

LOCAL COLLEGE SPORTS

Bench players will be key for UVSC against Portland St.

Neil K. Warner
DAILY HERALD

Sometimes Richard Troyer has trouble catching his breath and once in a while Ryan Toolson hits iron when his legs get tired.

Even Jordan Brady needs a breather once in a while.

Utah Valley State coach Dick Hunsaker knows that playing your starters too long can be too much of a good thing. With that in mind, one of the keys to the season for Utah Valley State (3-3) continues to be how well its bench players perform.

It is one of the story lines to watch when Wolverines (3-3) host Portland State (3-3) of the Big Sky Conference tonight at 7:05 p.m. at the McKay Events Center for a homecoming game. "We're trying to develop and build a bench. It's difficult for anyone to play 40 minutes,"

Hunsaker said. "Jabir (Jinna) has been shooting the ball well and we've seen some good things from Matt Komenda."

Jinna, a 6-foot junior guard, scored a career-high 15 points last week against Great Falls and set a new career high on Wednesday night against San Francisco, has turned in instant offense off the bench.

He now leads the team in field-goal percentage (.576) based on more than five attempts and is shooting better from the three-point line (12-of-16, .750) than the team is shooting from the free throw line (.717).

Another key player off the bench has been Matt Komenda, who is averaging 3.8 points and 3.7 rebounds per game in his 13 minutes of work. He scored 12 points and pulled down five rebounds in 21 minutes against Troy.

"I've been impressed with

UVSC game day

Opponent: Portland State

Conference: Big Sky

Record: UVSC 3-3, Portland State 3-3

Leading scorers: Portland State — Scott Morrison 11.7

UVSC — Ryan Toolson 19.5

Series Record: Portland State 1-0

TV: Comcast channel 17 (in Utah County). MSTAR and IProvo channel 15.

Radio: KSTAR 1400 AM — Steve Watts, David Heck, Matt Peterson



our team. We have been in every game and we made a significant step up in scheduling," Hunsaker said. "Portland is the only Big Sky team would could get on our schedule and that is a return game."

Portland State comes into

the game with a 3-3 record. The Vikings lost to UCLA (69-48) and Colorado State (64-63) and UC Davis (76-68). The Vikings feature four players who score in double figures. Scott Morrison leads the team in scoring with 11.7 points per

game and is shooting a team-high .648 from the field.

Jeremiah Dominguez is second on the team in scoring at 11.3 per game and is the team's top 3-point threat making 16 of 36 attempts (.444).

The game will have live radio coverage on KSTAR 1400 AM with Steve Watts calling the play-by-play action. Former UVSC players David Heck and Matt Peterson will offer game analysis.

Tonight's game will also be the first television broadcast of the season and can be seen live on Comcast channel 17 (in Utah County) as well as MSTAR and IProvo channel 15. The game will also be available on-demand.

Utah Valley will head back out on the road next week when the Wolverines head to Cal State Northridge and UC Santa Barbara.



MARK JOHNSTON/Daily Herald

UVSC's Jordan Brady (32) shoots over Westminster's Danny Stosich on Nov. 5.

Robbins hits last-second bucket for UVSC win

DAILY HERALD

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Robyn Fairbanks scored 28 points including the game-winning bucket with 6.9 seconds



UVSC 83
OHIO 81

night.

Fairbanks hit to go ahead baskets in the final minute as the Wolverines have now won 10 straight dating back to last season.

to go as Utah Valley moved to 7-0 on the year with a thrilling 83-81 win over Ohio at the Air Force Classic on Friday

The win puts the UV in the championship game against host Air Force at 4:30pm MT. Air Force defeated Hampton 85-84 in overtime in the opening game.

Sandy Marvin added 24 points and kept Utah Valley in the game in the first half while Fairbanks and third leading scorer Julie McMurray were both plagued by foul trouble.

Asumi Nakayama had 10 points and five assists, Rebekah Peterson had nine points and nine rebounds and Hollie Beaman added seven assists for the Wolverines, who overcame a four-point halftime deficit to earn the win.

Ohio (2-3) was led by Jennifer Bushby's 15 points off the bench but star Lauren Kohn,

who came in averaging over 19 points per game, was held to six points by the Wolverine defense.

The game was tight the entire way as team led by more than eight points. Utah Valley took a 70-64 lead on a Fairbanks bucket with 8:05 left in the game but the Bobcats slowly chipped away and eventually took the lead on a Quintana Wark three-pointer with 3:22 left.

Fairbanks hit a free-throw and Marvin scored a left-handed layup to put UV back in front, 79-77 with 1:46 left.

Ohio tied it again on a Kohn layup with 59 seconds left before Fairbanks hit the first of her two big shots in the final minute with 46 seconds to go.

