to get her off the field. Players told head coach Chris Entwistle she had a concussion and they thought she lost consciousness the first time she went down.

Despite her pleas to go back in to the match, Entwistle kept her on the bench.

“She wanted to go back in,” the coach added, but said he noticed she wasn’t acting like herself.. “Usually, we can kid with each other when we are talking and jab back-and-forth. I knew there was something really wrong. She was out in space and not responding to anything. I knew it was serious. I knew it wasn’t good.”

High school girls’ soccer has one of the highest concussion rates among youth sports —ranking second only to football — and is number one among girls’ sports.

National data show about 6.11 concussions per 10,000 athlete-exposures at the high school level, meaning at least one or two players on a team will likely experience a concussion during a season.

“Nevaeh and my daughter (Adalyn) have become really close friends, Entwistle said. “I see Naveah as my daughter and every other girl on the team. We had some pretty tough and dark discussions. As a father of high school senior and a coach, I could not live with myself if she went back on the field and something happened to her. As a coach, it’s my responsibility to take care of them.”

The NIAA handbook states that any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

Under no circumstances can an athlete return to play on the same day occurring a concussion.

“I wanted to keep playing, that’s who

I am,” Gerhard said. “I got back up, kept playing, until everyone saw I was in trouble. If I kept playing, it could have been a lot worse. I got to the bench and everything went blank. I had no idea where I was. Of course, I know now but, in the moments, I was lost and scared. Everything went dark and I didn’t know what was going on.”

Gerhard said a slow fear came over, knowing something was not OK. She wanted to keep pushing but knew something was very wrong.

Before each sports season every athlete at Lowry has to take a baseline concussion test before they can play.

Testing is a pre-season assessment of an athlete’s normal brain function — covering memory, balance, reaction time, concentration, and symptoms — so clinicians can compare post-injury results to the athlete’s own healthy baseline rather than population averages.

It is widely used in youth, high school, college and professional sports.

Once an athlete in is concussion protocol, they must go through a number of tests and get cleared by a doctor. During the interview, Gerhard added she was confident she would pass and get back on the field.

However — she failed test after test — and was never able to pass one to get back on the field, leaving her in a situation she had never been in before.

“I thought no problem, I will get back on the field in no time,” she added. I was trying to push hard as I can. I got frustrated and mad at myself because soccer was my dream goal. I had played soccer since I was four years old. Not knowing in the moment but to have it ripped from me was crushing. Everything I did, all the work I did was gone. In the moment, I could never imagine that being the outcome. All it did was get worse.”

Gerhard said she realized she probably wouldn’t play again after getting tired after working out, passing out at times and just not having any energy. It was tough for her to brush her hair, brush her teeth, and do the littlest and easiest things at home.

If there is one silver lining about the concussion, it led to doctors finding other neurological problems that may not have been detected otherwise. Gone undetected, the outcome could have fatal.

“It was a blessing in disguise,” Gerhard said. “Originally, we thought it was just a concussion. We prayed it was just a concussion. With me getting worse, we took further steps. I did get a diagnosis on my concussion but (also a) diagnosis from other things that were not caused by the concussion. That was really heartbreaking to learn that what was wrong with me is not getting any better.”

After realizing she would never play soccer again and with the new diagnosis, Gerhard said sadness and darkness set in. Once a straight A student with perfect attendance, she missed nearly the first two months of school last year. Once jovial and happy, she wanted nothing to do with anyone.

“It wasn’t my fault but it was draining just to wake up every day,” she added. “I had headaches every day and I actually had breaks in between my classes so I could rest my eyes or lay my head on a table. I did the ‘why me’ thing but it was a test for me to get better. I wanted to push through. It’s was heartbreaking for me. The biggest heartbreak I have experienced.”

As her senior year started, Gerhard



Nevaeh Gerhard

“I should be out there, those are my girls. It breaks my heart that I am not out there. Last year, all I thought was that I am going to get better; I am going to get better. But after doctor appointments, I knew I wasn’t getting better. The biggest guilt I carry to this day, is that I am not out there on the field with my girls. I feel like I am letting my team down. When it came down from wanting me to be on the sideline as a manager, it was huge mental strain on me. If you never experience it, you don’t know what it was like. I was like, I can’t mentally and physically do it.”
— Nevaeh Gerhard

knew it was going to be hard to watch her teammates play. She still blames herself for not being on the field and contributing for her teammates.

“I should be out there, those are my girls,” Gerhard said. “It breaks my heart that I am not out there. Last year, all I thought was that I am going to get better; I am going to get better. But after doctor appointments, I knew I wasn’t getting better. The biggest guilt I carry to this day, is that I am not out there on the field with my girls. I feel like I am letting my team down. When it came down from wanting me to be on the sideline as a manager, it was huge mental strain on me. If you never experience it, you don’t know what it was like. I was like, I can’t mentally and physically do it.”

Depression set in, and although at times she felt she had nowhere to turn to, she said suicide was never an option. She said she tried to find other ways to escape the pain she was in, but that was never the answer for her. She was extremely forthcoming during the interview, noting that suicide is in the family and they experienced a loss in her family four years ago.

“It can get to that point but I have seen what it has done to other people,” Gerhard said. “There were times where I just wanted to say what the—... Soccer was my purpose for so long and just sat there and asked ‘what is my purpose?’”

Gerhard said she has found that purpose and is getting better, noting it’s a slow

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal brain function.

An athlete does not have to lose consciousness (be “knocked out”) to have suffered a concussion. Common Symptoms of Concussion Include:

- Headache
- Fogginess
- Difficulty concentrating
- Easily confused
- Slowed thought processes
- Difficulty with memory
- Nausea
- Lack of energy, tiredness
- Dizziness, poor balance
- Blurred vision
- Sensitive to light and sounds
- Mood changes- irritable, anxious or tearful

progress, but progress. She is happier but said watching games is challenging.

“I don’t choose to sit in the negative of things anymore,” Gerhard concluded. “As much as I hate what happened, it was a blessing in disguise. I do not wish this upon anyone. I tell others going through this that we do get stuck in life and this is the most challenging thing that you will ever experience. You have the choice to be stuck even when you can’t get unstuck. I have control now of what happens to me.”



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Lowry cross country team races at Oakmont Invitational

Reed Invitational up next for Buckaroos
By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media

The Lowry High School cross country team took an early trip out of Nevada and into California for the Oakmont Cross Country Invitational in Rocklin.

The races were 4,000 meters, just short of the usual 5,000-meter course, where the girls varsity race included 246 runners.

Lowry senior Alyla Thomas finished 41st in a time of 15 minutes, 6.78 seconds. Thomas was the lone Buckaroo runner in the race.

St. Francis’ Alyssa Gutierrez won the race at 13:13.76 and Galena junior Gioia Coudriet placed second at 13:21.01.

St. Francis won the team title with 43 points, followed by Oak Ridge (126), Oak Ridge (126), Golden Valley (165), Galena (178) and Pleasant Grove (192). Truckee, the reigning 3A state champion, finished six with 191 points.

Lowry featured three runners in the girls junior varsity race, with Taylor Soderstrom placing eighth in a time of 16:31.81. Azure Sagers (18:00.06) and Adel Hall (20:18.04) were 26th and 62nd, respectfully.

St. Francis had the first four runners across the finish line, with Emily Colonel-lo winning in a time of 15:00.87.

St. Francis won the team title with 16 points and Lodi (82) was second.

