Outlaws finish second in Sky-Em baseball

By Rongi Yost Correspondent

The Outlaws wrapped up league play with a doubleheader at Sutherlin on Friday, May 13. Sisters won the first game 4-3, and tallied a 12-5 win in the second game.

Solid pitching with limited walks, and 32 innings of errorless defense led to a second-place finish in the Sky-Em Conference for the Outlaws.

In game one of the double-header at Sutherlin on Friday, Zach Morgan had five strike-outs, and was the Outlaws' winning pitcher. Morgan left in the fourth inning with a hip strain, and Ryan Cook came in and got the save.

Sisters scored their four runs on six hits and had zero errors in the game.

The Outlaws got on the scoreboard in the first inning when Ryan Funk hit a ground ball up the middle to score Jake Larson.

Sisters tacked on three runs in the second. Connor Lake reached first via a walk, and Christopher Luz followed with a drive up the middle for a base hit. Alec Gannon loaded the bases

with an infield base hit, and Larson walked for an RBI. JW Bertagna singled to score the Outlaws' final two runs.



Ryan "Cookie" Cook makes a play on an infield ball.

In the second game of the double-header, Sisters scored 12 runs off nine hits. and committed three errors. which broke their stretch of 32 perfect innings on defense. Sutherlin scored four runs off seven hits, and committed five errors.

Gannon was the winning pitcher for the Outlaws. Alec kept the ball down, and

changed speeds to keep the batters off-balance.

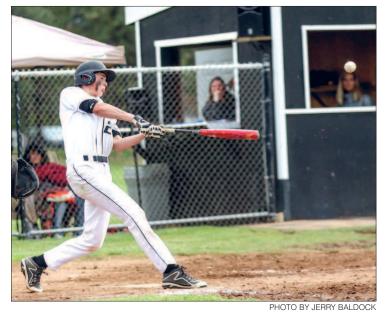
After four innings of play, Sisters was down 4-2. In the fifth, Zach Morgan got back in, and with two outs hit a line drive up the middle for a two-RBI single to tie the game at 4-4. Morgan scored on a wild pitch. Funk got a base hit, stole second and third, and then scored on a wild pitch. At the end of the fifth, the Outlaws were on top 6-4.

Sisters scored two more in the sixth, and tacked on four more in the seventh for the win.

In the seventh, the Outlaws got their first run on a sacrifice fly from Bertagna, which scored Gannon. Sisters finished with a bang, with back-to-back homeruns by Funk and Cook. Funk hit the ball 40 feet over the left field fence for a two-RBI homer. which scored Luz, and Cook's solo home run went to the same area, over the left field fence.

Coach Steve Hodges was pleased with his team's finish.

"We won seven of our last eight games to put us in this position," said Hodges. "Our backs were against the wall,



JW Bertagna had two hits in a doubleheader win vs. Sutherland.

and we knew we had to make improvements, and we did.



We had been inconsistent in our offense, and we scored

way more runs in the second half of the season.

"Our pitching and our defense really kept us in games. The pitchers didn't walk many batters, and the defense gave us the opportunity to stay close, and that was a big difference in that winning streak."

The Outlaws finished second in the Sky-Em Conference, and will host a play-in game at home on Thursday, May 19. The game is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.





Outlaw Booster Club is a 501(c)(3) organization.