

Girls lacrosse battles tough teams

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The girls lacrosse team packed in four games this past week, which started with an 11-7 win over Cleveland on Monday, April 17. Two days later, they suffered a 22-4 loss at home to Summit. On Friday, Sisters lost 11-8 at home in a close game against Grant, and on Saturday they lost 11-9 in another tight contest against Century.

In Monday's game against Cleveland, the squad played a solid game and worked together to tally the win. At the half, the Outlaws were on top 7-6. Sisters tacked on three more goals in the second half to secure the victory.

Leading scorers were Bree Papworth and Kaylee Huber, who recorded three goals each, and Mia Cook who recorded two.

Ellie Cook, McKenna Jones, and Sophia Bianchi all had a great defensive game with many caused turnovers and blocks, and Makila Lajko had eight saves in the goal. The defense stepped up their play in the second half and limited the Warriors to one goal.

Sisters started off well in their game against Grant on Friday. The Outlaws played very good defense in the first half, and put in five goals to take a 5-3 lead as teams entered the half. Ellie Cook had two goals, and Sydney Head, Katelyn Josten, and

Papworth each contributed one. Lajko played in the box and saved three of the six shots on goal.

The Outlaws defense did a tremendous job the first half, while Grants' defense seemed a bit sleepy. That all changed for the Outlaws in the second half, as the defense fell apart. There were lots of forced turnovers, and Sisters was unable to catch the ball.

In the second half, Sasha Komar stepped in as goalie.

"Unfortunately, we let in a lot more balls," said Coach Mikaela Trott. "Grant was able to get a lot of goals right off the draw. They'd catch it, pass it down field with about three passes, and go straight to the goal. They didn't even set up an offense. Our defense was not sliding well, and we couldn't stop them. The biggest difference in the second half was that Grant held the ball for the majority of the time."

On the plus side, the Outlaws did have some good draw controls throughout the game. Head played center for most of the contest and recorded five. Huber tallied two draw controls, and added three ground balls. Josie Aylor and McKenna Jones stood out on defense with two caused turnovers and two ground balls.

"Overall, it was a pretty good game, but we could have done better," said Trott.

Saturday's game against Century was another tough

battle. The Outlaws played very hard, and exhibited better fundamentals than the previous day, and their strength and determination was evident. Even so, at the half they trailed 6-3.

In the second half, the Outlaws picked it up and fought for every ground ball, and Trott told *The Nugget* they were playing like the team she knew that they could be.

"If they would have played like that the entire game, we would have won," commented Trott.

Top scorers in the game were Ellie Cook and Josten, who each scored three, and Elise Ford who posted two.

Papworth had the most exciting goal of the game. The goal came on a fast-break that moved from the offense to the defense in three passes. The final pass came from Head to Papworth. Bree beat her defender one-on-one, but the defender pushed her in the back from behind. As Bree was falling to the ground, she shot the ball right into the net. The goal counted and the defender was given a yellow card. The goal came with three minutes left on the clock.

"She really went above and beyond to get that goal,"



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Elise Ford moves upfield in girls lacrosse game against Grant.

said Trott.

The Outlaws were able to put in three goals in the final three minutes of the contest and only lost by two.

"I think if we'd had five more minutes we would have won the game," stated Trott. "The Outlaws did a really good job and fought the whole time."

Head dominated the draw controls and had five in the contest. Sydney also recorded five ground balls and a caused turnover. Huber fought hard for ground balls and tallied four and Sophia Bianchi added three. Olivia Hougham finished with two caused turnovers, one draw control, and three ground balls.

Trott commented on Olivia Hougham's play.

"Olivia was perhaps one of the top players in the game,"

said Trott. "She didn't score, but she played at midfield the entire game, and was on top of Century's best player, who truly was the backbone of their team and scored most of their goals and did their draw controls. Olivia is so fast she was able to keep up on her the whole time."

Lajko played goalie the first half and had six saves, and Komar played the position in the second half and had two saves.

The Lady Outlaws have four more games left on their schedule. They were to play Summit JV on Tuesday, April 25. On Thursday, two days later, they will travel to Redmond. Sisters will wrap up their season on Saturday, April 29, with home games against Sheldon and West Albany.

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