Lowry had two runners in the freshman/sophomore race, with Makaylah Thomas finishing 34rd in a time of 16:58.39 and Ajerra Thomas was 44th at 17:15.87. Both



runners are freshmen.

Oakmont’s Sofia Sierra won the race with a time of 14:43.14.

On the boys side, Lowry’s Cooper Hoagland and Patrick Moses ran in the 4,000-meter junior varsity race. Hoagland placed 18th with a time of 13:53.87 and Moses was 21st at 13:57.11.

Tameem Al-Radaei from Merrill West won the race with a time of 13:19.87.

Ben Bayles led the three Buckaroo runners in the sophomore race, placing 63rd in a time of 15:07.46. Josia Merki (15:31.72) and Edward Moyer (15:49.46) were 88th and 106th, respectfully.

Folsom’s Davi Peres won the race, stopping the clock at 12:59.97.

Lowry took three freshmen runners as well, with Francisco Renteria pacing the Buckaroos. He finished 42nd in a time of 15:12.78. Sebastian Fuchslin (17:23.20) and Quincy Hall (17:56.54) rounded out the finishers.

Lowry is in Sparks on Friday for the Reed Invitational at Shadow Mountain Park.

Greenwave continues early-season roll with shutout of South Tahoe

Fallon makes home debut against Truckee
By Robert Perea
Range Media

Fallon needed only 10 minutes to take complete control of its game at South Tahoe last Friday, scoring four touchdowns in less than a quarter on the way to a 38-0 win in its Northern 3A opener.

The Greenwave led 26-0 with two minutes left in the first quarter and added two scores in the second quarter to win its third straight game to start the season.

Coach Calvin Connors said the fast start was a result of his team correcting early-season issues and responding to a challenge to establish the run early.

“Our boys did a great job of being able to handle the travel up to Tahoe and taking the first two games as learning experiences heading into our league schedule,” Connors said. “We challenged our offense to put a full game together and they were able to do that.”

Connors said the Greenwave didn’t necessarily establish the run in the first half of the two previous games, wins at Bishop Manogue and Reed.

He said that was the ambition against the Vikings, and establishing the run set up the pass.

Quarterback Camden Richardson completed all seven of his pass attempts for 231 yards and four touchdowns. His first pass was an 81-yard touchdown strike to Maxton Richardson to open the scoring. Moments later, Camden Richardson hit Calin Anderson for a 35-yard touchdown and it was 12-0 four minutes into the game.

Nathaniel Bianchi added two more touchdowns in the quarter, on a 21-yard reception and a 21-yard run to make it 26-0 with two minutes left in the first quarter.

With an early lead, Connors took the opportunity to get his backups plenty of playing time.

“We let those other kids come in and put some drives together for us and put them in situations to see where they were and where we need to be as a coaching staff and get our whole team right as a unit,” he said. “It was good to see where they’re at and how we can develop them further.”

Rylan Clark added an 8-yard touch-



down run early in the second, then Alijah Juarez took a reception 62 yards for a touchdown that made it 38-0 before the half and ensured the rest of the game was played with a running clock.

The Greenwave defense did the rest, forcing four turnovers, including an interception with about three minutes left in the game to preserve the shutout.

“Kudos to South Tahoe, they drove down the field in the fourth quarter and they’re in the red zone, and our defense went ahead and bowed their neck and was able to show that we can hold offenses out from getting in the end zone,” Connors said. “So it was fun to see the energy that our kids had throughout the whole entire game.”

Connors said the Greenwave are looking forward to carrying that energy into this week’s game against Truckee.

He said Truckee coach Josh Ivins has held the standard set by legendary Truckee coach Bob Shaffer.

“We always get hyped up for this game, and they’re always a program that is going to be on point with all three phases, their offense, defense and special teams,” Connors said.

Among the challenges Truckee poses are a unique offensive system that they garnish by lining up quickly out of the huddle and using motions to confuse defenses.

“We’ve got some keys that we key on from the defensive perspective and based on their personnel and formations that they run,” Connors said. “So you know, our guys have to have strong and high football IQ, which they have shown, week in and week out dating back to the first season we were here in ‘24, but really started to come on strong last season.”

Fernley cross country runs at Oakmont Invitational in California

By Robert Perea
Range Media

The Fernley High School cross country team competed in the Oakmont Cross Country Invitational in Rocklin, Calif., last Saturday, which featured more than 1,000 boys competing in four races and 620 girls in three races. All races were 4,000 meters.

Cael Wilson in the boys varsity and Zachary Petersen in the sophomore boys race ran the fastest times for the Vaqueros, while all five Fernley girls competed in the varsity girls race and finished 30th as a team.

Coach Kristian Slater said all of the runners who ran in the opening meet at Douglas ran a faster time at Oakmont.

“We also had bigger fields than we usually race against, so it was a great opportunity to reflect on staying mentally focused on ourselves and not getting caught up in the race and how everyone else is running,” he said.

Wilson posted a time of 13:37.14 to place 127th in the varsity boys race, which had 338 runners. Daniel Hiles placed 277th in 15:55.12.

In the varsity girls race, which featured 246 runners, Fernley finished 30th as a team with 837 points. Regan Scott placed 182nd with a time of 18:27.26 to lead the Vaqueros.

JoJo Cardinal finished 189th in 18:35.97; Corbyn Gillespie came in 205th with a time of 19:16.22; Wynter Angus ran in 20:20.71 to place 221st; and Kaylee Nicolas was 229th with her time of 21:12.74.

Petersen finished 34th in the sophomore boys race with Fernley’s second-fastest time of the day at 14:31.22. Mason Varner placed 143rd in 16:17.21; Addison Davis finished 190th in 17:14.43; and Cameron



Courtesy Photo
The Fernley High School cross country took part in the Oakmont Invitational last Saturday in Rocklin, Calif.

Farr was 222nd in 18:21.19.

In the freshman boys race, Parker Johnson placed 165th in 18:47.75 and Kirkland Mix finished 201st in 22:10.99.

“I’m really happy with how the team performed today, especially with the challenges of it being some people’s first race, the rough start, and even waking up at 3 a.m. after a school day just to go run for maybe 20 minutes,” Wilson said. “I’m super excited to see what we can all do at the home meet this Friday here in Fernley.”

The Vaqueros will host the Fernley 4K this Friday, with the girls scheduled to start at 3 p.m. and the boys at 3:30 p.m.

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Miscues doom Buckaroos in Northern 3A opener at Dayton



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
The Lowry High School football captains during the coin toss against North Valleys at Mackay Stadium.

Dust Devils take advantage of four turnovers in first win over Lowry since 2007

By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media

The Lowry High School football road-show continued this past Friday, as the Buckaroos opened Northern 3A play at Dayton and concluding a three-game road trip to begin the season.

The Buckaroos caught a break on the night, as the Dust Devils’ Dujé Evans who rushed for over 2,000 yards last year, did



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media

The Lowry High School football team makes its home debut Friday against Elko.

not play after suffering an injury the week before against Hug.

That did not matter, as Boston Moon took over, as Dayton pulled away in the second half to beat Lowry 26-7, for its first win over the Buckaroos since 2007.

If you don’t have the ball, you can’t score and Dayton did a good job of that in the first quarter.

The Dust Devils opening possession last nearly eight minutes but ended with a Buckaroos’ interception at the 1-yard line.

When Lowry had the ball in the first half, it did not end well with the possessions ending in a punt, interception, fumble and interception.

Midway through the second quarter, the Lowry defense held once against and kept Dayton out of the end zone and keep the

contest scoreless.

