

Outlaws softball shows growth

By Tom Mauldin
Correspondent

The long process of growth continued last week for Sisters High School's youthful varsity softball team as they dropped three Sky-Em League games, but left their coaches speaking praises with their efforts.

"Coach (Kerry) Mooers and I are seeing the team mature in a lot of ways," said second-year Head Coach Dave Smith. "For one, we don't have to tell them what they did wrong. As soon as they make the mistake they recognize it."

"The other big maturity we have seen is how they are talking, in both the infield and outfield, of where the next play is," said Smith.

The Outlaws lost to Sutherlin 10-6, and dropped each end of a double-header to league-leading Elmira (11-1) 10-0. While a run-rule 10-0 loss might not seem impressive, it was big improvement from the Outlaws' first game against Elmira when they lost 29-0.

With five games remaining, the Outlaws are 2-7 in Sky-Em League play and 5-10 overall. They play Cottage Grove in a double-header on May 2 and visit Sweet Home on May 9 before closing the season with a double-header versus Junction City May 12.

Against Sutherlin, the Outlaws led 2-0 after four innings and 4-1 going into the bottom of the sixth when Sutherlin took advantage of six SHS errors and exploded for nine runs. The Outlaws scored twice in the top of the seventh, but the rally fell short.

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— Coach Dave Smith

Sisters out-hit Sutherlin 14-9, but eight errors proved costly.

Top hitters for the Outlaws were Sophia Affatati, Sara Hartford and Grace Maiden. Sutherlin's strategy included not pitching to Outlaw Amanda Smith (who will play collegiately). She was walked intentionally four times.

"The six errors in the sixth inning killed us, but we were very proud of the girls for battling through that hard inning," said Coach Smith.

Amanda Smith pitched well in all three games.

Against Elmira, the Outlaws cut down on their errors, but couldn't find their bats consistently.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters seniors finished out their season. Mounted left to right: Sophie Winter, Brooke Knirk, Charlotte Barton, Madison King.

Sisters equestrians finish strong

Sisters' OHSET season finished with four athletes qualifying for the State meet, May 11-14 at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond.

Emily Ogan, Charlotte Barton, and Sophie Winter qualified in driving, saddle seat equitation, and dressage. The team of Brooke Knirk, Sophie Winter, Emily Ogan and Rebecca Rubbert will

compete in team flags on the gaming day.

Alternates, who go to State if a qualifier is unable to compete, are Ellie Cook in hunt seat equitation, Rebecca Rubbert in in-hand trail, and Emily Ogan in dressage.

Coach Annie Winter said, "Although nice to qualify for State, this is not the main goal of the SHS equestrian team.

Camaraderie, support and celebrating personal growth is more important, and to that end we have a wonderful team of athletes."

There are four graduating seniors who led the team. Winter said Charlotte Barton, Brook Knirk, Maddie King and Sophie Winter will all be missed, but wishes them well in their next endeavors.

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