

Outlaws fall in tight soccer match

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The boys soccer team battled hard at Cottage Grove (CG) on Thursday, September 14, in their league opener against the Lions, but with less than two minutes left in the contest, the Lions got one past the Outlaws and tallied a 3-2 win.

Cottage Grove struck first at the 18-minute mark to take a 1-0 lead, but Sisters answered five minutes later. Gabe Patton was tackled in the penalty box and Colby Simeral converted the PK into the upper-right corner, with a shot that didn't give the Lions' keeper a chance to get the save.

The Lions regained the lead with 10 minutes left in the half on a hard foul by Willie Stewart in the penalty. CG converted the PK and went into the half with a 2-1 advantage.

The contest continued back and forth, and the Outlaws finally got the neutralizing shot in the 58th minute when Simeral was fouled hard in the penalty. Colby converted the PK once again, this time to the left side, past the outstretched hands of the keeper.

Simeral told *The Nugget* that after he converted his second PK, the Outlaws were fired up.

"The energy was flowing, and everyone was connecting," said Simeral. "Our energy was high, the bench was thrilled, we were all exhilarated, and we had the

momentum."

It was a battle to the very end, and both teams gave it all they had. With just under two minutes left in the game, the Lions were able to slot a bouncing ball to the left side. Keaton Green and Samson Henneous both made a play on it, but the Lions' player was able to volley the ball between them into the net.


"League play was definitely apparent," said Coach Rob Jensen. "Samson played his career-best game and minded the net fabulously for us. I saw the team come together and play their best game of the season. They are getting better at a rapid rate, and next week should show these results."

Two days earlier, the Outlaws wrapped up pre-season with a 5-0 loss at Henley.

Jensen said, "I felt we played an even game, however they were able to get forward in the attack a little more than us. The result showed our defense had many mental errors."

Sisters was to play at home against Sutherlin on Tuesday, September 19. The Outlaws will travel to Sweet Home on Thursday, September 21.

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USFS spends record \$2B on fires

By Mathew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service has spent more than \$2 billion battling forest fires that are blackening the American West. That's a new record for the agency and marks the first time wildfire spending by the

Forest Service has topped \$2 billion.

Wildfires have ravaged the West this summer with 64 large fires burning across 10 states as of Thursday, including 21 fires in Montana and 18 in Oregon. In all, 48,607 wildfires have burned nearly 13,000 square miles (33,586 square kilometers) in one

of the nation's worst fire seasons.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said the severe fire season means officials "end up having to hoard all of the money that is intended for fire prevention, because we're afraid we're going to need it to actually fight fires."

More aggressive approach to prevention?

By Mathew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday, September 12, directed all land managers and park superintendents to be more aggressive in cutting down small trees and underbrush to prevent wildfires as the smoke-choked West faces one of the worst fire seasons in a decade.

In a memo, Zinke said the Trump administration will take a new approach and work proactively to prevent fires "through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management" to save lives, homes and wildlife habitat.

Wildfires are chewing across dried-out Western forests and grassland. To date, 47,700 wildfires have burned more than 8 million acres across the country, with much of the devastation in California, Oregon and Montana, Zinke said.

As of Tuesday, 62 large fires were burning across nine Western states, with 20 fires in Montana and 17 in Oregon, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Nearly half the large fires in the West reported zero acreage gains on Monday, helping firefighters across the West make progress toward containing them, the agency said.

The Forest Service and

Interior Department have spent more \$2.1 billion so far this year fighting fires — about the same as in all of 2015, the most expensive wildfire season on record.

Those figures do not include individual state spending. In Montana, where more than 90 percent of the state is in drought, the state has spent more than \$50 million on fire suppression since June, with fires likely to burn well into the fall.

Oregon has spent \$28 million, but expects to be reimbursed for part of that by the federal government and others.

See PREVENTION on page 17

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