The Buckaroos’ third turnover of the first half, led to the first points of the night, as Abel Russell connected with River Aiten for a 13-yard touchdown pass with 32 seconds left in the half.

The Dust Devils missed the extra point to lead 6-0 at halftime.

Lowry looked to shake off the slow start, getting the ball first in the third quarter, but after a big loss of yards, followed by a bad snap over the head of quarterback Ben Marvel, Dayton recovered a fumble at th3 2-yard line. The Dust Devils scored moments later to go up 12-0.

Lowry punted on its next possession and moments later Moon put the contest out of reach with an 80-yard touchdown run. The Dust Devils added the 2-point

conversion to lead 20-0.

On the play, Moon was given a 15-yard penalty for excessive celebration, leading Lowry into excellent field position when they got the ball back.

Teyo Gomez ripped off a long run on the first play and as time expired in the third quarter, Marvel scored after the pile he was in moved into the end zone to cut the gap to 20-7.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Russell and Aten connected for the second time on the night, ending any comeback hope.

Lowry makes its home debut at Jerry Tobin Field on Friday, taking on Elko. Elko beat Fernley this past Friday to begin Northern 3A action.

Missed opportunities cost Vaqueros in loss to Elko

By Robert Perea
Range Media

A week after missed opportunities cost the Fernley High School football team a chance to win in Bishop, last Saturday’s trip to Elko turned into another verse of the same song.

The Vaqueros scored on just two of the of five possessions on which they drove inside the Elko 20-yard line, turned the ball over twice and wound up on the short end of a 28-15 scoreboard despite.

“There’s several opportunities that we had that we could have taken advantage of, but we should have put the hammer in the door and kind of walked away with it,” coach Anfernee Sloan said.

Like they did at Bishop, the Vaqueros controlled the ball for long stretches, running 51 offensive plays, not counting penalties.

But unlike in Bishop, Elko matched the Vaqueros in that category, and then some. Elko ran the ball 59 times for 297 yards and also attempted 14 passes, accounting for another 105 yards.

Counting special teams and plays that were nullified by penalties, the teams played more than 160 plays in the game.

“That’s a lot of snaps to play in a high school football game, considering that we only play technically 48 minutes of football,” Sloan said. “You know, the average high school football game is about 110, 120 plays.”

Sloan said both teams seemed to wear down late in the game, but by then Elko had a two-touchdown advantage.

“You can totally see the shift and not

“There’s just a little bit of inconsistency with being able to execute the little things, which is stuff that we can control,” Sloan said. “I think we’re good at sustaining drives and making drives happen, which is huge. Now we gotta be able to finish them.”

— Fernley coach Anfernee Sloan

just our guys, but even their guys, everybody’s kind of losing a step, and now it’s kind of coming down to who can make the big play and make the big stop, who can continue to finish the game while the other ones start to run out of gas a little bit,” he said.

The Vaqueros seemed to be getting the better of things in the early going. After stopping the first two Elko drives, Fernley took its second possession 78 yards in seven plays to score first on a 5-yard run by quarterback Elijah Devold.

Alko’s answer was an 11-play drive for 68 yards and a 4-yard touchdown run by Hagen Robinson, But the Vaqueros blocked the extra point, and led 7-6.

Fernley fumbled and punted on its next two drives, and Elko threatened to take the lead before halftime, but on the 14th play of the Indians’ drive, Fernley’s Kaenan Foster sacked Elko quarterback Adan De Jesus to preserve the lead.

Refreshed by the halftime break, the Vaqueros marched to the Elko 4-yard line on their first drive of the second half,

but were stuffed three plays in a row and turned the ball over on downs.

Elko drove 80 yards in 14 plays to the Fernley 16-yard line, but a touchdown run by De Jesus was called back because of a penalty, and the Indians had to settle for a field goal to take the lead 9-7.

Things then began to snowball on the Vaqueros. Elko capitalized on a Fernley fumble with a 13-yard touchdown by Riott Duke to extend its lead to 21-7.

Fernley answered quickly, aided by a 15-yard penalty on Elko and a 28-yard pass from Devold to Vance Swindlehurst leading to a 1-yard touchdown by Jayden Esparza, but after an onside kick was unsuccessful, Duke ran in from 6-yards to

make it 28-13.

Fernley got the ball back twice, reaching the Elko 11-yard line and the Elko 15-yard line, but couldn’t score either time.

“There’s just a little bit of inconsistency with being able to execute the little things, which is stuff that we can control,” Sloan said. “I think we’re good at sustaining drives and making drives happen, which is huge. Now we gotta be able to finish them.”

The Vaqueros will try to get back on track this week at Sparks, the last of four consecutive road games to start the season. A win would even their overall and league record with their first home game, and Homecoming, against South Tahoe on tap next week.

Sloan said the Vaqueros’ focus is to get back in the win column, and to do that he said they have to eliminated missed tackles, missed opportunities and turnovers.

“We can tackle better. We can win earlier downs. We gotta be able to protect the football. We gotta score the football,” he said. “That’s a football game in a nutshell, but there’s things that we also do to ourselves that we’ve got to be able to control.”

Mustangs’ football games with Reno’s Coral Academy postponed

PCHS takes on GV
Christian at North/South
Challenge in Beatty
By Peggy Jones
Range Media

Pershing County’s football games against Coral Academy have been postponed because of the Hawk Fire.

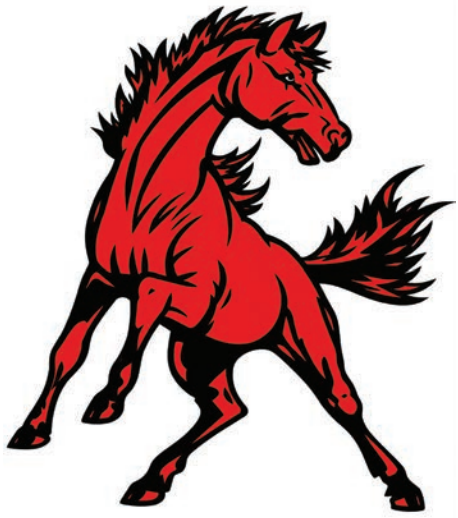
PCHS coach Mike Brooks said many Coral Academy athletes have been displaced or unable to practice because of the fire.

“We wish them the best in this difficult time,” Brooks said.

The Mustangs will next play Saturday, when they travel to Beatty to face Green Valley Christian as part of the North/South Challenge.

Pershing County will play its first home game of the season Friday, Sept. 11, when the Mustangs host Quincy, Calif., in a non-conference match-up.

The postponed varsity game against Coral Academy has been rescheduled for



Friday, Sept. 18, in Lovelock.

The junior varsity game against Coral Academy will also be played in Lovelock the following week, although details have not yet been finalized.

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Battle Mountain boys and girls soccer fall to Dayton, Yerington

Girls play host to Whittell on Friday; boys host Sage Ridge on Saturday

By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media

The Battle Mountain High School boys and girls soccer teams were on its home field for the first time this season, hosting Dayton and Yerington at Tim Knight Field. The Lady Longhorns dropped an 8-0 decision to Dayton on Friday night and suffered a 9-0 loss to Yerington on Saturday. Battle Mountain is back home on Friday to play Whittell at 3 p.m.



The Battle Mountain boys were handed 8-0 losses by Dayton and Yerington, dropping to 0-4 overall and 0-2 in the Northern 2A. The Longhorns' Saturday match versus Sage Ridge was postponed.

