



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Sisters 8th-grader Noah Richardson drives against Longview in the Sisters Shootout.

Shootouts a success for players, community

Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD), in conjunction with Outlaw Basketball, is calling the 2015 Sisters Shootout series a success.

Each weekend-long tournament attracts visitors from across Oregon to visit Sisters. The goal of the series is to raise funds for Sisters basketball programs. It also helps to bolster the local economy during one of the slowest times of the year. The tournament attracted thousands of visitors.

The tournament dates this year were January 16-17 and February 14-15. Girls and boys teams from 5th grade to 8th grade participated.

This year's Shootout series hosted over 100 teams who traveled from as far away as Longview, Washington; Newport; Baker City; Klamath Falls; and John Day.

Speaking on the idea behind the Sisters Shootout, Sisters High School basketball coach and physical education teacher Rand Runco said, "This tournament has run for 22 years and the local kids have a great time every year."

The tournament funds Outlaw Basketball programs and activities for the year.

Local businesses get a boost at a sluggish time of

year. Multiple businesses have noted that Shootout weekends are their best of the year.

Mitch Mansfield of Sisters Olive and Nut Co. says, "We had a killer weekend. It's always good - we notice a lot of families coming through, especially. Whenever we get one of the sports tournaments in town, it's a boon for us. Shootout, SALI (Sisters Annual Lacrosse Invitational) - they rival anything else that goes on in town."

Liam Hughes, executive director of SPRD said, "I think this was the best Shootout we've had. We think we were great hosts to many Sisters Country visitors. But the real focus of the event is the benefit to Sisters youth, which is tremendous."

More information on the Sisters Shootout Series can be found at sistersshootout.com.

Nordic skiers race despite little snow

Even while the snowfall has been sparse in the Pacific Northwest this year, the Outlaws Nordic ski team has still been out training and attending races this ski season. A large influx of new skiers joined the Nordic team this year with athletes like Engracia Diez, Serena Salisbury, Marissa Young, Trinity Smith, Julia Collins-Burke, TJ Hooks and Jordan Pollard beginning their first forays into the Nordic ski world and some still their first experiences skiing ever.

Coach Kelly Crowther said, "They've had one of the most difficult seasons to begin skiing that I've ever seen, but everyone has made the effort to improve and had lots of fun along the way making it one of the best seasons to be a ski coach."

While the season has not been conducive to spending a lot of time on snow, the Outlaws have been able to secure one practice per week at Mt. Bachelor. Other teams in the Oregon High School Nordic Organization (OHSNO) league in the Portland and Eugene area have not been able to practice for the past few weeks due to a lack of snow at Mt. Hood and Hoodoo, making the Outlaws fortunate to be on snow at all. Even with this good fortune of being located near some snow, dryland training continues and highlight practices include hiking in the mountains and running along the Metolius River.

Veteran skiers such as Shayla Curtis, Maya Wieland, Seth Roy and Minam Craven have been able to put together strong races even with the



PHOTO PROVIDED

A low-snow season hasn't kept the Outlaws from fielding a Nordic Ski team this season.

low-snow year. At the XC Oregon Invitational held January 24, Shayla Curtis was able to secure a first-place finish in the Division 2 girls race, where she raced against St. Mary's, Corvallis, and Ashland schools. Maya Wieland had a strong skate race coming in 12th, having improved dramatically since beginning Nordic skiing last year.

On the boy's side, Seth Roy propelled himself to a top-20 finish, one of his better finishes in his four-year career. Minam Craven has consistently placed in the top 20 for all the races he has

entered in this past season and is having great success racing for his club alpine team.

The Outlaws Nordic team was scheduled to have a home race at Hoodoo this coming week but due to a lack of snow at Hoodoo, that race has been cancelled. The next race for the Outlaws is the OHSNO State Meet on February 27-28 at Mt. Bachelor. Racers will compete in both disciplines, skate and classic, and finish out the race day on Saturday with a relay. Following the relay an awards banquet is hosted in Bend where food, stories, and celebration of the season are shared.

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