

Outlaws earn win over Warriors

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws posted a big 45-41 victory at home over Philomath on Tuesday, January 15, but three days later suffered a 48-32 loss on the road against No. 3-ranked Stayton. They also dropped their game at Sweet Home on Tuesday, January 22, in a final score of 51-42.

Against Philomath, the Outlaws worked together to earn a league win over the visiting Warriors.

In the first quarter teams scored back-and-forth, and mid-way through the period the score was even, 8-8. The Outlaws held the Warriors scoreless the last four minutes, and a bucket from Jack Berg and a three-baller from Noah Richards put the Outlaws on top 13-8 to close out the quarter.

Philomath hit a three with 17 seconds left in the second quarter to close the gap to 21-20. Zach Anderson was fouled at the buzzer and stepped up to the line. Zach was poised and steady, and sunk both shots to give the Outlaws a three-point lead, 23-20, as teams headed into the half.

Sisters only allowed the Warriors one point the first half of the third, and with three minutes left in the quarter, the Outlaws had built a 31-25 advantage. Philomath tightened up their defense and shut down the Outlaws' scoring until Jude Carhart made a nice lay-in at the nine-second mark and closed out the period with the Outlaws on top 33-25.

Philomath fought back, and midway through the fourth closed the gap to three, 35-32. With two minutes left on the clock, the Warriors had cut the lead to one. Richards grabbed an offensive board and made a put-back to put the Outlaws up by three, 42-39, and at the 18-second mark, Anderson blocked a huge three-point attempt that would have tied the game.

The Warriors pressed and put the Outlaws on the line. Brad Eagan made both his shots at the stripe to give the Outlaws a 44-39 lead. Philomath made two points at the line, and then with five seconds left Ryan Waddell hit one of his two foul shots to seal the deal as time ran out on the clock.

Richards had a great game for the Outlaws. Noah played tough defense, and made some big plays in the second half. He led the Outlaws' scoring effort with 16 points, including two big threes in the final half. Ryan Waddell scored 11 points, and Berg and Anderson each contributed seven points.

Runco told *The Nugget* that Eagan, Richards, and Berg really handled the Warriors pressure to get the Outlaws the win.

On Friday, Sisters struggled against the Eagles 2-3 zone, and their two big posts. They didn't shoot the ball well, and weren't able to penetrate into the paint. On the flip side, the Outlaws defense did well against the Eagles' size, and were able to slow them down.

Sisters only put up 10 points in the first half, five in each quarter, while the Eagles on the other hand put 23 points on the scoreboard.

Runco told *The Nugget* that the Outlaws tried to attack seams, but were tentative against the Eagles' size in the first half of the contest.

In the second half the Outlaws played even with the Eagles, but they'd dug themselves into too big of a hole in the first half to be able to come back.

Waddell came off the bench for the Outlaws and put up a great battle against the 6-foot-8-inch post Anundi. Ryan, along with Carhart, doubled up on him, slowed him down, and held him to eight points.

Post player Nichol posed more of a problem, as did the Eagles' shooting guard, who hit three shots from behind the arc while the Outlaws

were focused on the posts.

Waddell, Richards, and Joe Scholl held their own on the boards, and rebounded well against the much bigger Stayton squad.

Runco said, "Offensively, we had some really good looks early that did not go in, and that made it tough as they were able to keep their bigs close to the basket, slowing our penetration. We kept fighting, but just gave up too much in the first half."

The Outlaws suffered another tough loss at Sweet Home on January 22. Sisters handled the tenacious man-to-man press well, but the culprit and difference in the game was foul trouble.

Anderson had to sit out due to a previous concussion and so the Outlaws started out the contest short on depth, and found themselves in foul trouble from the start. Richards, Berg and Waddell got in foul trouble in the first quarter and the situation just got worse as the game went on.

Runco said, "It was quite frustrating with the pressure and physical play that Sweet



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Jude Carhart makes an aggressive move to the basket versus Philomath.

Home was able to play that the foul issue was one-sided. In the end, they shot 29 free throws to our 11, and converted 19 points from the line to our six, which was the difference in the game."

Runco noted Eagan and Waddell for their play.

"Brad had a great game on both ends," said Runco. "Defensively, he was rock-solid, and took care of the ball under tremendous pressure. Ryan was solid as usual. He's been fighting sickness for a few weeks, but he is so tough and he battled through the illness without missing a

game."

Since the Outlaws have not all been at 100 percent, they've been working hard to build depth from the JV players, and Runco told *The Nugget* he feels several are on the edge of playing time due to their hard work and effort seen in the Sweet Home contest.

Joe Scholl has steadily improved on both ends and played big minutes for the Outlaws in the last two games. Brogan Petterson and Nate Weber have also been instrumental in the Outlaws' depth.

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