Lowry girls soccer team splits with Incline, South Tahoe

Buckaroos return home to play Sparks

By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media

Perhaps, the Lowry High School girls soccer team can look into buying some property in the Lake Tahoe area. The Buckaroos opened their season in South Lake Tahoe for a two-day tournament and were back up in Tahoe last week twice in three days. On Tuesday, Aug. 25, Lowry notched its first victory of the season, beating Incline 8-0, in a match that was shortened by 10 minutes due the NIAA mercy rule. The Buckaroos scored four goals in each half, with the senior duo of Yareli Garcia and Ava Swensen each recording a hat trick, with three goals apiece. Allyson Barajas and Nayeli Andrade netted a goal apiece. Freshman Natalie Renteria dished out three assists and Adalyn Entwistle and Julie Chavez each added an assist.



Lowry returned to South Tahoe on Thursday, Aug. 27, and lost 8-0 to the Vikings. Riley Ball had eight saves for the Buckaroos. The Buckaroos host Sparks on Saturday at 11:45 a.m. and travel to Reno on Monday to face Debbie Smith CTE Academy at 4:45 p.m. Crossover play concludes Friday, Sept. 11, against Wooster in Reno.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
The Lowry High School girls soccer team hosts Sparks on Saturday at 11:45 a.m.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
Lowry's Ava Swensen fends off a Truckee defender from a match earlier in the year in Winnemucca..

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ROBERT PEREA • Range Media
Fernley's Lilliana Perez controls the ball in the middle of the field during the Vaqueros' game last Thursday at Sparks.

Fernley girls soccer evens record with shutout win at Sparks

By Robert Perea
Range Media

The Fernley High School girls soccer team won its second consecutive crossover match against the Northern 3A West with a 9-0 shutout at Sparks on Aug. 27. Eight different players scored goals for the Vaqueros, led by Sabrina Portillo and Blessing Mhondo with two goals each. Melissa Yokoi, Bronwynn Garrett, Tillie Gillespie, Lilliana Perez, Faith Mhondo and Angel Pochop each had one goal, while Garrett added two assists and Judisa

Gonzalez had one. "They played really well," coach Tammie Valentine said. "They moved the ball really well, very well passing." The Vqueros scheduled game against Wooster on Aug. 24 was canceled because Washoe County schools were closed that day due to the Hawk Fire. The Vaqueros are now 3-3 overall and were scheduled to play two more crossover games against the West Division this week, at Incline on Tuesday and at home against South Tahoe at 4:45 p.m. Thursday. They also host Truckee at 4:45 p.m. next Wednesday.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
Lowry's Cruz Flores fights for control of the ball along with an Incline player during Friday's match in Winnemucca.

Arriola's four goals help Lowry beat Incline in wild, high-scoring affair

Most of match played in rainstorm

By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media

It had been a while since the skies opened up in Winnemucca and it was much-needed with a number of wildfires in the Orovalda, Paradise Valley and McDermitt areas. While the rain was coming down, the goals were coming just as quick this past Friday afternoon, as the Lowry High School boys soccer team defeated Incline 7-5 in a Northern 3A crossover. The Buckaroos scored in the opening minute of the match on a breakaway from Cris Arriola and the senior would add three more for good measure in the 9th minute to give Lowry a 2-0 advantage. Incline netted a goal moments later, in the fast-paced match and the Buckaroos and Highlanders traded goals three more times in the first half, with Edward Jones giving Lowry a 4-2 lead in the 40th minute, as his shot from about 25 yards from the right side of the goal found the top of the net. The two teams added six more goals in the second half, with the Buckaroos holding for the win to improve to 3-3-1 on the season. Arriola finished with four goals, with



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
Lowry's Jonathan Leon passes the ball into the box.

one each from Jones, Giovanni Diaz and Josue Barajas. Barajas, a junior, also added an assist. Damian Guillon and Jovani Garcia also added assists. That was Lowry's only match of the week, as the schedule was tweaked and the Buckaroos hosted South Tahoe on Wednesday. Results were not available at press time. Lowry closes out crossover play on Saturday, Sept. 12, in Reno against Debbie Smith CTE Academy at 11:45 a.m.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
Lowry's Caedon Entwistle fights off an Incline player during Friday's match in Winnemucca.

Lowry volleyball sweeps Sparks, Wooster in crossover play

By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media

After a wild ride in the first three weeks of the season, the Lowry High School volleyball team got a chance to settle down and, in that time, picked up two road wins this past weekend.

Lowry swept Sparks 25-18, 25-17 and 26-24 to collect important crossover points.

The Buckaroos found their hitting attack, recording 23, including a team high six from Josie Jenkins and five by Tessa Jenkis. Ragen Terry and Peyton Anguiano each had three kills and Hazen Root contributed two.

Lowry added 16 aces, led by Tessa Jenkins’ four, three each by Yarelli Ojendiz and Root and two by Emma Deputy. Emelia Mentaberry reached double figures in digs with 14, Tessa Jenkins had five and Terry and Root four each.

Tessa Jenkins ended with a team-high 10 assists, with Root adding eight.

Lowry made the short trip across the Reno/Sparks valley to Wooster High School on Saturday.

After going into a little extra time in the first set, where the Buckaroos won 27-25, Lowry cruised in the final two sets 25-13 and 25-19 to complete the sweep.

Lowry hosted Incline on Thursday in its home debut and is back on Pat Hart Court on Friday at noon to play South Tahoe.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
Battle Mountain’s Paitynn Johns looks to finish off a kill against Silver Stage.

Battle Mountain splits home matches with Silver Stage, Sierra Lutheran in Northern 2A action

Longhorns begin stretch four straight matches on the road
By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media

It was one of those weekends where the Battle Mountain High School volleyball dipped its hands into a mixed bag of M&M’s and Skittles and got some mixed results.

Battle Mountain cruised to a 25-13, 25-16, 25-12 victory over Silver Stage on Friday night. Kamilia Farias paced the 20-kill attack with seven, with Paitynn Johns adding six, Ella Matheus five and Keona Colver two.

Matheus and Farias helped the Lady Longhorns with three aces apiece and Colver, Matheus and Miranda Lomeli had two aces.

Sofia Andrade finished with a team-high nine digs, Farias eight, Johns seven, Matheus four and Colver two. Lomeli added 18 assists.

It was a different outcome on Saturday afternoon, as Carson City’s Sierra Lutheran claimed the first two sets 25-15 and 25-20.

Battle Mountain kept the match going, winning the third set 25-20 but the Falcons finished off the match with a 25-16 victory in the fourth set.

The loss evened Battle Mountain’s record at 1-1 in the Northern 2A.

Mathues finished the day with six kills and two aces, with Farias adding four kills and two aces and Johns with three kills and two aces as well.

Lomeli served five aces, to go with 12 assists. The defense was busy with 56 digs, including 14 each from Andrade and Matheus, 12 from Farias and 10 by Johns.

Battle Mountain begins a four-match road trip this weekend, starting Friday in Reno against Coral Academy at 5 p.m. The Longhorns make their way to Tahoe City, Calif., on Saturday to play North Tahoe at noon.

Battle Mountain is back home on Tuesday, Sept. 15, to play Lowry at 6 p.m.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media
Battle Mountain celebrates after winning a point against Silver Stage.



Northern 3A Football Power Rankings —

Does anyone have anything for Fallon?
By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media



As the calendar turns to September, we are already entering the fourth week of play in high school football. The Northern 3A began league play — sans Truckee — who played Galena last Friday. There are nine teams in the league, so one is not playing on a weekly basis.

