

# Boys tennis sweeps doubles matches against Willamette

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The Outlaws boys tennis team swept the doubles matches against Willamette this past weekend, and defeated the Wolverines 5-3. Three days earlier Sisters beat Cascade 5-3 at home at Black Butte Ranch.

Sisters traveled to Willamette on Friday, and were met with wet courts that needed to be swept and squeegeed before the match could begin. Teams played for approximately 45 minutes before the rains began again. The match had to be postponed, and play was resumed late Saturday morning after the courts had dried out.

The doubles teams were all at the top of their game and easily prevailed against their opponents.

Ethan Stengel and Shawn Horton (No. 1 doubles) beat Austin Hart and Nicolas Santamaria 6-4, in the first set and then ran away with the second set in a final score of 6-2. The combo are playing much more aggressively at the net, which has allowed them to control play at the net.

At No. 2 doubles, Ben

Johnson and Gabe Willitts defeated Evan Clark and Joseph Hendrickson 6-2, 6-1. The duo played their best match yet, and continue to improve with every match.

"These guys are capitalizing on their height," said Coach Bim Gander. "We are trying to move them to the net at the earliest possible opportunity, and that strategy is paying huge dividends."

Pierce Wehrle and Josh Kizziar (No. 3 doubles) beat Anthony Sevey and Clay Iddings 6-1, 6-0.

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— Coach Bim Gander

"Pierce and Josh aren't as imposing at the net as Ben and Gabe, but they continue to win matches because of their consistent play, and drive to keep the ball in play," stated Gander.

Andrew Stengel and Gus Gyorgyfalvy (No. 4 doubles)

rounded out the wins in doubles play. Stengel and Gyorgyfalvy beat Xiaoping Lei and Alex Ruiz-Martinez 6-1, 6-1. Gander was thrilled with their performance.

"The improvement they showed today was nothing less than astounding," he said. "Today they really gelled as a team and played very well together, which is key to doubles. I expect great things from them as they go forward."

Colin Reinert earned Sisters lone win in singles play. Reinert beat Andrew Michaelenko 6-2 in the first set and then blanked him 6-0 in the second set.

"It was a terrific match," said Gander. "Colin is moving much better, which is complementing his already strong serve. He's peaking at the right time."

The Outlaws were to play North Bend on Saturday, but due to delays because of rain, and chances of more rain to come, North Bend decided not to make the five-hour drive.

Earlier in the week, the Outlaws beat Cascade, and for the first time all season were able to post a sweep in the singles matches.

Colin Reinert was firing on all cylinders at the No. 1 singles spot. Colin served well and played aggressive tennis to easily prevail 6-1, 6-1, over Daniel Seuzle.

"This was the best match Colin has played so far this year," said Coach Gander. "I hope it will set him up for the district competition."

Connor Schaab also played a great match at No. 2 singles to earn a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Manual Franco. The second set was a dogfight and at one point was tied up at 4-4, but Schaab was able to forge ahead for the win.

Michael Commins beat Alex Cowan 6-3 in the first set, fell 4-6 in the second, and then got off to an early start in the super-tye-breaker and coasted to a 10-4 win.

"Both Connor and Michael's serves are really coming along," said Gander. "We want to utilize their exceptional height to develop their serves into a strategic weapon, and both are making good progress in that regard."

Jon Gurney started with a bang in his varsity debut at the No. 4 singles spot, and defeated Joshua Osuna 6-1, 6-3.

"Jon shows a lot of

promise," said Gander. "He more than met my expectations today."

Ben Johnson and Gabe Willitts (No. 2 doubles) were the lone doubles winners and came out on top in a tough-fought match. The duo beat Jo Remy and Peyton Hunt 6-4, 6-4.

"These guys are both over six feet tall and they are a wall at the net," said Gander. "Their aggressive play at the net is consistently winning matches for them."

The Outlaws will not have any matches next week, but will resume play on Tuesday, May 5, with a make-up match at home against Klamath Union. On Friday, May 8, Sisters will play at home against Mt. View.

The squad is working hard in preparation for the district championships, which will be held at Black Butte Ranch, Sunday through Tuesday, May 10-12. The Outlaws will have their hands full with powerhouse North Bend, and Henley, who also boasts a very tough squad. Gander told *The Nugget* that if the Outlaws can finish a strong third his expectations will have been met.

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