

Outlaws advance to first round of state playoffs

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws crushed Klamath Union 42-6 at home in Sisters on Friday, October 28, and will advance to the first round of the state playoffs. Sisters will take on the Rangers at Estacada on Friday, November 4 at 7 p.m.

Junior Christopher Luz had four catches for 125 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Outlaws to the big victory in the 4A play-in game against Klamath Union. On Sisters' first possession, Tanner Head hit Luz with a 33-yard TD pass to get Sisters on the scoreboard. Head hit the mark again in the second quarter with a 60-yard TD pass to Luz, which gave the Outlaws a 14-0 lead.

Johnny Gurney scored on a four-yard run and Head hit Luz with a 16-yard pass to push Sisters to a 28-0 advantage at the half.

The Outlaws continued to steamroll over the Pelicans in the second half. Gurney rushed for a 12-yard touchdown and then caught an eight-yard TD pass from Head in the third quarter to stretch the Outlaws lead to 42-0.

Klamath Union scored their lone touchdown in the final quarter of play.

Tanner Head was fantastic at quarterback for the Outlaws. Head completed six of eight passes for 172 yards and four touchdowns. Jake Stevens was the leading ground-gainer, and on 16 carries accrued 162

yards. Johnny Gurney added 85 yards on 11 carries.

Sisters amassed over 400 yards of total offense, led by an offensive line which controlled the line of scrimmage all night long, and had one of its best outings to date. Seniors Jacob Gurney, Kade Owen, and Jake Welch, juniors Brady Wessel, Jaden Condel, and Casey Warburton, along with sophomore Joel Miller, led a pounding run-game, which was able to cause damage and helped sustain several long drives. Ryan Cook and Tyler Head were also a big part of the success, and blocked well from their halfback and tight-end spots.

The defense did give up some yards in the first half, but found a way to keep the Pelicans off the scoreboard until the very last play of the game.

Coach Gary Thorson said, "We gradually were able to take them out of their run game, and our secondary played well once we got them in this position and came away with a few interceptions, which helped our cause." (Luz had an interception in the second quarter and Will Miner had an interception in the fourth.)

Sky-Em Defensive Player of the Year Jacob Gurney led the defense with seven tackles, four assists and a sack. The Outlaws got good help on the run defensively from Brady Wessel and Joel Miller, who both recorded a sack.

Ben Saba handled the kicking duties on special teams for the Outlaws and hit all six of his PATs.

Thorson said, "This was by far one of the best games in terms of an execution standpoint, especially on the offensive side of the ball. I believe the kids are growing weekly in their comfort level with what we are trying to do in that area, and are playing pretty solid football in all three aspects of the game. They have been focused, and have worked very hard to get themselves in this position, and I believe we can still continue to improve every week, even at this point of the season."



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Jake Stevens has 153 yards rushing vs. Klamath Union.

ALL LEAGUE: Outlaws well represented in league honors

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the three, and his leverage and strength that he can transfer from the weight room make him difficult to block.

"Joel has been an absolute wrecking-ball for us, and quietly each Friday night goes out and makes some plays for us, but more importantly is occupying double-teams, and freeing up others to make plays as well."

Lake, in his first year, developed quickly into one of the league's best defensive ends, due to his physical play and his athleticism.

Three players were also selections at inside linebacker. Jacob Gurney was a first-team pick, and Ryan Cook and Johnny Gurney were second-team selections.

Thorson said, "Hands down, this was the best linebacker combination in the league, and arguably one of the best in the state. These

three seniors are the heart and soul of our defense. All three play very fast and have a great nose for the football, and all tackle well. They have worked hard at becoming the best in their position, and their play and attitude has rubbed off on the entire defensive squad. They are a great blend of speed and physicality and are well respected by their peers for how hard they play."

Christopher Luz and Ben Saba both earned recognition at defensive back, and round out the all-league awards. Luz was named first-team and Saba was honorable mention.

Luz, at free safety, and Saba, from the corner spot, combined for a handful of interceptions for the Outlaws.

"Both these guys are very savvy defensive backs, and both have shown some physicality at their positions and have come up on the run nicely," said Thorson. "The secondary was a big question mark for us coming into the season, and both of these guys have helped solidify the defense for us against the pass."

HERE ARE THE FACTS... RICHARD ESTERMAN RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL

Richard Esterman is qualified to run for City of Sisters' council position because he is a resident of the city and denies the accusations leveled by City Manager Rick Allen — who overstepped his management position by interfering in politics to aid another candidate.

"I take this election seriously, and I am running to make a difference; so each citizen receives equal treatment before the city and so others will become involved with City politics," said Mr. Esterman. He believes Mr. Allen wants another candidate to win because Allen dislikes Esterman's outspoken style.

Richard Esterman resides on Oak Street in Sisters and maintains an office in Deschutes County. He has resided on Oak Street under a valid lease for over a year. Previously, he was a resident in Tollgate for about 26 years. His driver's license reflects his Oak Street residency since October 25, 2015.

Concerns regarding Richard Esterman's residency were raised in a letter by City Attorney Jeremy Green, but it remains unclear who authorized Mr. Green to write the letter and who provided a copy of Green's letter to the press before Esterman had an opportunity to prove his residency.

City Manager Allen wrongly asserts that there was "zero" water consumption at Esterman's home on Oak Street to support his residency attack. But City Manager Allen knows or should know that water consumption is measured by the City of Sisters in increments of 100 cubic feet (748 gallons). So, any use below that amount will appear on a water bill as "zero." Not only was City Manager Allen wrong about water usage, he was wrong about Esterman's residency. Of concern to all citizens, Allen unlawfully breached Esterman's privacy by snooping in his personal information stored at the City.

"I do not feel that it's right or legal that Allen can use his position to go into my private information without my permission and make it public," said Esterman. There are reports of Allen driving past Esterman's home on Oak Street. Mr. Allen's involvement is troubling, because under the City of Sisters' Charter, the City manager may not direct the Council and is not authorized to act except by the Council. There is no record that the City Council authorized Allen to act against Esterman.

"I am running in this election to make a real difference and to inspire others to do the same. I will bring City transparency to the citizens of Sisters and will always be consistent, fair and objective. Sisters is my community and I will always put differences aside to serve the members of my community equally and effectively."

There is a last minute Political Forum scheduled tonight, Wednesday, November 2, and Mr. Esterman regrets he will be unable to attend due to caring for his mother out of state.