We are starting to find out a little or a lot in some cases about this league.

1. Fallon (3-0, 1-0): You could probably put the Greenwave No. 1 in the Northern 4A or 5A. After wins over Bishop Manogue and Reed, Fallon has shown it is one of the best teams in northern Nevada.

Third-year coach Calvin Connors has something brewing in the alfalfa fields in Churchill County.

The Greenwave defeated South Tahoe 38-0 last Friday. It was 38-0 at halftime. Coach Connors has a kind heart. He will not be as kind to others the rest of the way.

This week vs. Truckee

2. Spring Creek (2-0, 1-0): This could be your sneaky good team of the Northern 3A. Are they Fallon good, probably not. After a 42-41 win over Weiser, Idaho, to start the year, the Spartans made the long trip to Sparks and rolled past Sparks with ease.

The contest will go nowhere in the long term of the Northern 3A but the Spartans will be tough to deal with this year. We get an early game of the year on Friday with Spring Creek taking on Virgin Valley.

This week vs. Virgin Valley

3. Elko (1-1, 1-0): New coach, new players, same Elko? Time will tell with that one. After a slow start in a sloppy mess at Warrior Field this past Friday, Elko rallied for a 28-15 win over Fernley.

The Vaqueros led 7-6 at halftime, as both teams had trouble with the wet ball and slow field. The Indians scored three, fourth-quarter touchdowns.

This week @ Lowry

4. Truckee (1-1, 0-0): Truckee at No. 4? Yeah, I know. However, these are not the same Wolverines as in the past. We haven’t got a good grasp on Truckee, with a 24-0 loss to Hawaii’s Konawaena and a 26-11 win over Galena.

The biggest problem for Truckee, was getting to Galena because of an accident on Interstate 80.

This week @ Fallon.

5. Fernley (1-2, 0-1): Like Fallon and Lowry, Fernley has not played on its home field yet and we are still learning about them. The Vaqueros routed Coral Academy in week 0 but that was expected. Two straight road trips to Bishop, Calif., and Elko, have Fernley dealing with back-to-back losses. The Vaqueros held at halftime lead over the Indians but could not finish it off.

This week: @ Sparks

6. Dayton (2-1, 1-0): Dayton, a program once on life support, has risen from the ashes to become a decent team. The Dust Devils will have to deal with the loss of running back Duke Evans, who rushed for over 2,000 yards in 2025.

He suffered an arm injury in a 54-0 win over Hug.

That didn’t stop the Dust Devils from dominating Lowry in a 26-7 victory, the first over the Buckaroos since 2007.

This week: vs. South Tahoe

7. South Tahoe (2-1, 0-1): South Tahoe gets this spot, with its win over North Valleys in its season opener. They blew away Wooster but everyone does. The Vikings drew the unfortunate small straw to open with Churchill County. Friday’s game at Dayton could be for a playoff spot.

This week: @ Dayton

8. Lowry (1-2, 0-1): After a big win over Wooster, Lowry had many chances to beat North Valleys at Mackay Stadium. However, miscues and penalties cost the Buckaroos in a 13-7 loss.

This past Friday in Dayton, Lowry had hopes of stopping the Dust Devils, who were without one of the best running backs in the state. All the Buckaroos did, was stop themselves. Their first half possessions included a punt, interception, fumble, interception.

This week vs. Elko

9. Sparks (0-3, 0-1): Sparks has scored seven points in three games this year and it didn’t get much better in the Northern 3A opener versus Spring Creek. The Railroaders struggles continue. Could they be the next team to go independent?

This week vs. Fernley

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Fernley Vaqueros at Sparks Railroaders



The Fernley Reporter – Sports Home of the Vaqueros

Silver Stage begins Northern 2A slate with pair of road matches

Nighthawks travel to Yerington on Friday; host Pershing County on Saturday
By Tony Erquiaga
Range Media

The Silver Stage High School volleyball team headed out this past weekend for one of its longest road trips on its Northern 2A schedule.

The Nighthawks’ first stop was on Friday night in Battle Mountain, with the Longhorns winning in a sweep 25-13, 25-16 and 25-12.

Silver Stage is 1-8 overall and 0-2 in the Northern 2A.

Sophomore Priscilla Hesselguesser finished off six of Silver Stage’s 13 kills, with Aliyah Diaz, Samantha Sell and Brooke Lehman each recording two kills apiece.

Lauren Broughton and Hesselguesser had one block apiece, with Joselyn Fayaud earning a team-high 13 digs.

Robin Smith added seven digs and Morgyn Phoenix, Lehman and Broughton with four digs each. Smith contributed four assists as well.

Silver Stage made its way to the Nevada/Utah border on Saturday to take on West Wendover. The Wolverines swept the match 25-14, 25-22, 25-16.

The Nighthawks’ Annabelle Glass picked up two kills, with one each from Lehman and Hesselguesser. Broughton, Hesselguesser and Diaz were busy at the net with four, three and two blocks, respectfully, and Diaz added two aces.

Fayaud had a team-high 12 digs, Leh-



Above left: Silver Stage’s Morgyn Phoenix finishes off a kill against Battle Mountain. Right: Priscilla Hesselguesser tips the ball over the net.



TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media

man eight and Smith and Hesselguesser six digs apiece.

Silver Stage hosted Sierra Lutheran on Wednesday and results were not available at press time.

The Nighthawks make the short trip to Yerington Friday for a 5 p.m. start and host Pershing County on Saturday at 11 a.m.

TONY ERQUIAGA • Range Media

Silver Stage’s Joselyn Fayaud sets the ball for a teammate..



Lady Mustangs open league play with three-set sweep over Bighorns

By Peggy Jones
Range Media

The Pershing County High School volleyball team opened Northern 2A league play on a high note Wednesday, Aug. 26, sweeping Oasis Academy before running into a tough North Tahoe squad two days later.

Although Pershing County fell to the Lakers in three sets Friday, the Mustangs gained ground with each set and gave Coach Monica Halverson plenty to like about the direction her team is headed.

Pershing County opened league play on the road against Oasis, sweeping the Bighorns 25-16, 25-17 and 25-18. The JV



Marti Nolan • Provided to Range Media
Arya Garland, Khloe Montes and Jerzie Jones prepare to defend the back row during Pershing County’s league match against North Tahoe.

team fell in two sets.

Halverson said the season opener was an encouraging start for both squads.

“It was an amazing way to officially kickstart the 2A season,” she said.

Khloe Montes had a strong opening match with six aces, three kills and five digs. Katelynn Elerick added four aces, four kills, four assists and two digs.

Halverson also praised Jerzie Jones, who finished with three aces and three digs.

“She had an incredible game with a newfound confidence,” Halverson said. “She is one of our best passers on the court and has worked super hard to get where she is.”

Avani Rosas contributed five assists and two digs, while Arya Garland recorded three back-row kills, eight digs and an assist. Whitlee Diaz added two aces and two digs.

The JV Mustangs lost in two sets, but Halverson said the young team kept its composure despite some opening-match nerves.

“Seeing the progress they have made since tryouts is so exciting,” she said. “Our future for volleyball is bright and tough.”

Mustangs Battle North Tahoe

Pershing County continued league play Friday at North Tahoe, where the varsity Mustangs fell to the Lakers 12-25, 16-25 and 18-25.

The scores showed steady improvement as the match progressed, and Halverson said the Mustangs became increasingly competitive against a strong North Tahoe team.