Bushby tied it again, the eighth and final tie of the game, before Fairbanks' heroics gave Utah Valley the win

► **UVSC wrestling:** At Las Vegas, Ben Kjar headlined nine Utah Valley wrestlers in the freshman from Centerville, Utah posted a 4-1 record at the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational.

Kjar will advance to take on fifth-seeded Gabe Flores from Illinois. If Kjar wins that match he will finish in the top-eight in the 125-pound weight division.

The Las Vegas Invitational is the toughest competition UV has seen this year and annually draws some of the best wrestlers in the country.

"Ben is really wrestling well,"

UV head coach Greg Williams said. "There were some matches that pointed out things he needs to work on. But he continues to improve."

Kjar started as the 11th seed and beat Purdue's Akif Gren 6-1 in the opening round of the tournament. In the second round, Kjar pinned Jason Blasted (3:34) of Mesa State to advance to the round of 16.

In the 16, Kjar went head-to-head with sixth-seeded Rollee Peterkin of Penn. Peterkin beat Kjar 11-4 in a match that was closer than the score would indicate.

Kjar responded, winning decisions over Rider's Mitch Fenton (6-4) and Navy's Joey Boon (7-3).

Jeff Newby (141) and Nate

Kearsley (157) also picked up multiple wins for the Wolverines as each posted 2-2 records at the tournament.

► **UVSC women's golf:** At Orem, Texas native Brittany Butler has signed a letter of intent to play for the Utah Valley Women's Golf team beginning in 2008-09, Director of Golf Clark Rustand announced Friday. Butler is currently a senior at Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas.

"She's really excited to be coming here to play and we share that enthusiasm," said women's head coach Denise Larson. "She's a top player that will be able to fill in for the seniors we are going to lose at the end of this year."

BYU Hoops

Continued from C1

That starts with 2-5 Portland tonight in an 8 p.m. MT contest.

"What would've taken 15 minutes before of us explaining how good BYU really is," Reveno said, "is now a 15-second conversation. Players will look at the ranking, who they played, who they beat. Hey, these guys are good and everyone here understands that. From a coach's perspective, I enjoy playing sound, well-coached basketball teams — teams that you watch tape and you learn stuff from."

It's an added bonus for Portland to get a game like this. Although this year the Pilots have faced Oregon in their 4,852-seat arena, thanks to a long-term contract that alternates sites with the Ducks; the only other time such hype follows the team is when it gets to play host to West Coast Conference member Gonzaga.

Portland is young, consisting of three freshmen in the starting lineup. Sophomore starting point guard Taishi Ito recently returned home to Japan because of a death in the family, leaving the team even more



FILE/AP

North Carolina's Alex Stephenson, left, and Brigham Young's Trent Plaisted fight for position during the first half on Nov. 24.

vulnerable.

The Pilots could use a big crowd on their side. The question is, will they get it in their favor? BYU sophomore center Chris Miles returned from an LDS mission to Portland over the summer. He loved every bit of the town, and can even recommend a good restaurant or tourist site.

He's kept in touch with folks back there, and he said there are a lot of Cougar fans await-

ing Elder Miles and Co. He bet that half the crowd, whatever size it turned out to be, would be rooting for his team.

"I'm curious what the crowd will be like," said Reveno, in his second year at Portland after nine years as an assistant at Stanford, where he once aggressively recruited current BYU center Trent Plaisted out of Texas. "We're based on how the arena's going," Reveno said. "It gives us a lot of ener-

gy. We can get a great student crowd here, like we did against Oregon. That gets you excited about how things could be. But it's not always like that. I'd like it to be rockin' when BYU is here."

Portland lost by 24 points to Oregon on Nov. 17. The deficit was two at halftime, thanks to a buzzer-beating UO bucket, and the Pilots ran out of energy. A crowd can only cajole a team so much.

Reveno anticipates two teams that at least attempt to play similarly: Good defensive tenacity, rebounding and trying to stay under control. Neither team will full-court pressure anyone to death, but they both can get physical.

The difference, Reveno said, is his team, "turns it over way too much. I'm hoping that's because we're early in the season, not because we're early in years."

Tying last year's highest ranking, and entering the polls at the earliest time since the 1980-81 season, BYU coach Dave Rose's challenge will be to get the Cougars to perform just as highly as they did against top-tier competition.

Not that BYU anticipates a problem.

"We showed everyone we can compete with high-level teams, and we didn't make shots that great in either game," said junior Lee Cummar, who's especially eager to play coming off a loss to UNC, because he was in foul trouble most of the night. "I think we're focused, ready to put it on people, no matter who it is."

The ranking is an added treat for Rose, who no doubt wants to see how his team handles the challenge. BYU, the defending league champion that was picked to win the Mountain West Conference again this year, will get everyone's best shot come January.

