

Outlaws lose in tight battle with Bulldogs

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

Sisters suffered a heart-breaking loss to No. 4-ranked Woodburn at home on Wednesday, February 6.

The Outlaws lost by 12 in their game against the Bulldogs earlier in the season, and knew they would have to work to contain point guard RJ Veliz.

Coach Rand Runco said, "We really worked on changing defenses and focusing on containing RJ. He is so difficult to guard because he can shoot the three very well, has a great jumper, gets to the rim, and passes well."

Both teams were very patient on offense at the start of the contest. The Outlaws started out great on the defensive end, but missed a few baskets. At the close of the first quarter, the Outlaws trailed 5-8.

Sisters closed the gap to one, 7-8, at the start of the second, but the Bulldogs answered with two quick buckets and went up 13-7. The Outlaws got a couple points at the stripe before Woodburn went on a 6-0 run and took a 19-9 lead. Sisters battled back and scored in the final two minutes, and closed out the half with a three-baller from Ryan Waddell. As teams headed into the locker room, the Outlaws trailed 16-21.

In the third, Sisters adjusted defensively, tightened gaps, and worked to get the ball to Zach Anderson. With two minutes left in the period, the Outlaws tied it up 24-24. Anderson scored a bucket to give the Outlaws a 28-27 lead with 15 seconds left, which gave Sisters their first lead since early in the first quarter. The Outlaws did a great job on defense and held the Bulldogs to six points in the quarter.

The final quarter was tight and intense, with nine lead changes and no more than a two-point lead by either team. With 43 seconds left on the clock, Noah

Richards dished the ball to Anderson for an alleyoop to put the Outlaws back on top 43-42. Sisters fouled and the Bulldogs hit both their shots to regain the lead. The Outlaws had an unfortunate turnover, and then were forced to foul. Woodburn hit one of their two shots and the Outlaws made a last endeavor with a half-court shot that failed, and the Bulldogs squeaked by with a two-point win.

"It was a very tough and emotional loss because we played well enough to win," said Runco. "The tough part is that we usually shoot well from the line and we only shot 50 percent from the line, and got beat on the glass, which has not happened this season. It's so frustrating to play so well, and then shoot poorly from the line and get out-rebounded. It was heart-breaking to let that opportunity slip by. But we are so proud of our guys and how well they communicated and worked together."

Anderson finished the game with 15 points, Richards and Waddell both tallied 10, and Jude Carhart added four.

A win for the Outlaws would have moved them up to a home play-in game, but now they have to really fight for a top play-in position. Runco told *The Nugget* it looks as if Stayton (No. 3) and Woodburn (No. 4) will take the top two automatic state qualifying spots. The Outlaws' last three games will determine whether they have a home or an away play-in game.

"Our league (Oregon West) is as expected the best all-around league in the state," said Runco. "In the nine games we have played so far in league, five have been decided in the final seconds. It has been a super-fun and exciting season so far. We are trying to keep healthy and are improving each game."

Sisters was scheduled to play at home against Stayton on Tuesday, February 12.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Brad Eagan scores against Woodburn.

They will play at Sweet Home on Friday. The Outlaws game against Philomath, that was canceled due to snow on February 8, will be made up at a later date.

You'll LOVE Working With Us!

Western Title & Escrow

Stop by and visit with Tiana Van Landuyt & Shelley Marsh.
220 S. Pine St., Ste. 102 | 541-548-9180

List Early...SELL NOW!
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOUR BUYER IS LOOKING!

"Ross Kennedy exemplified professional and personal service selling our cabin at Black Butte Ranch. We live across the country, and even during a trip outside of the U.S. he was able to make this transaction possible in a timely manner. Thank you, Ross, for your excellent service!"
— Mike & Sue J.

Ross Kennedy
Principal Broker
Luxury Home Specialist
541-408-1343

BLACK BUTTE REALTY GROUP

Serving Black Butte Ranch & The Greater Sisters Area

Privacy. Luxury. Tranquility.

OFFERED FOR SALE

Thurs Day
LOWES Principle Broker
541-419-4799
thursdaybend@gmail.com

AVALANCHE RANCH
245 secluded acres in Sisters, Oregon
MLS#2018110900

Robert L. Ezell
Land and Wildlife Broker
541-420-6600
rob@landandwildlife.com

HAYDEN HOMES
at
VILLAGE AT COLD SPRINGS

BUILT WITH **LP SMARTSIDE**

NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS

First 5 reservations receive a special move-in package!

CONTACT OUR COMMUNITY MANAGER TODAY!

Donnie Eggers, Broker at **541-316-4952**

HAYDEN-HOMES.COM

New Home Star Oregon, LLC CCB# OR-172526