

Boys tennis gets set for season

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Sisters High School boys tennis team will compete for the first time this year in the Special District No. 2. In previous years they have always been in the Special District No. 3. It was difficult for Coach Bim Gander to give any predictions on the upcoming season due to an entirely new slate of opponents.

The 2015 tennis squad graduated nine seniors, so this year there will be many new faces on the team. The young team will have considerably less playing experience, but Gander told *The Nugget* that they will compensate for that with lots of athletic potential.

Sisters will return six players to the varsity squad. Seniors Michael Commins (singles), Noah Eckstine (doubles), and Pierce Wehrle (singles) return for their final season, along with juniors Jonathan Gurney (singles), Josh Kizziar (singles), and Sean Willitts (doubles).

Gander stated that there is no dominant No. 1 singles player this year, but Commins, Gurney, Wehrle and Kizziar all have a shot at

the top spot.

Pierce Wehrle and Josh Kizziar were a very successful doubles team last year, and their strengths lie in their consistency and good court coverage.

“Both Pierce and Josh wanted to expand their skills by playing singles this year, but they may team up again at times and play No. 1 doubles,” said Gander.

Jonathan Gurney had a great run at the district tournament last year, and solidified his status as the most improved singles player of the 2015 season. Gander said he expects Gurney to build both power and finesse into his game this year.

Commins easily has the most experience on the team. Even prior to starting as a freshman four years ago, Michael had some tennis lessons under his belt. And he’s six-feet-four-inches, which can give him a weapon.

“We will work especially hard on his (Commins) serve this year, utilizing that huge height advantage,” said Gander.

New to the team this year are juniors Jacob Gurney, Tanner and Tyler Head, and

freshmen Isaiah Chapen (doubles), Jed Kizziar, and William Wright (doubles).

Many of the singles and doubles positions are still undecided, and will be determined as the season progresses.

“It’s great to have three freshmen this year, which is the most ever,” said Gander. “Since we have a smaller team this season, they’ll all see plenty of match play.

“I expect this group to improve rapidly as the season progresses,” said Gander. “Most of the guys are multi-sport players.”

The tennis team was to kick off their season on Tuesday, March 15, in a match against Mt. View. The match was scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. at Black Butte Ranch.

Boys golf swings into action

By Rongi Yost
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The boys golf team will kick off their season with the District Preview, which will be held at the Tokatee Golf Club on Thursday, March 17. The boys will take time off for spring break and be back on Thursday, April 7, with a golf match against Mountain View at Awbrey Glen.

Sisters returns three players to the squad and will add three additional players to the team. Juniors Kade Owen and Devin Robillard are back for another season, along with Austin Lake (sophomore), who only got in three matches last year before he broke his arm and had to be sidelined.

Owen and Robillard were the only two Outlaws to make it to the district tournament last year. They both have improved their putting, which should be a big help to their game this year.

Joining the Outlaws are juniors Andrew Mayes and Patrick Dingeman, and freshman Wyatt Hernandez. Mayes should give the Outlaws a big lift with his nice left-handed swing, and Dingeman and Hernandez will compete for the fifth spot on the team.

Coach Bill Mitchell said, “Golf is a very challenging game, and it’s one you can continue to play as you get older. I would love to see more kids come out for the sport.”

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