“We had a ton of exciting rallies, better



Marti Nolan • Provided to Range Media
Cami Watson goes up for a block as teammates Khloe Montes and Magdalena Ramirez cover during Pershing County’s league match at North Tahoe.

coverage and action at the net, and we were really playing strategically,” she said.

Montes recorded three aces, two kills and two blocks. Cami Watson finished with four kills and three blocks, while Elerick had four kills, four assists and three digs. Garland contributed two back-row kills and a team-high 12 digs.

Halverson singled out Montes, Watson and Elerick for their consistent performances.

“North Tahoe always brings the heat, but we held our own,” she said. “When we play them again, it will be a fantastic game.”

The JV team also fell in two sets. Halverson said the players are continuing to find their groove as they learn their rotations and how to compete together.

League Schedule Continues

The Mustangs were scheduled to continue league play at Yerington on Wednesday, Sept. 2. Results were not available by press time.

Pershing County travels to Silver Stage on Saturday for another league match-up, with the Nighthawks hosting JV and varsity matches.

The Mustangs will make their home debut Friday, Sept. 11, against Coral Academy. The match times have been changed to 10 and 11 a.m. because of transportation issues for Coral Academy.

Halverson said the team is looking forward to its first opportunity to play at home this season.



Marti Nolan • Provided to Range Media
Jerzie Jones sends the ball over the net during Pershing County’s three-set victory over Oasis Academy in the Mustangs’ 2A league opener.

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Nevada set to face Saint Mary’s Gaels at inaugural Caesars Lake Tahoe Classic

Four games to be featured on the day
University of Nevada Athletics

RENO — Total Sports Consulting, in partnership with Caesars Entertainment, are hosting the inaugural Caesars Lake Tahoe Classic, a premier opening-week college basketball showcase taking place Sunday, Nov. 8, at Tahoe Blue Event Center in Lake Tahoe.

Nevada will face Saint Mary’s at 1:30 pm at Tahoe Blue Event Center.

Tickets for the 2026 Caesars Lake Tahoe Classic are on sale through Ticketmaster and The Avari Box Office at the Tahoe Blue Event Center. The event will

feature two separate sessions, and fans can purchase tickets to either session or take advantage of a discounted two-session package providing access to all four games.

Premium court side seating, suites, hospitality experiences and group ticket packages will also be available.

Session 1

Game 1: 11 AM: Cal-W vs. San Francisco-W

Game 2: 1:30 PM: Nevada vs. Saint Mary’s

Session 2

Game 3: 5:30 PM: Houston vs. California

Game 4: 8 PM: USC vs. Wichita State

Patriotic UNLV helmet design unveiled for Oct. 10 homecoming game

UNLV Athletics

UNLV football on Monday unveiled a special helmet design it will wear for its Homecoming game vs. North Dakota State on Oct. 10.

The white helmet with a red face-mask will feature a red decal using the same distinct mid-1970s font spelling out UNLV REBELS flanked by an image of the famous Minute Man Statue located in Concord, Massachusetts.

The patriotic look is in honor of the UNLV helmet that was worn only during the 1976 season while the nation celebrated its Bicentennial.

The 1976 Rebels were quarterbacked by UNLV Hall of Famer Glenn Carano, who

led his team to a 9-3 record that included a NCAA Division II playoff appearance.

Dan Mullen’s squad will wear the helmet for one game to commemorate the 50th anniversary of that 1976 team while also celebrating our nation’s semiquincentennial.

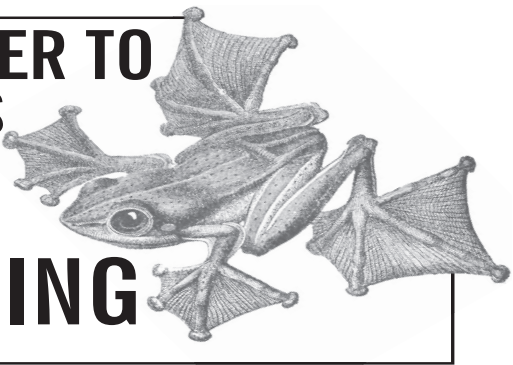
Carano, who remains UNLV’s all-time winningest quarterback, served as the keynote speaker at Monday’s Inaugural Governor’s Dinner at Allegiant Stadium and was presented the prototype of the helmet by UNLV Director of Athletics Erick Harper in appreciation.

UNLV opens Mountain West play this Saturday by traveling to Hawai’i. The game will be televised nationally by The CW starting at 7 p.m. PT.



Courtesy UNLV

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Opening season win —



Courtesy Photo

The Battle Mountain High School girls golf team started its season off on a high, claiming first place at the Spring Creek tournament on Thursday, Aug. 27. Senior Jaylee Jorgensen was the individual champion as well.

Bighorns to take on Sierra Lutheran, Yerington this weekend

By Robert Perea
Range Media

Coming off a pair of losses in their first two Northern 2A matches of the season, the Oasis Academy volleyball team will be back in action twice this weekend taking on Sierra Lutheran and Yerington.

On Aug. 26, the Bighorns lost to Lovelock 25-16, 25-17, 25-18. On Aug. 28, North Tahoe handed them a 25-16, 25-12, 25-13 loss.

Coach Jalana Bell said her team has improved since last season.

“We have a couple of adjustments we want to make this week, but overall, I’m really proud of the progress the team has made since last year,” Bell said. “The girls have been working hard, and we’re excited to get back in the gym this week to continue to build as a team and prepare for our upcoming matches against Yerington and Sierra Lutheran.”

The Bighorns are scheduled to play at Sierra Lutheran at 5 p.m. Friday and at Yerington at noon Saturday.

Fallon soccer —

Staff Report

The Fallon girls soccer team split its weekend matches, beating Incline 80 on Friday before losing 30 at South Tahoe on Saturday. No statistics were reported for either match.

The Greenwave host Sparks at 4:45

p.m. this Friday, then play at Wooster at 3:30 p.m. next Wednesday and at Debbie Smith at 4:45 p.m. next Thursday.

The Fallon boys soccer team was scheduled to play this week at South Tahoe on Tuesday at Incline at 4 p.m.

Thursday and at Truckee at 4:45 p.m. Friday. Next week they are scheduled to host Dayton at 6 p.m. Sept. 10.

Fallon volleyball sweeps Wooster

Greenwave set to play in High Sierra Invitational this weekend
By Robert Perea
Range Media

The Churchill County High School volleyball team dominated Wooster at the net to sweep its second match of the season last Thursday, 25-15, 25-16, 25-9.

With a balanced frontline attack, the Greenwave tallied 27 kills in the match to just six for the Colts. Senior Audrey Fruzza had nine of the kills for the Greenwave, while Kadence Wiessmer had five and both Hayden Dooley and Sutton Yost

added four.

Kalaya Downs dished out 19 assists and added three kills, while Dooley also served five aces among her 14 service points.

This week the Greenwave is scheduled to host South Tahoe at 6 p.m. Thursday, then play Friday and Saturday in the High Sierra Volleyball Invitational at the Swift Sportsdome in Reno.

The Greenwave is scheduled to play Ripon (CA) at 1 p.m. Friday and Nevada Union (Grass Valley, CA) at 2 p.m. and would play at either 4:30 or 5:30 p.m. depending on the pool results.

There are 27 teams entered in the tournament and each team is guaranteed six matches in a best-of-3 format.

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JOHN BAKER • Provided to Range Media
Tonopah's Dustin Otteson leaps over Round Mountain's Travis Tranah in the Muckers 8-20 win Friday night in Tonopah.

