

Smith leads Outlaws in softball split

By Tom Mauldin
Correspondent

Junior Amanda Smith collected eight hits and struck out 27 as the Sisters High School varsity split a pair of games last week with Cottage Grove to kick off the second half of Sky-Em League softball action.

Smith had four hits and struck out 15 as the Outlaws won the opener, 24-12.

The Outlaws scored two in the first, 12 in the third and five each in the fourth and fifth in recording the run-rule (leading by 10 after five innings) victory.

Lead by Smith's four base hits and a pair of hits by Leah McIntosh, the Outlaws totaled 14 base hits. Six other Outlaws had a base hit.

Smith had 12 strikeouts and four hits in the second game that ended after four innings with the Outlaws losing 12-10. The game was "called" by the umpires due to darkness. The game was scheduled for seven innings.

The Outlaws scored two in the first and fifth, five in the second and one in the fourth in the second game, but the hosting Lions scored seven in their half of the first and took the lead with one in the second and four in the third.

Smith did not start the second game in the pitching circle, but relieved after Cottage Grove scored six times in the first inning.

Sisters Coach Dave Smith felt his team would have been victorious had the game not been called early.

"The Outlaws really

started to rally with Amanda (Smith) pitching and the bats coming alive," said Smith. "Unfortunately, the game was called due to loss of light."

In addition to Smith's four hits in the second game, Savannah Ryan had two hits and McIntosh hit a triple. No other Outlaw had a base hit.

The Outlaws were scheduled to have played Sweet Home on Friday, but transportation issues postponed the Sky-Em tilt.

Coach Smith said he was pleased with his youthful team's progression this season.

"We had an outstanding practice today (Friday)," said Smith.

"(Assistant

Coach) Mckibben (Womack) took them for the first 45 minutes and put them through a series of Tabatas. They had eight minutes to complete four stations, a station per plate (10 push ups, 15 burpees, 50 crunches and 20 air squats).

"Then we split them apart, McKibben did infield and I did batting practice. After that we ran bases and I timed them running from home plate to first," said Smith.

Up next for the Outlaws was a Tuesday twin bill hosting Sweet Home, followed by encounters against Elmira on April 29 and May 2.

Elmira continues to lead the Sky-Em with a 7-1 record, 17-1 overall. Sweet Home, which handed Elmira's its lone defeat, is second at 5-2 (10-6 overall), followed by 5-3 Junction City (10-8) and the Outlaws tied with Sutherlin at 2-5 (4-10). Cottage Grove is 1-6 (1-12).

"We had an outstanding practice today. — Coach Dave Smith"

The long shadow of Hemingway

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

No writer of the 20th century looms larger than Ernest Hemingway.

That is, in part, because he crafted a larger-than-life persona: Hard drinker, big-game hunter, fisherman, traveler, war journalist. Even in his own lifetime, the persona overshadowed his writing. Today, most people know at least vaguely who "Papa" was, but few have actually read him.

That's a shame, for Hemingway truly revolutionized literature, with his stripped-down, virile, sharply observed prose. The "stripped-down" aspect is often over-emphasized, for while Hemingway wrote with economy, he also wrote vividly and beautifully, especially about the natural world that he loved to inhabit — and test himself against.

He was a masculine writer — to a fault, according to some of his critics. He plunged into the manly pursuits with a vigor and enthusiasm that is entirely out of vogue these days. It's impossible to imagine a celebrity writer in 2016 posing with a giant marlin or with a gazelle on the African plains, much

less writing with passion about bullfighting.

His alcoholism, which was also a significant part of his persona, diminished his powers — his physical capabilities and his capacity as a writer — and traumatic brain injury from two plane crashes while hunting in Africa con-

Tolls," to name but a few.

The Hemingway persona will be on full display in the movie "Papa: Hemingway in Cuba," which plays at Sisters Movie House this week, in which a Miami journalist who admires the icon of American letters watches him slide into depression, alcoholism and paranoia during the Cuban Revolution. It's the first American film shot in Cuba in over 50 years.

I'll be there in the theater, drinking it all in, for like every American man who bangs on a keyboard and has thrown back a drink or three and shot birds over a good dog and battled with a big fish on salt water, the ghost of Ernest Hemingway is always somewhere over my shoulder.

But that's not really the way to honor the old bastard. When the lights of the theater come back up and we leave Cuba and a ravaged Papa behind, I'll go home and read. Because in the end, the writing is all that matters.

"the ghost of Ernest Hemingway is always somewhere over my shoulder"

tributed to a steep mental decline that ended in suicide by shotgun in 1961.

Any writer, any artist, deserves to be judged by his best work, and Hemingway's best is very good indeed: "Big Two-Hearted River"; "The Short, Happy Life of Francis Macomber"; "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"; "A Moveable Feast"; the Spanish Civil War opus "For Whom The Bell

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