

Lady Outlaws place third at Clearwater Classic

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Lady Outlaws tied with Crook County for a third-place finish at the Clearwater Classic on Saturday, October 8. Eleven of the top 4A, 5A, and 6A teams from around the state were in attendance and fans enjoyed high-caliber play throughout the tourney.

Sisters started out slow against St. Mary's in the first game of pool play, but rallied to win both games. They also won both their games against South Medford.

The Outlaws finished pool play with split games against 6A No. 2-ranked West Salem. The squad came out on fire in their first game against the Titans and took the first game 25-14. Sophomore Kendra Sitz went down at the end of the first game with a knee injury and had to sit out the remainder of the tournament, and freshman Sam Silva stepped in to fill the spot. Sisters fell 16-25 in the second game against the top-ranked Titans.

At the close of pool play, the Outlaws had more points than West Salem, and earned the first-place spot as teams headed into bracket play.

"People knew when we beat West Salem in that first game that our kids had turned a corner," said Jones. "They proved that they can play with anybody."

In the quarterfinals, the Lady Outlaws faced 6A No.

10-ranked South Salem and defeated the Saxons with scores of 25-22, and 25-20.

Coach Rod Jones had to put in a new line-up, and the Outlaws played hard to earn the win.

In the semi-finals, Sisters matched up against 6A state runner-up Central Catholic. The Outlaws gave the Rams a run for their money but lost both games 25-22, 25-18.

Hawley Harrer had a great day for the Outlaws. Harrer stayed on the floor the entire time and did it all; set the ball, hit the ball, and blocked the ball, all in top-notch fashion. Middles Emma Houck and Brooke Knirk blocked well all day long, and their efficiency was excellent.

The Outlaws were happy to have Ashlynn Cantwell back after being out due to illness. Alex Hartford did a good job setting the ball, and Coach Jones commented that his entire team worked together and played great.

"It was faster and bigger competition today," said Jones. "The kids figured that out right out of the chute and made the adjustments. They played through line-up changes, and never gave up or quit. They played awesome and played their hearts out all day long."

The Outlaws will wait for MRI results on Kendra Sitz' knee injury and are hoping for the best.

Earlier in the week, Sisters tallied two more Sky-Em

League victories.

On Tuesday, the Outlaws defeated Cottage Grove (CG) on the road in four sets with scores of 25-14, 24-26, 25-8, and 25-14.

Sisters came out strong in the first set, but in the second set they didn't pass the ball or communicate well, which resulted in a second-set loss. In the third set, the Outlaws bounced back with beautiful volleyball play and went on to earn the win in the fourth set.

"They (CG) had a crazy crowd and the kids really got lost in it," said Jones. "Much of the time the kids played flat, were slow and a half a step behind."

On Thursday, the Outlaws played on the road at Sutherlin. The team came out with more energy and played well. The Outlaws defeated the Bulldogs 25-18, 25-12, and 25-14.

Hawley Harrer commented on the match.

"I think we played well as a team," said Harrer. "We had some good plays connecting, which is good because we are all eager to start playing at a higher level."

Ashlynn Cantwell was unable to play due to illness, and freshman Sam Silva stepped in and did a great job.

"We made some mistakes, but really controlled the match," said Jones. "We passed the ball much better than we did on Tuesday. It was a long drive and the kids



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Alex Hartman sets ball for Outlaw as Jessie Brigham looks on.

are tired and sick. We'll see if we have anything left for Saturday's tournament."

Sisters was to play at

home against Sweet Home on Tuesday, October 11. On Thursday, October 13, the

Outlaws will play at Elmira.

Are You On Track to Meet Your Financial Goals?

October is Financial Planning Month. And now that you know it's Financial Planning Month (just in case you didn't know before), why not take the opportunity to determine if you're on the right path toward meeting your financial goals?

Consider taking these steps:

- **Identify your goals.** To know if you're making progress toward your goals, you first have to identify them. Of course, you'll have a variety of goals in life, such as helping pay for your children's college educations. More than likely, though, your most important long-term financial goal is to build enough resources to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. But we all have different ideas for how we want to spend our retirement years. Some of us may want to stay close to home, volunteering and pursuing our hobbies, while others want to visit the vineyards of Bordeaux or explore the pyramids of Egypt. So, name your goals and, as much as possible, put a price tag on them. Once you know about how much your retirement is going to cost, you can create an investment strategy that may ultimately provide you with the income you will need.

- **Don't underestimate your cost of living.** Even after you've identified some of your retirement goals, and estimated their costs, you still haven't developed a complete picture of your future cost of living. You also need to take into account other potential major expenses, such as healthcare. Once you're 65, you'll get Medicare, but that won't cover all your medical costs – and it might cover only a tiny portion of those expenses connected with long-term care, such as a nursing-home stay or services provided by a home health aide. A financial professional can help you explore specific methods of dealing with these types of long-term care costs.

- **Locate "gaps" – and work to fill them.** After you've had your investment strategy in place for a while, you may see that some gaps exist. Is your portfolio not growing as fast as it should to help you reach your goals? If not, you may need to review your asset allocation to make sure it is aligned with your risk tolerance and portfolio objective. Do you find that you own too many of the same types of investments? This overconcentration could be harmful to you if a downturn affects one particular asset class, and you own too much of that asset. To help prevent this from happening, be sure to diversify your dollars across a range of investment vehicles. Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee a profit or protect against all losses.

- **Protect yourself – and your family.** Saving for your ideal retirement is certainly a worthy goal, but you have other ones – such as providing for your family in case you aren't around, or if you become ill or incapacitated and can't work for a while. That's why you will need adequate life insurance, and possibly disability insurance, too. Your employer may offer you both these types of coverage as an employee benefit, but it might not be enough – so you may want to explore private coverage as well.

Financial Planning Month will come and go. But by following the above suggestions, you can create some strategies that will bring you a lifetime of benefits. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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