Round Mountain volleyball beats Tonopah; Muckers take football game

Courtesy of John Baker

On Friday night, the Knights of Round Mountain traveled to Tonopah to renew their rivalry with the Muckers.

The night began with the ladies on the volleyball court. All sets went back and forth with each team leading at different points, but the Lady Knights ultimately won in straight sets: 25-21, 25-20, 25-19.

The night concluded with 8-man football. Round Mountain started with a good drive down the field until Wyatt Miller intercepted the ball in the end zone.

The Muckers also drove down the field but fumbled the ball and the Knights recovered it on the 3-yard line.

On the ensuing play, Gunner Olsen took the ball to the house and after the two-point conversion, the Knights were up 8-0. From there, the Muckers took control of the game, led by Dustin Otteson and went into halftime with a 66-8 lead.

The game finished with Tonopah winning the game 80-20 and Otteson with 445 yards and eight touchdowns.



JOHN BAKER • Provided to Range Media
Tonopah's Wyatt Miller hauls in a pass during Friday's game with Round Mountain.



JOHN BAKER • Provided to Range Media
Above: Tonopah's Jessie Mendoza dives to the floor for a dig.



Pyramid Lake opens football season, volleyball falls to Owyhee in four sets

Staff Report

The Pyramid Lake High School football team opened its season with a 53-6 loss at Indian Springs last Friday.

Sophomore Max Padilla led the Lakers with 72 yards rushing on eight carries and a touchdown.

The Lakers are off this week and return to action Sept. 10 at Hawthorne. They are scheduled to host Carlin on Sept. 17 for

their home opener.

On Aug. 27, the Pyramid Lake volleyball team lost a non-league match to Owyhee 20-25, 22-25, 25-15, 19-25.

The Lakers were 1-4 before heading to Smith Valley on Tuesday for their 1A Western League match.

They are schedule to host Sage Ridge next Tuesday and play at Hawthorne next Thursday.



PEGGY JONES • Range Media
Nayeli Acosta, Desaray Vidrio and Fatima Arteaga move the ball up the field during the Mustangs' match against Yerington.

PCHS soccer battles through tough week

Mustangs head to Ely for two games on Sept. 11-12, against White Pine

By Peggy Jones
Range Media

The Pershing County High School girls soccer team faced two of its toughest opponents of the season last week, falling to Yerington 8-1 and Dayton 6-0.

Despite the lopsided scores, Coach Kelly Brooks said Pershing County continued to play hard throughout both matches and saw strong performances from its defense, midfield and goalkeeper Lily Reynolds.

"The girls played really hard and fought until the bitter end of both games," Brooks said.

Camila Garcia scored the Mustangs' lone goal of the week against Yerington. Nayeli Acosta took a corner kick that was deflected by the Yerington goalkeeper, and Garcia was in position to put the loose ball into the net for an unassisted goal.

Brooks praised the work of midfielders Mary McBride, Josie Brooks, Acosta, Garcia and Aaliyah Lora.

"Our midfield outdid themselves with the work they put in," Brooks said.

She said the Mustangs need to improve on moving the ball up the field and maintaining possession in their attacking end.

The defense of Desaray Vidrio, Elanie DeLosReyes, Mili Gonzales and Fatima Arteaga also worked throughout the two difficult matches, while Reynolds turned in strong performances in goal.

"Despite the goal differentials, we played really well with strong performances from our defense and keeper Lily Reynolds," Brooks said.

The match against Dayton was particularly physical, with each team receiving



PEGGY JONES • Range Media
Pershing senior Alejandra Piñeda battles for the ball during the Mustangs' match against Yerington.

one red card and one yellow card. A yellow card serves as a warning for a serious foul or misconduct, while a red card removes a player from the game.

The Mustangs also had some extra support from their fellow Pershing County athletes during the Yerington match.

Members of the volleyball team came to the soccer field after practice to cheer on the soccer team.

Pershing County travels to Quincy, California, on Friday, Sept. 4, before returning home Saturday, Sept. 5, to host Whittell at 9 a.m.

The Mustangs then travel to Ely for games Sept. 11 and 12 against White Pine before returning home Sept. 15 to host Battle Mountain at 6 p.m.



PEGGY JONES • Range Media
Members of the PCHS volleyball team cheer on the Mustangs soccer team during its home match against Yerington.

Exercise your brain!

Read The Newspaper.

Scouting for Fall Hunts

Into the Wild

Commentary by Tom Claycomb

A lot of hunters think they don't have time to scout but the fact of the matter is that you're going to scout. You either scout preseason or you waste the first 2-3 days of your hunt scouting.

I understand the dilemma that you're in. Most hunters are lucky to have 2-weeks of vacation.

You can't justify hunting for a week and using the other week scouting thereby leaving no time for family vacations. So, what do you do?

What if you use family camping trips for scouting? Wake up before daylight Saturday morning and go scout until 10:00. Then run back to camp and wake up everyone and cook them breakfast and spend the rest of the day with them.

Or run out a few Saturdays and scout. Use summer flyfishing trips to scout. You get my drift. Do the most you can with what precious little free time you have. It may not be perfect but do the best you can with what you have.

I'm convinced, the hunters that year after year get big bucks/bulls scout. A lot. If you scout real early before season realize, a lot can change by the time hunting season rolls around.

Fires can totally change things. If a pack of wolves move in, they can scatter everything. If you scout early, it's smart to re-scout one last time right before season.

Due to all of the factors that can change things it's smart to have 2-3 areas scouted out. What if on opening day a pile of hunters are camped in your spot. Decades ago, we black powder hunted over in Colorado.

Unbeknownst to us the Rainbow People were having some kind of convention in our hotspot. I guess I can't exactly say they were walking around naked since the one my buddy saw did have on socks and boots.

Needless to say, we had to move. Morale to the story-have 2-3 spots scouted out. I remember on my first elk we moved camp three times.



Provided to Range Media

A straight spotting scope is a pain to glass out of. You have to be a contortionist to use one.

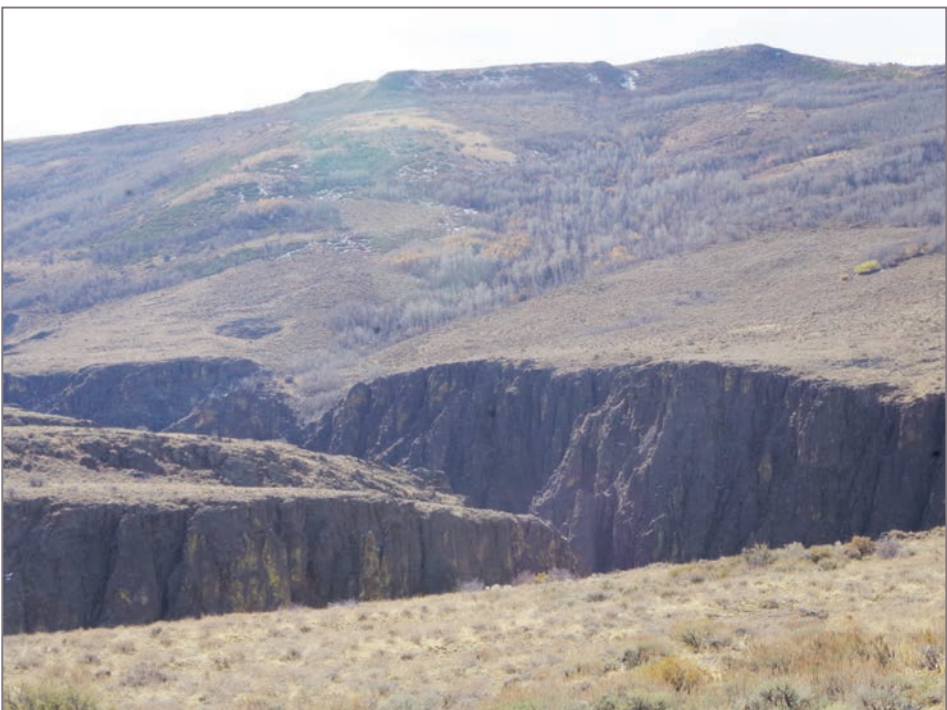
I discovered long ago it's smart to buy the best glass you can afford. Everyone's on a budget but buy the best you can afford and you'll never regret it. Thirty years ago, to get the best glass you had to buy from one of the big three European optic companies.

