

Nordic skiers begin competitive season

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Unlike the past two seasons with scarce snowfall, the 2016 high school Nordic ski season got off to a good start with plentiful snow and scores of participants at the Teacup Race held near Mount Hood on Saturday, January 9.

The Sisters Outlaws, a small but mighty contingent totaling six athletes, fared quite well overall among a total of nearly 150 skiers.

Shayla Curtis turned in the top performance for the Sisters girls, finishing in 22nd place with a time of 24:32 for the five-kilometer course.

Serena Salisbury finished close in 24th place in 24:50, while Anna Bartlett, in her first race, placed 41st in 26:33, 13 seconds ahead of her teammate Engracia Diez, who placed 44th among the 81 female finishers.

Gemma Munck of Bend High School won the race in 18:21.

For the boys, TJ Hooks and Jordan Pollard stuck close together in the middle of the pack, finished in 22:41 and 22:48 respectively for 39th and 40th places.

Thomas Schoderbek of Summit cruised to the win among males in 15:08.

Coach Kelly Crowther felt satisfied overall with the effort and performance of his squad.

“Serena skied an outstanding race, double-poling the majority of the course to propel her to her best finish yet,

and Anna had a great career opener at Teacup,” he said. “She was sitting in the middle of the pack, so I’m expecting her to be significantly faster by the end of the season.”

He added, “TJ has greatly improved since last year and the extra time he has put into skiing during winter break is showing through in the first race. Both Jordan and TJ will be competitive with each other this year.”

Weather on race day was nearly ideal, according to Crowther.

“The course began with a moderate climb out of the stadium and descended into three kilometers of rolling terrain and ended with a 500-meter steep hill that every racer herringboned up. Kick-waxing was straightforward, with temperatures hovering in the high 20s and light snow, allowing for great kick and glide,” he said.

Athletes from Hood River Valley, Summit, Bend, Ridgeview, Saint Mary’s Academy, Corvallis, Cleveland, Catlin Gabel, Redmond Proficiency Academy, and Sisters High School took part in the meet.

The next race for the Outlaws is scheduled for January 23 at Mt. Bachelor. It will be a skate race.

The Outlaws will host their first meet since 2013 at Hoodoo, sponsored by Arbor Builders, on the evening of Thursday, February 18. The course starts just outside the lodge and is conducted under lights, making it a unique experience for all the racers.

Bulldogs nip Outlaws in overtime

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws were held scoreless in overtime against the Sutherlin Bulldogs and fell 39-32 in a heart-breaking league-opener on Friday, January 15.

Sutherlin entered the game with an 8-4 pre-season record, and a couple of key players: Wryland McKnight, a small but explosive all-league post from last year’s team, and Sheldon Jackson, who is a great scorer.

Sisters started out fast, stole the ball several times, and got three nice transition baskets in the first quarter. Scott Waddell hit four nice jumpers, and at the close of the period Sisters held a 16-8 lead.

From that point on, it was a dogfight and a defensive struggle. The Outlaws were out-scored nine to two in the second quarter, and at the half held a slim one-point lead, 18-17.

Sisters did a nice job on defense until the final four minutes of the game. The Outlaws were just unable to contain Jackson, who finished the game with 18 points, with 12 of those points coming in the final six minutes of the contest.

Sisters held the lead until there was 3:40 left in the game. The game was tied up a few times, and then the Outlaws took a two-point lead with 1:30 left on the clock.

Jackson hit his second three-pointer with approximately 30 seconds left to go, and gave the Bulldogs a one-point lead. With 20 seconds left, Sisters called a time-out, and then worked to get the ball inside.

Tyler Head caught the ball at the high post and drove to the basket, getting Scott Waddell open for a jumper, the exact same shot that beat Redmond at the buzzer a week earlier. It was a bit short, but Head boarded it, and was fouled shooting.

Head hit his first free-throw to tie the game up at 32-32, and then missed the second. The Bulldogs threw up a long shot, missed, and the game went into overtime (OT).

In OT, the Outlaws went down by four, and the Bulldogs spread the court. Sisters was unable to force a turnover, and had to foul. That put Jackson on the line, and he went 4-4. The Outlaws were unable to score a single point, and the Bulldogs recorded the win.

Coach Rand Runco said, “It was a tough league loss. Our league has five teams that had eight or nine wins in the pre-season. It is the best our league has been in several years. We are expecting several exciting games like this, and hopefully we’ll end up on top. We are improving and need to stay at it. We played a really good defensive game, but got a

little tentative against their changes. Sutherlin switches defense, and really clogs up the middle with their defense, forcing good perimeter play.”

The Outlaws shot poorly from the line, and went only 4-for-11. Sisters also committed six turnovers.

“It was a tough league loss. Our league has five teams that had eight or nine wins in the pre-season. It is the best our league has been in several years.”
— Rand Runco

Isaac McKenzie led the Outlaws with 10 points, Scott Waddell scored nine, and Keegan Greaney added four. Tyler Head led the way on the glass with seven boards.

Hayes Moore, Steen Johnson, and Greaney played very good defense throughout the contest. Ben Saba also played a great game in his first start, and Connor Lake and Jake Larson contributed good minutes off the bench.

Sisters was to play at home against Cottage Grove on Tuesday, January 19. On Friday, the Outlaws will travel to Sweet Home for a game against the Huskies.

Sisters Acupuncture Center
Julia Wieland-Smith L.Ac., LMT
Greg Wieland L.Ac.
541-549-1523
352 E. Hood Ave., Ste. E
HERBOLOGY • MASSAGE • NUTRITIONAL COUNSELING
Licensed since 1989

The Fly Fisher's Place
SISTERS, OREGON
Let the experts at the Fly Fisher's Place set you up for safe and fun winter fishing!
151 W. Main Ave., Sisters
541-549-FISH | Open 7 days a week

Heads or Tails... You Lose
RUSSELL'S BODY SHOP
Loaner Cars
Deductible Assistance
Windshield Replacement
541-549-DENT
332 W. Barclay Dr., Sisters

bliss
HAIR AND NAIL DESIGN
Hair & Nails
Natural & Artificial
541-549-6566
484 W. Washington Ave., Ste. B

Bring warmth into your home this winter
HAND-FORGED FIREPLACE DOORS
Come see our fireplace showroom!
It's stocked with everything you need for your fireplace: custom hand-forged screens; andirons; grates; and tools.
Ponderosa Forge
Sisters, Oregon
Visit us online at www.ponderosaforge.com.
541-549-9280 • Sisters Industrial Park • CCB# 87640

Get caught up on news from Sisters!
Order your subscription today!
They start at just \$25.
You will look forward to it every week!
To order a subscription call 541-549-9941.