

# Still time for students to join sports teams for fall

By **Charlie Kanzig**  
Correspondent

The Milli Fire and its accompanying smoky haze has not thwarted the sports programs at Sisters High School (SHS). The fall campaign is underway for cross-country, soccer, volleyball, football and cheer/dance.

The fire has created challenges for practice time, with teams forced to move inside, travel to smoke-free areas, or cancel workouts, according to Athletic Director Gary Thorson. Nevertheless, the athletes are eager.

“We have a great turnout already and expect more kids to join as the school year gets underway,” said Thorson. “Kids have already been out working hard since the first official day of practice, August 14, and more have been added each day.”

Thorson wants to emphasize that students are still welcome to join teams — but they should do so sooner rather than later.

“We want kids involved, so if they express interest we will work with them to get started,” he said. “Because we start school earlier than others

that begin after Labor Day, we often have kids add once classes have started.”

So far, about 40 percent of the SHS population is participating in a fall sport according to numbers reported last week. That could climb toward 50 percent once school starts.

Neil Fendall, who took over the reins from Thorson as head football coach, reports about 50 boys out on the gridiron as of August 25, including 19 seniors who make up the core of the varsity team. Rob Jensen’s boys soccer team also has healthy numbers on a relatively young team that includes just two seniors, but a dozen juniors among the 36 registered thus far.

The cross-country team also sports a youngish roster, with at least 15 freshmen among the 40-plus runners expected in total.

Girls soccer is rebuilding under the direction of a new coach, Jaron Jacobson, who made the move to Sisters after working as an assistant at Summit High School in Bend for a number of years. Twenty-one girls have turned out so far, which is similar to the total for girls volleyball. The reigning state champions

are under the direction of Rory Rush, who most recently coached at Western Mennonite near Salem.

The cheer/dance team has begun practice, with 15 girls participating thus far, up from last year. The team is coached by Gabrielle Griffy.

It’s too early to predict outcomes, but the strong numbers represented across the board bode well for the Outlaws.

**“We want every student involved somehow ... sports, music, clubs or volunteering.”**  
— Gary Thorson

Interested students should come by Thorson’s school office to get registered.

“We want every student involved somehow, whether it is sports, music, clubs or volunteering,” he said. “What we don’t want is for kids to think it’s already too late for this season.”



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Sisters fall sports programs are off to a running start despite fire-related impediments. Though programs are underway with strong numbers, administrators and coaches encourage students to continue signing up.

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## 5 Steps to Retire from Your Business with Confidence

As a business owner, you’ve poured your time and energy into making your company successful. But how much thought have you given to what will happen when you relinquish this role? Sooner or later, you will step down and hand the reins to someone else. Even if you intend to work for many more years, having a well-defined path can help you develop peace of mind as you enter the next phase of life. Looking ahead allows you to anticipate future opportunities and challenges, as well as give you time to create financial contingency plans that improve your prospects down the road. Here are five ways to constructively think ahead.

**1. Decide what the future looks like – for you and your business** Whether it’s starting another business, dedicating time to volunteer or visiting countries on your bucket list, your goals and dreams will be in better reach if you take the time to articulate them.

Next, think about what you desire for your business when you leave the helm. If you want your company to continue after you’re gone, then it’s important to groom future leaders. A succession plan can help you avoid potential gaps in the chain of command and make your company more attractive to prospective buyers. Even if you choose to shut the doors, you’ll want to think about how to best wrap things up with vendors, customers and clients.

**2. Assess your retirement savings** After you’ve identified the goals and dreams for you and your business, focus on planning the details of your retirement. First and foremost, it’s important to have separate retirement savings as you plan a future that’s independent of the business. Pouring every dollar that you make back into your business is not a retirement plan. Even the best intentions can be thwarted if something unexpected happens.

When you have a retirement savings account in place, commit to making regular contributions. Start as early as you can and consider increasing your contribution as you get closer to retirement. Enlist the help of a financial advisor to ensure your retirement plan is robust enough to finance your transition.

**3. Calculate your retirement expenses** Knowing that your savings are enough to cover the lifestyle you want in retirement may help you step away from the business with more confidence. Project what you expect to spend, including housing, healthcare, taxes and lifestyle expenses. If you are still years away from retirement, use your best estimate and tweak your projections as you approach your golden years. Compare your expenses to your savings.

**4. Consider what income you may receive from selling or passing the reins** This is where you figure out how to optimize a key piece of your nest egg. Do you cash out in a lump sum or negotiate a sale over time? If you’ve built a business that hasn’t reached its full potential, you may be reluctant to sell and forego future profits. You might consider bringing in new leadership to manage day-to-day operations while retaining your ownership stake. If you don’t think you’ll be able to sell your business (which is sometimes the case for sole proprietors who themselves represent much of their business’s value), identify business assets that can be liquidated to generate cash on your way out.

**5. Prepare for the non-financial aspects of retirement** Expect to feel some emotions over the transition. Stepping away from your business can be tough, especially if you put considerable time, effort and money into creating and growing the business. Know that it will take time for you to settle into your new life in retirement. Having a plan will likely help you feel more confident.

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