

# Outlaws handle Huskies in baseball double-header

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

The Outlaws were firing on all cylinders at home on Friday, April 21, and posted wins in both games of the double-header against Sweet Home.

Sisters set the pace with a 15-1 victory in the first game. The Outlaws got 15 runs off 17 hits and one error. The Huskies had one lone run, four hits, and three errors.

Zach Morgan did a tremendous job on the mound for the Outlaws and earned the win. Morgan was dominant with his fastball and recorded 12 strikeouts.

He helped his own cause at the plate, starting Sisters' scoring spree in the first inning with a solo home run that sailed straight away over the center-field fence. Morgan finished the game four-for-five, which included his home run and a double. Coach Steve Hodges told *The Nugget* that he was definitely the MVP of the game.

Christopher Luz also had a great game. Luz went three-for-five, and had a three-run blast in the seventh.

"Christopher has really come along the last couple weeks, and has made a huge difference in our offense," said Hodges.

Ryan Cook went two-for-four with a double, Jett Mingus and Jake Larson both were two-for-four with an RBI each, and JW Bertagna was two-for-three with an RBI.

Hodges noted that Larson has been able to pick up some key hits with runners in scoring position in the last couple of games, which has also been a boost to the Outlaws' offense.

Sisters won the second game in six innings, 11-1, due to the 10-run rule. The Outlaws scored 11 runs on 11 hits and zero errors.

Cook pitched the first two innings and Mingus finished up the last four and earned the win. Jett challenged hitters and didn't walk players. He got the Huskies to hit a lot of fly balls, and infield ground balls, and let his defense back him up.

Mingus was calm and collected, and pitched himself out of a jam in the fourth inning. With the bases loaded and one out, Jett struck out a batter, and then a ground out to shortstop ended the inning.

"That was a huge inning for us and gave us momentum for the rest of the game," said Hodges. "Jett performed under pressure and showed good poise. He pitched with confidence after that."

Several players contributed on offense. Morgan had a two-run shot over the right-field wall in the fourth inning, Alec Gannon was two-for-three with a double and one RBI, and Ryan Cook had two doubles and an RBI.

Ryan Funk, with the bases loaded, hit a 350-foot single that landed at the base of the fence. Hodges told *The*

*Nugget* that players couldn't run because they weren't sure if the ball would be caught or not.

"I'm sure it was the longest single of Ryan's career," said Hodges.

Jake Larson went two-for-four with an RBI, Austin Morss was one-for-three, Mingus was one-for-three with a double and two RBI, and Alec Gannon was two-for-three with an RBI.

Hodges noted he's very pleased with the team's improved offense.

**"...the kids executed our game plan to perfection. They focused and prepared, and it paid off..."**  
— Coach Steve Hodges

"After four days of practice, we had a great offensive showing," said Hodges. "We got a total of 26 runs in two games. I'm certainly very pleased with our offensive progress the last week and a half. Today the kids executed our game plan to perfection. They focused and prepared, and it paid off today."

The Outlaws are now 7-1 in league and 15-1 overall. Sisters was to play at home against Sutherlin on Tuesday, April 25. The team will host a double-header against Elmira on Friday, April 28.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Zach Morgan pitched one of the best games of his career in a win over Sweet Home. Morgan also went 4-5 at the plate.

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### Essential Conversations about Family Wealth

How confident are you about your family's finances? How often do you discuss money with your loved ones? According to the Family Wealth Checkup study by Ameriprise Financial, there's a correlation between financial confidence and communication. While many families are discussing financial issues, they tend to shy away from diving deep into topics like inheritance and estate planning, leaving some family members with unrealistic expectations.

Here are some tips to help you discuss money matters with your family.

**Don't wait for tragedy to bring up finances.** Family conversations about finances lay the foundation for a more secure financial future for the people closest to you. Nine in 10 adult children say a life altering event triggered a financial talk with their parents. It's a good idea to have these conversations when all the important players in your estate plan can participate and communicate their wishes or questions. With time on your side, you can cover topics thoroughly and have time to get the proper documents in place, if you haven't already.

Although estate planning can be a tough and emotional topic to initiate, families who have talked about it say the discussion went much smoother than anticipated. Families said their conversations were straightforward and relaxed as opposed to awkward or difficult – even more motivation to have the talk with your loved ones.

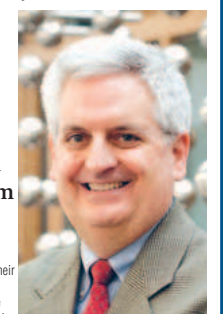
**Make the conversation a priority and schedule a time to chat.** Rather than hoping a conversation will happen after dinner, let each family member know ahead of time that you want to talk. Complex estates may require multiple discussions, so schedule a date to continue the conversation if needed. After your initial conversations, keep your family members up-to-date about changes that could affect your estate, such as establishing a living will or cashing in an annuity.

**Share your agenda ahead of time so that your family can prepare for the conversation.** Consider starting the conversation by sharing your financial goals and values, and telling your family why these discussions are important to you. Other topics on the agenda may include managing current finances including any debt, healthcare costs and legacy planning.

**Manage expectations.** You don't have to divulge the exact value of your estate or the amount of money in your accounts, but it's important to disclose enough details so that your family can set appropriate expectations. If part of your legacy plan includes leaving an inheritance, consider letting your family know whether it's an amount large enough to help fund your grandchildren's education or maybe it's closer to a down payment on a car. Most people plan to leave an inheritance, but only 21 percent of parents have told their kids how much they can expect to receive.

**Create or update your estate plan.** Pair your conversations with a comprehensive estate plan to prevent rifts that can happen when financial wishes are not clearly documented. Your estate encompasses anything you own, such as real estate, cars, life insurance, financial accounts including your retirement plans, and personal possessions. Creating a plan for what happens to these assets and accounts is important no matter the size of your estate. If you already have an estate plan in place, revisit your will or trust, and update beneficiaries to various accounts and assets to mirror the blueprint you've shared with family members. Consider also providing instructions in a healthcare directive on what you want your family to do in the event that you cannot act on your own behalf. Clearly documenting your wishes can make difficult circumstances easier for everyone involved. Tell loved ones where to find important documents. Families who are kept in the dark could face challenges if something unplanned happens and they are left to pick up the financial pieces. Prevent headaches that can slow down the settlement of your estate by providing instructions about where you've stored the safety deposit key, bank accounts, stock certificates and other pertinent items, including digital assets. Also, ensure that your family has the contact information for the professionals (e.g. lawyer, estate planner, tax or financial advisor) who are helping you prepare or manage your estate. Work with a financial professional. If you experience conflict in your family discussions or want some help navigating difficult topics, consider working with a neutral third party, such as a financial advisor. A financial professional can help your family understand your collective financial picture and transition wealth from one generation to the next. Ongoing dialogue about estate topics with family members could bring you closer together and pave the way for a smooth transfer of wealth, when the day comes.

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