

Outlaws post third straight win in baseball

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws defeated Madras and Crook County this past week to push their record to 3-0. Sisters' Tuesday game against Madras was rained out, and teams made the game on Wednesday. Sisters played a great game and defeated the White Buffs at Madras 5-2. A day later, the Outlaws crushed the Crook County Cowboys 13-3.

In Tuesday's game, the Outlaws got five runs off six hits and committed three errors in the game. Madras got their two runs off seven hits and had zero errors.

Sisters got their first three runs in the bottom of the first inning. Ryan Cook hit a ground ball single up the middle to score Alec Gannon, who got on base via a walk. Zach Morgan hit a hard line drive to left field to score two and give the Outlaws a 3-0 lead.

The White Buffs scored a run in the third, but Sisters answered with a run to go up 4-1. Morgan scored the RBI on a line drive to right field.

Morgan drove in Sisters' final run in the fifth. Cook had a nice base hit to left center field, and the fielder made a diving attempt to catch it, but it deflected off his glove. A passed ball and a wild pitch got Cook to third, and then Morgan brought him home with a ground ball single to left field.

Madras got another run in the sixth, and in the seventh loaded the bases with zero outs and was unable to score. Sisters got the first out, and then the White Buffs' best hitter, Smith, who up to this point had gone three-for-three with a double and two singles, took the plate. Alec Gannon struck him out with a one-and-two count on a high fast ball away. The next batter grounded out to Ryan Cook at second base for an unassisted put-out to end the game.

Gannon did a great job on the mound for the Outlaws.

Coach Steve Hodges said, "Alec pitched a whale of a game. He finished the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh innings for us. He had good control and pitched with confidence. He got in a jam in the seventh inning, but focused and got the job done. Striking out Smith was the biggest out of the game. The game turned on that play right there. He threw a perfect pitch. It was a great response in a situation where the game was on the line."

Morgan was the big hitter for the Outlaws and went three-for-four with four RBI.

A day later, the Outlaws took care of business in five innings with a 13-3 home win over Crook County (CC).

Sisters scored 13 runs off 14 hits and CC scored their three runs off five hits.

Morgan was the winning pitcher. Zach pitched four innings and recorded four strike-outs.

"We're ready to begin to play some good baseball."
— Coach Steve Hodges

Several players made contributions at the plate. Ryan Cook went one-for-one and recorded the opening RBI of the game. Ryan Funk had two doubles, Austin Morss hit a double, and Alec Gannon had a two-RBI single. Jett Mingus went two-for-three and Turner Stutzman had a two-RBI single to close it out.

Hodges said, "We're ready to begin to play some good baseball. It will be good to have a week together in Arizona. It will be a good platform to prepare for league."

The Outlaws will play five games at the Arizona Chandler Prep Tournament held at the end of the month.

Boys lacrosse takes first loss

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws had a rough week, with a 10-4 loss on the lacrosse field at Ridgeview on Thursday, March 23, followed by a 14-2 loss to Liberty at home a day later.

In Thursday's game, the Outlaws got two goals from Ethan Morgan, and a goal from Bennett Lewis and Tyler Friend. Matt Harris recorded eight ground balls, Sam Mitchell had five, and Ethan Kennedy added four.

Casey Warburton did a superb job in the goal, with 18 shots saved. Willie Stewart played well in the midfield and harassed Ridgeview on the defensive end, and carried the ball to the offensive end. Jackson Rheuben did a solid job in his first action of the year as a long-pole defender.

Coach Paul Patton said, "We had some good shots on goal early in the game and fell into a little bit of a funk and just couldn't get back on track the rest of the game. After two big wins last week, our first loss of the season really taught us a lot about what we need to work on to continue to improve."

A day later, the Outlaws lost to Liberty.

Evan Palmer scored his first goal in high school competition. Sisters' only other goal came from Trey Stadel. Jude Kokesh-Carhart and Friend recorded four ground balls and Morgan added three.

Matt Harris took over in the box as goalie, and according to Patton did a tremendous job. Harris saved 21 shots and was a vocal leader on defense.

Of the defensive unit, Patton said, "Sam Mitchell, Ethan Kennedy, and Spencer Morgan gave a valiant effort playing without any of the other long-stick back-ups available."

Gabe Patton and Friend were fierce and energetic the entire contest, and battled hard for the face-offs.

Chayce Sproat and



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Trey Stadel moves upfield for the Outlaws.

Damien Wills played for the first time this season and added much-needed depth to the Outlaws roster. The Outlaws were a little short-handed at the middle position, and Stadel, Willie Stewart, Kokesh-Carhart and Damien Wills had to run hard up and down the field without much recovery time on the sideline.

Patton said, "Liberty is a big school with a well-established, successful lacrosse program. They had close to 30 kids on their roster, and we played them tough with just 16 kids, so I'm really proud of our boys for the way

they competed for the entire game, even though the scoreboard wasn't in our favor."

The Outlaws are now at 2-2, and Patton told *The Nugget* they are at a critical juncture as they head into spring break.

"If the boys can stay active during their week off, and we can get in a good week of practice during the second week of the break, I think we can set ourselves up to have a very rewarding rest of the season," said Patton.

The Outlaws' next game will be against Churchill at home on Friday, April 7.

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