Now? There are a lot of American companies that have jumped up for a lot less of the cost. The last 5-7 years I've been using Vortex optics and can't tell a nickels worth of difference in them and some of the European optics.

I don't want to say that scouting is easy but it's easier than hunting. You can set on a high ridge and glass. If you see a big buck/bull 1-mile off you don't have to hike over and get up close and personal. Just mark the canyon where he's feeding/bedding and then come back and hunt it.

To really glass, you've got to have a spotting scope. If not, then you're going to miss a lot of game.

I'm in the process of getting onX Hunt. With it you can mark your spots and find them in the dark or coming in from a new direction. onX Hunt is a cool tool.



Provided to Range Media

Why drive 20 miles to get around a canyon when you can glass it from where you are?

Glassing works best early/late when animals are moving but I've spotted plenty of animals that were bedded down. This is especially true when mule deer are bedded down under sagebrush. Look for horns sticking up above the brush/grass.

Even though you may be glassing far distances, don't set on top where they can skyline you. Set-up down off the ridge a bit. The ground is rocky.

Carry a pad or else you just won't glass as much as you should. Better yet, carry a small backpacking chair. That way you'll be slightly elevated above the brush/grass and able to see over the top.

It goes without saying, use a tripod with a spotting scope. Otherwise, you won't be able to hold steady enough to see. Buy a spotting scope with an angled eyepiece or you'll have to be a contortionist to be able to use it.

I was coming down from backpacking a few days ago. Near sundown, an ok buck nonchalantly crossed the road. I'll probably go back up there archery hunting and try to get him. Always be scouting.

Scouting is fresh on my mind. I drew a bull tag down in the Owyhee's. By the time you read this article I'll already be scouting. I'm going to scout for a month before season and hopefully get the bull of a lifetime. Get to scouting and get a big one!

I was about to submit this article and just thought of another angle. Scouting is best early and late in the day. I'm going to camp out and scout a good bit but I'm also going to do some day runs.

I think I'll take an awning and a chair and set it up noon-5:00 and read some books and relax.

I just received two books by Graham Mott titled HOOKED BY FLY FISHING and MORE BIG GAME HUNTING TALES. The hunting book is a compilation of articles his granddad wrote decades ago. I love old stories like these.

Also offers them in audio version. I also have a book by Mia Sheppard titled THE OUTFITTERS CAMP COOKBOOK).

Tom Claycomb is an outdoor enthusiast that writes a bi-monthly column for Range Media.



Provided to Range Media

Buy a spotting scope with an angled eyepiece.

NIL-fueled parity shakes up title odds, with 7 teams at 11-1 or better to win title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — There was a time not long ago when maybe four and possibly five schools had a realistic shot at the national championship — and Indiana certainly wasn't one of them.

But name, image and likeness has changed the landscape of college football, bringing more teams into the mix.

And the odds reflect that.

Seven teams are, depending on the sportsbook, 11-1 odds or greater to win the national title when it's played Jan. 25 in Las Vegas.

No. 1 Ohio State, No. 4 Notre Dame and No. 5 Texas are each +650 or better to win it all at the major sportsbooks, with No. 6 Indiana, No. 2 Oregon and No. 3 Georgia not far behind. No. 7 Miami is 10-1 at DraftKings Sportsbook and Caesars Sportsbook and 11-1 at BetMGM Sportsbook.

"I think it was kind of evident even last year where it was more parity," said Joey Feazel, Caesars' head of football. "I don't think going in that everybody thought Miami and Indiana were going to be playing for the national championship, and that's spilled over into this season as well, where it's a little bit more wide open."

Sportsbooks have to keep up on player movement thanks to the transfer portal, which can seriously affect odds.

There also have been a handful of court cases that have determined if some players are eligible to play and others are not.

"It's harder in this offseason," BetMGM sports trader Seamus Magee said. "If you're up to date on the news faster



than — forget just us — anywhere else on the market, you can find a really good number before the season. But then a lot of variance comes into play."

Easier path for the Irish

One reason Notre Dame is +650 at BetMGM and 6-1 at DraftKings and Caesars is because the independent doesn't have the gauntlet of a schedule Big Ten and Southeastern Conference schools tend to face.

The Fighting Irish don't play a ranked team until they visit No. 14 BYU on Oct. 17. No. 7 Miami on Nov. 7 and No. 19 SMU on Nov. 21, both at home, are the other ranked opponents.

Johnny Avello, director of race and

sports for DraftKings, pushed back some on the notion Notre Dame has an easy path, pointing out the Irish two years ago lost to Northern Illinois.

"Their path's not bad," Avello said. "If you're in the SEC, certainly you've got a tough game almost each and every week. You're in the Big Ten, you've got a tough game each and every week. Being an independent, they have a schedule with a couple of decent teams. They should win at least 10 this year."

Longhorns and Ducks in similar situations

If Ohio State or Notre Dame don't win the national championship, Texas is the team most likely to capture the title, if the odds are to be believed. The Longhorns are +650 at three major sportsbooks.

Oregon is close behind at +750 at DraftKings and Caesars and 8-1 at BetMGM.

Both programs have been among the nation's best, but haven't been able to close the deal in recent seasons.

Magee, however, said a credible case can be made this season is different, saying both rosters are championship level. Bettors agree.

"I think they're No. 3 and 4 in most-bet teams to win the title," Magee said. "I don't think a lot of bettors are looking at what's happened in the past at these schools."

Is there another Hoosiers team out there?

Gamblers often like to look for big payoffs in futures bets, and Avello said a good amount of money has come in on Oklahoma State (400-1), Kentucky (450-1) and UCLA (750-1), the hope being they will be the next Indiana.

The Hoosiers were 100-1 at one point last season winning the title.

"We all overlooked them," Avello said. "They had better players than we thought. You're not going to get a team like an Illinois or a Kansas State to win it all ... because you've got to have the horses to get it done. The playoff, it's not a one-game affair. Once you make it, you have to win (three or) four games and that's not easy."

Carr and Manning favorites for the Heisman

Notre Dame quarterback CJ Carr is slightly favored over Texas QB Arch Manning to win the Heisman Trophy.

Bettors might remember last season, however, when then-Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza seemed to come out of nowhere to win the Heisman, defying pre-season odds where he was as high as 60-1.

"We'll see a lot of action those first couple of weeks as that market starts to shape up and you start to see one candidate start to pull away a little bit more," Feazel said. "Right now, 7-1 being the favorite, that's still pretty high until the first couple of weeks where we'll start to see a 3- or 4-1."