

Outlaws open season with three league wins

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On Wednesday, April 5, the Outlaws opened league play with a 5-1 win over the Falcons at Elmira. Two days later, Sisters was scheduled to play at Sutherlin, but due to rain, the double-header was rescheduled for Saturday. The Outlaws came out on top in both games, with scores of 5-2, and 13-1.

In Wednesday's game, Sisters got their five runs off 10 hits and two errors. The Falcons scored their lone run off three hits and one error.

The Outlaws had two big hits that highlighted the contest. In the third inning, Alec Gannon got a two-out hit single to right center that scored two runners. Zach Morgan was the star of the fourth, with a solo home run to left center.

Both teams scored a run in the fifth, and Sisters held on for the win.

Ryan Funk and Jake Larson got multiple hits for the Outlaws. Funk went three-for-four and Larson was two-for-four.

Morgan threw six

strikeouts in five innings of work and was the Outlaws winning pitcher. Jett Mingus pitched the final two innings and had three strikeouts.

A few changes have been made to league play this year. First, games on Friday are scheduled to be double-headers, and secondly, the pitch-count for pitchers has changed.

Hodges explained the pitch-count rule.

"This year, rules changed in Oregon regarding the pitch-count for high school pitchers. If a pitcher throws over 25 pitches, he has to have a day of rest," said Hodges. "On his 46th pitch, he has to have two days off, the 61st pitch requires three days rest, and if it's over 85 they have to have four days rest."

"The pitch-count is so strategic. It becomes a real math problem. And, with double-headers, compounded with games canceled due to rain, it causes a big hassle, because games get pushed up against each other."

The Outlaws are 1-0 in league, 8-0 overall, and are currently ranked No. 3 in the state.

Deadline approaches for tax filing

The Department of Revenue is reminding Oregonians that the deadline to file their 2016 personal income tax return is April 18.

The department is expecting 2.2 million returns this year, said Megan Denison, the policy and systems manager for the Personal Tax and Compliance Division.

"We generally receive about half of the season's returns before April 1 and the remainder after that," Denison said. With nearly 1.2 million returns received, this year is following that trend.

Oregon honors filing extensions issued by the IRS, but an extension to file is not an extension to pay. Interest on your tax due starts accumulating on April 19, the day after the return is originally due. If you can't pay your taxes, please contact the department. Based on your financial situation, they may be able to set you up on a monthly payment plan.

If you owe taxes and need to make a payment, the department's field offices can no longer accept cash, but they do still accept payments by check, money order, or credit or debit card. If you need to make your payment in cash, you'll need to go to the department's main office

in Salem. You can make electronic payments directly from your checking or savings account or by credit or debit card through Revenue Online, the department's self-service site. You'll need a valid email address to make a credit or debit card payment online or in their offices. For information or to set up a Revenue Online account, visit www.oregon.gov/dor.

Here are a few tips and reminders for those who haven't filed their returns yet:

- E-filing is the fastest way to get your tax refund. On average, taxpayers who e-file and request their refund via direct deposit receive their refund sooner than those who

file paper returns and request paper refund checks.

- There are many free or low-cost preparation options available for both federal and Oregon tax returns.

- Some software companies offer free software use and e-filing for eligible taxpayers.

- AARP and CASH Oregon provide free and low-cost tax preparation services in local communities.

- All Oregon taxpayers preparing their own return can file electronically at no cost using Oregon's free fillable forms.

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/dor and search for "free tax preparation services."