

# Girls tennis improves every match

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

The girls tennis team played North Bend and the Junction City (JC) Tigers at Junction City on Tuesday, April 28. The Lady Bulldogs only brought nine players, so teams played just three singles and three doubles matches. The Outlaws came out on top 4-2 against North Bend, and then lost 3-2 to JC.

In the North Bend match, Brenna Weems and Jesse Farr-Baenziger (No. 1 doubles) showed their strength as a team in their 6-1, 6-2 win over Allie West and Karen LaGesse.

Maya Wieland and Gwen Knoop beat Tayton Smith and Rowan Colby 1-6, 6-3, 14-12 at No. 2 doubles, in one of the best wins the Outlaws have had all season.

"The North Bend coach told me before the match that his No. 1 and No. 2 teams were pretty even, so I knew our girls would have their hands full," said Coach Susan Fullhart. "After losing the first set, it's pretty easy to give up, but Maya and Gwen dug deep and took the second set. In the match-breaker, the girls survived match point, and finally claimed the victory."

Annika Stadel and Rylee Weber (No. 3 doubles) scored a solid 6-1, 6-1 win over

Dezrae Sunnabend and Sarah Frings.

In singles play, Kenna Cardin (No. 3 singles) defeated Ciara Gates 6-0, 6-0. It was Cardin's first-ever singles match.

"She was unbelievably consistent," stated Fullhart. "That is the only possible way to win a match this decisively!"

The Outlaws were only able to complete five matches with Junction City, as the weather turned and the match had to be called.

Kiley Mehlbrech and Olivia Curran of JC came out strong in the first set of No. 1 doubles against Weems and Farr-Baenziger, and just like that the Lady Outlaws were down 5-0, and ended up with a 6-1 loss. The duo tweaked their strategy on their service games, and the momentum switched. Brenna and Jesse took the second set with a decisive 6-2 win.

"The girls got behind in the third, but refused to go away," said Fullhart. "They won a huge point at 4-4, deuce to go ahead 5-4, which gave Brenna the chance to serve it out. This is a match Brenna and Jesse will remember for awhile."

Wieland and Knoop (No. 2 doubles) beat Marley McIntosh and Sierra Starr 6-3, 6-3. Maya served well throughout the match, and the

combo communicated well.

The next day, the Outlaws hosted Summit on a beautiful sunny day at Black Butte Ranch.

Weems and Farr-Baenziger got off to a slow start, which put them behind 4-0 in the first set. But, the duo worked it out, and lost only one more game en route to their 6-4, 6-1 victory. Fullhart told *The Nugget* that the combo has an amazing ability to find a way to win.

Kenna Cardin and Engracia Diaz won 0-6, 7-6, 10-0, in the match of the day. Kenna and Engracia had never played together before, and got killed in the first set. Kenna, the more experienced player, stepped up and showed leadership, and completely changed their strategy in the second set. Cardin moved forward every chance she got, and left Diaz in the backcourt where she demonstrated her steadiness.

Lacey Gilmore won her match 8-1, and Coach Fullhart had nothing but praise for the young sophomore.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Jesse Farr-Baenziger strikes a forehand for the Outlaws.

"I am so proud of Lacey," said Fullhart. "She has improved so much this season, and it was fun to see all of that come together today. She has always been steady, but today, she hit a lot of

winners too." The Lady Outlaws will play at home at Black Butte Ranch on Thursday, May 7, against Junction City and Crook County, and Friday, at home against Mt. View.



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