

Lady Outlaws fall to No. 2-ranked Henley

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws traveled to Henley on Saturday, March 7, for a game against the Hornets in the first round of the state playoffs, and walked away after a 44-33 loss, which brought their season to an end.

Henley jumped out with a three-pointer in the first quarter and kept hitting their shots from there. At the close of the period Sisters was down 16-6.

"We had some playoff jitters," said Coach Julianne Horner. "I was pleased with the effort and execution, but we just needed to relax and clean up a couple of things."

Sisters was out-scored 14-6 in the second quarter and entered the half down 30-12. Horner told *The Nugget* that Hailey Hudson, Cassandra Arruda, and Cierra Mann all made big buckets for them in the quarter.

The Outlaws came out quick and motivated in the third, led by a quick three-pointer from Boston Moore and aggressive defensive play from Nina Horner and Olivia Stewart. Gwen Knoop came up with three great steals in the period.

"Gwen lifted everyone's defensive effort and intensity

several notches and was a great leader by example," said Horner.

Sisters out-scored the Hornets 10-9 in the period, and headed into the final period down 39-22.

The Outlaws scored the first 10 points in the fourth and pulled to within seven points, led by Stewart's six-of-eight shooting from the free-throw line.

"Olivia played like a champion tonight," said Horner. "She put the team on her back and went at the rim hard, drawing fouls time after time, and as usual, she was great at the line."

Sisters was forced to foul down the stretch and the Hornets came out on top with the win.

"This was a tough loss," stated Horner. "I am so incredibly proud of how the team responded in the second half. They never gave up, never quit, and always felt like they had a chance to come back. Seeing the season come to an end is always difficult, but we're proud of what the team did tonight. They held Henley to 44 points, which is tied for the lowest score Henley had this year. I couldn't be prouder of the way everyone stepped up and left everything on the court."

Boys lose to Scappoose in first round

By Rongi Yost
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Sisters played against Scappoose in a tough first-round playoff battle on Friday, March 6, at Scappoose. The Outlaws fell in a close 38-32 contest.

The Sisters coaching staff told *The Nugget* they were so proud of the boys' effort. Scappoose averages over 60 points per game, and the Outlaws defended them very well. The Outlaws held McNabb, the Indians best shooter, to two points and were able to contain their point guard, Wellelshafer.

Chase Johnson, Scappoose's scoring post, got a few put-back buckets and scored 11 points in the contest, but the Outlaws did a great job defensively against him.

The score was even at 9-9 at the close of the first quarter, and at the half Scappoose held a two-point edge over the Outlaws with a score of 16-14.

The Indians pulled away for about two minutes in the third quarter, with four transition baskets, but the Outlaws slowly clawed their way back. Sisters pulled to within three points in the final period, but were unable to convert, and were forced to foul at the end.

Coach Rand Runco told *The Nugget* that everyone played so hard, but just shot the ball poorly.

"We out-played them on the defensive end, but missed shots that had to go," said Runco. The officiating was typical of state tournaments, with very few calls made. With one minute and 30 seconds to go, each team had three fouls.

"Our kids did a great job handling the physical play, but we missed some lay-ins against really physical play. We took good shots, but needed to hit a few more outside shots. It was a well-played, very physical game by both teams. They just had

a few more shots fall. A few of ours that went in-and-out would have made it a different story."

Connor Schaab led the Outlaws with 10 points, Steen Johnson scored seven, and Tysen Gill, Keegan Greaney, and Justin Harrer each scored four.

The Outlaws wrapped up a great season with a 16-9 overall record.

"It's a really hard season to say good-bye to the team," said Runco. "They have been a great team and worked so hard to be that team. They were one of the top defensive teams in the state. The Scappoose and South Umpqua coaches said we played the best team defense they had seen a high school team play, and they feared our defense. We will miss all of the seniors that are really great people on and off the court: Ben Larson, Connor Schaab, Lane Adams, Tysen Gill and Justin Harrer. They are all great leaders by example for the entire program."

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