

Outlaws grab win in first game

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws defeated Burns 34-29 to notch their first win of the season.

The Sisters team took on the Highlanders at Burns on Friday, September 4. The victory was sweet, as it marked the first win in football against Burns in seven years. A large contingent of fans decked out in black and white made the long trek to lend support to the Outlaws.

Wet and windy conditions caused problems for both teams. Sisters fell behind early, and trailed the Highlanders 14-0 at the close of the first quarter.

Sisters scored twice in the second quarter. Mitch Gibney scored on a three-yard run, and Logan Schutte scored on a 13-yard run. The Outlaws decided to try for two after both touchdowns, and Gibney and Schutte both scored on the running effort to give Sisters 16 points in the quarter. Burns also scored a TD, and at the half Sisters trailed 22-16.

The Outlaws were bogged down by turnovers, and gave up several big plays in the first half due to poor execution and assignments on defense.

The offense stepped up. In the third quarter, Schutte sailed down the field and scored on an 85-yard run. Later in the period, Gibney scored on a two-yard run. Both attempts at extra points failed. The Highlanders tacked



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Despite some miscues, the Outlaws defense was strong enough to hold off the Burns Highlanders.

on a TD in the period, but the Outlaws closed the gap, and trailed by just one point with the score at 29-28.

The game went back and forth in the second half with several lead changes. Late in the game, Sisters took possession of the ball on a blocked punt. After several plays, Gibney was able to pound the ball in for the win.

Sisters rushed over 350 yards on the night, and the offensive line executed well. Schutte finished the game with 198 yards rushing and two touchdowns and Gibney had three rushing touchdowns.

The Outlaws started two linebackers who had not played football in a few years: junior Ryan Cook, and senior Hayes Moore, who both did a good job on the field. The secondary had some bright moments, and knocked down

a handful of passes on the night. Gibney and Devin Slaughter also had some big plays from their defensive end positions. Sophomore Zach Morgan did a great job punting, and the special teams played solid all night.

“It was a good win for the program,” said Coach Gary Thorson. “Burns is a very well-coached team that has a lot of pride in tradition in their program, so this was a good test for us. I’m extremely proud of how our team pulled together and showed some great character, battling back from a disappointing start. We made a bunch of mistakes on both sides of the ball, but a lot of that is correctable, and we look forward to going back to work and improving.”

The Outlaws play at home against Madras on Friday, September 11.

Girls soccer shut out by Gladstone

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

Sisters was shut out 3-0 at Gladstone on September 3. Last year, the Outlaws lost to Gladstone in the second round of the state playoffs and were hoping for a better outcome this time around — but the Gladiators prevailed.

The Outlaws were unaccustomed to the artificial turf, and Gladstone capitalized on that fact. The Gladiators were able to read the bounces of the ball on the turf much better than the Outlaws. The Gladiators also had very strong players in the middle, and were able to get numerous fast breaks.

Gladstone scored two goals in the first half of the contest and tacked on another in the second half for the win.

Sisters players Hannah Ceciliani, Nina Horner, and Lexie Stewart were all stand-out players for the Outlaws.

Ceciliani made two fantastic saves in the goal, and one in particular was a jumble. Gladstone fired a shot at the goal, and Hannah did a great job of deflecting it. When Michaela Miller tried to clear the ball, she tripped over Hannah and sat right down on her

face. Olivia Watts was able to clear the ball.

“This is what we call an egg scramble in the box,” said Coach Thomas Draxler.

Horner, who didn’t start to play soccer until high school, also did an incredible job on the field.

“Nina has grown so much as a soccer player,” Draxler. “Now, we trust her to control the entire back line. She’s strong in the air, and heads the ball well, she’s strong with her feet, and she reads the attack very well.”

Stewart covered a lot of ground for the Outlaws at her right midfield position.

“Lexie was constantly up-and-down the sidelines in order to be in the right position where she was needed,” said Draxler. “And that’s an admirable feat of endurance.”

Draxler told *The Nugget* that his team will need to be more hungry for the ball.

“Oftentimes, on free-kicks, or long-balls, the other team always got to the ball first,” said Draxler. “If we can get to the ball first it will swing the game in our favor.”

Sisters will play at home against Molalla on Thursday, September 10.

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