That pressure has been hastened.

► **BYU women's basketball:**

Two nights after losing to No. 2 Connecticut on Thursday, the BYU women's basketball team will try to bounce back today when it plays at Sacred Heart in Fairfield, Conn.

The Cougars, who will tip off against Sacred Heart at 2 p.m. today, will try to improve on their 3-3 record before coming back to Provo for two home games next week.

Today's game can be heard on KOVO 960 AM.



NO. 21 BYU AT PORTLAND

Today, 8 p.m.
Chiles Center (4,852)

► **BYU leads the overall series, 2-1**

► **Radio:** KSL 1160 AM (102.7 FM)

► **Tip-ins:** Portland's roster is young, but basketball fans will likely recognize at least two starters' last names — sophomore G Nik Raivio (brother of former Gonzaga star, Derek) and freshman F Luke Sikma (son of longtime NBA player, Jack). ...Junior BYU C Trent Plaisted has scored at least 20 points in three of the last four games. The teams have one common opponent, Idaho State; BYU won in Provo by 31 points while Portland won on a neutral court (Oregon State) by 24. ... BYU will next play Dec. 5 at home against Weber State.

Snow

Continued from C1

"The Zions Bank Top of the Mountains Bowl was organized with this very game in mind — an NJCAA championship," said Kevin White, executive director of the Zions Bank Top of the Mountains Bowl Committee. "We have the right teams, the right venue and the right support from sponsors, fans and media to stage this game."

The game could be the last as a Badger for Snow head coach Steve Coburn, who has become a hot commodity, thanks to his 22-1 in two seasons as head coach. The Badgers are the Western States Football League champions for

the second straight year and third in five seasons.

Snow's offense and defense are both second in the NJCAA statistically. The Badgers allow just 155 yards a game — 48 yards rushing and 107 yards passing.

Defensively, the Badgers are led by linebacker Shane Hunter with 48 tackles, including 10.5 sacks. Defensive end Coleby Clawson has eight sacks and Andrew Rich, a safety, leads the team with 100 tackles.

Snow offense is led by Soni Sotele (1,317 yards and 18 touchdowns). Quarterback Jon Eastman completed 79-of-132 passes for 1,403 yards and 13 touchdowns in just six games. Eastman broke a foot midseason but returned to quarter-

back Snow for the final two regular season games.

Butler brings the nation's longest winning streak into the game — 14-0 dating back to last season. Butler's defense is rated seventh in the NJCAA, giving up just 226 yards per game — 74 rushing and 152 passing. The defense is led by Markus White, a defensive end who had 85 tackles, including 24.5 sacks.

Butler's offense is led by Beau Johnson, who has racked up 1,546 yards and scored 15 touchdowns.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, children and senior citizens. University, college and high school students may purchase tickets for \$5 with a student ID.

The game will be televised on KJZZ TV.



GARY DART/Snow College

Snow's Adam Frandsen and the Snow Badgers will play for the JUCO National Championship today at noon.

Volleyball

Continued from C1

Cougars record a .321 hitting percentage and improve to 12-0 on the year when attacking over .300.

Hansen got BYU off to a fast start with a kill on the first serve as the Cougars scored the first eight points of Game

1. Goodman's serving run included two aces and three kills from Lott until Ole Miss finally got on the board at 8-1. The Cougars continued to apply pressure to earn a 13-6 lead; however, an Ole Miss run got the Rebels to within two points at 13-11, prompting a BYU timeout. Back-to-back Cougar scores out of the break swung the momentum in BYU's favor

and the advantage quickly grew to 27-20. But the Rebels scored six of the next seven points to once again cut the lead to two points at 28-26 and prompt another Cougar timeout. Goodman came out of the break with her seventh kill of the game to give BYU game point at 29-26, and Lott put it away at 30-27.

The Cougar defense was

responsible for three of the first five points of game two as BYU put up three blocks while jumping out to a 4-1 lead. However, Ole Miss was ready for the Cougar attack this time and fought back to within one at 6-5. Lott put down a winner to maintain the BYU lead, but the Rebels stayed close until finally taking their first lead of the match at 17-16 in Game 2.

Three straight Cougar points put BYU back in front at 19-17, and the Cougars cruised after a 20-20 tie, scoring 10 of the last 11 points in the game to take a 30-21 win.

Game 3 was a battle from the start, as the Cougars pushed for the sweep and Ole Miss fought to keep its season alive. BYU was the first to earn more than a two-point

lead with a 4-0 run to go up 16-11, thanks in part to two service aces by Annie Pinegar. Ole Miss got back to within two points at 17-15, but Bryn Porter served the Rebel advance with a cross-court kill on the next ball. The Rebels stayed close, but the Cougars kept their composure and weathered the Ole Miss attack, posting the 30-24 win.