

# Boys tennis falls in close match

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

The boys tennis team lost to Redmond in their debut appearance this season on Thursday, March 17. The match ended in a 4-4 tie, but Redmond took the win since they tallied 10 sets and Sisters posted nine.

Jonny Gurney did an outstanding job for the Outlaws at the No. 1 singles spot. Gurney played steady throughout the match and defeated Dakota Schmidt 6-4, 6-4.

“Jonny picked up right where he left off last year,” said Coach Bim Gander. “He was able to play a very consistent game. He recognized when he had an advantage, and when he saw it he hit a penetrating shot that gave him the point.”

First-time tennis player Tyler Head played great in his three-set victory over Carlos Jarequi at No. 3 singles. Head defeated Jarequi with scores of 6-2, 2-6 and 6-4.

“Tyler’s forehand is his obvious strength at this point and won him the victory,” stated Gander.

Sisters also posted two wins in doubles play.

Pierce Wehrle and Josh Kizziar teamed up and defeated Ebin Maddox and Connor Lennie in a decisive 6-2, 6-2 victory.

“This is my most

experienced doubles team, and they came through with flying colors,” said Gander. “They’ve been working on volleying techniques, and today their net play was outstanding.”

Senior Noah Eckstein teamed up with freshman Isaiah Chapen for the first time, and the duo brought down Reski Nirwana and Garrett Gross in three sets with scores of 6-4, 4-6 and 6-4.

Gander said, “What was really exciting for me was to see Noah become the captain, and through great communication on the court, he and Isaiah were able to achieve a terrific victory.”

Gander commented on the close match.

“We had to concede the No. 4 doubles spot, but the kids came through and won four of the seven matches played. It was a great showing in our first match of the season against a 5A school. It was a great surprise that we won at both No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles, especially against Redmond.”

The Outlaws will hit the courts again on Thursday, March 31, in a match against Henley. Both teams will use the experience as a warm-up for the Madras Invite, which will be held Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2. The Madras Invite is a two-day round-robin tournament where teams bring only their No. 1 and No. 2 singles and doubles players.

# Boys lacrosse wins close opener

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

The boys lacrosse team held on to earn a 10-9 victory over Nadzitsaga from Burns, in a game that was tight and filled with excitement to the very end. The game was held at Reed Stadium on Thursday, March 17.

Samson Magnus scored an unassisted goal just 22 seconds into the game to give the Outlaws a quick lead, thanks to an excellent faceoff by Chase Lawrence, followed by Ethan Morgan and Trey Stadel, who each added an unassisted goal of their own. Nadzitsaga stayed with them, and at the end of the first period the score was deadlocked 3-3.

Both teams added a goal in the second period, Sisters’ goal coming from Morgan, to keep the score tied 4-4 at the half.

In the third, Magnus scored an unassisted goal, and Morgan booted in two unassisted shots. At the close of the period teams were still even at 7-7.

Morgan lifted the team with three goals in the final quarter, the last in the final 24 seconds, to put the Outlaws up by two, 10-8. But Nadzitsaga fought back and scored their final goal with nine seconds left on the clock. Sisters was able to hold the ball in Nadzitsaga’s offensive zone and closed out a very exciting, close game.

Sisters had tremendous support from their fans, who were so loud at the close of the contest that players and coaches could not even hear the referees whistle.

On defense, the team was led by an outstanding effort by senior captain David Keeton.

Morgan (sophomore captain) led the scoring onslaught with seven goals, Magnus scored two, and Stadel added one. Willie Stewart and Chase Lawrence each contributed one assist. Matt Harris had eight groundballs for the Outlaws; followed by Magnus, who had seven.

First-year coach Eric Wentzel said, “The team was tested in this game on both sides of the ball, but I noticed

as the game progressed they started to come together as a team with increased confidence. There was standout individual play, but without everyone’s effort we would not have won the game.

“...we need to work on contesting groundballs and conditioning, which will come as the season progresses.”

— Eric Wentzel

“The defense was able to hold off Nadzitsaga at the end of the first half when we were two men down due to penalties. As a team, we need to work on contesting groundballs and conditioning, which will come as the season progresses.”

The Outlaws will resume play on Monday, March 28, with a game at South Eugene. They will play at home against Marist on Friday, April 1.



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