

Outlaws edged out by Crook County in football action

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws played a hard-fought game against the Crook County (CC) Cowboys at home on Friday, September 14, but came up just three points short in a final score of 35-32.

Sisters started the game a bit slow, and the Cowboys took advantage and steam-rolled over the Outlaws to go up 15-0 to close out the first quarter.

The Cowboys' next three drives fell short due in part to penalties. Sisters moved the ball with tough runs from Gator Haken and a few short passing plays by Taylor Fendall, capped with a nine-yard touchdown pass from Fendall to Trey Stadel.

On the following drive, the Outlaws started the series with a pass to Stadel for a 69-yard play down to the 14-yard line. Haken finished the drive with a five-yard run and a nine-yard TD.

CC converted an interception into a TD, and at the half held a 21-14 lead.

Play went back and forth in the second half, highlighted by the Cowboys' strong running attack, and the Outlaws' big passes and several runs by Haken. CC scored a TD, then the Outlaws' Wyatt Hernandez kicked the ball 30 yards straight through the uprights for a field goal to bring the score to 27-17 at the end of

the third.

It was a crazy fourth quarter, where the Outlaws scored two touchdowns and a two-point conversion to cut the Cowboy lead to three. The Outlaws first score was a 52-yard catch and run by Korbin Sharp, followed by a one-yard TD pass on fourth-and-goal from Fendall to Haken, which was set up by a 47-yard pass to Sharp. The two-point conversion came from Fendall to Sharp.

With two minutes left in the game, the Cowboys tried to run down the clock. Sharp forced and recovered a fumble at the 50-yard line, which gave the Outlaws a slim shred of hope. Sisters was stifled by a fierce pass rush and took the loss.

Quarterback Taylor Fendall had a great game; he went 12-for-24, with 267 yards, and three touchdowns. Coach Neil Fendall told *The Nugget* he expects a lot from Taylor, and forgets that he is only a junior.

"He still makes those mistakes, but he handles it and doesn't back down, and comes back and makes another good play," he said.

Taylor shared how the game turned around in the second half.

"I started to see the

defense better, and everything seemed to come together," said Fendall. "It was fun to share the ball tonight with all the receivers."

The Outlaws' offensive line was stellar.

Taylor said, "Joel (Miller) and Dante (Hanks), in particular, were kickin' butt on every play."

Haken had a great game with 18 carries for 102 yards and a TD, and two receptions for 25 yards and a TD.

Sharp had three receptions for 107 yards, and one touchdown. On defense, he recorded five tackles, forced and recovered a fumble, and had a 30-yard kick return. Stadel had three receptions for 82 yards, and one TD. Trey also tallied eight tackles in the contest (three solo).

Matt Harris posted eight tackles (three solo), and Joel Miller was a beast in the middle and finished the night with seven tackles (three solo). Elijah Gurney, in a reserve role, did a fabulous job and had six tackles in the contest.

Coach Fendall was pleased and proud of his Outlaws.

"It's really satisfying considering a week ago we were in the same situation early on and our response wasn't



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Gator Haken breaks loose and scores in Friday night's tough loss vs Crook County.

there," he said. "This week, we responded early, gave ourselves a chance, and the guys came right back. They are really starting to mesh with how to run routes, and

they're getting the timing of the throw-down."

The Outlaws will travel to Sweet Home for a game against the Huskies on Friday, September 21.

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