

Lady Outlaws celebrate big win over Bend

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The girls lacrosse team defeated Bend United 7-6 on Thursday, March 21 — the first win in over five years against the tough Bend squad.

It was a battle the entire way, with the score going back and forth, tied for most of the contest.

Skylar Wilkins got the Outlaws on the scoreboard first, when she wrapped the crease and scored off a shovel-shot, which is a low shot back into the net. She scored her second shot with a ball into the left side of the goal from four meters out.

Ellie Cook scored midway through the first half when she came from behind the crease, dodged, and then bounced the ball into the lower-left corner of the net from just inside the eight-meter arc.

Bend knocked balls into the net also, and at the half it was tied up 3-3.

In the second half, Cook scored with about seven minutes left in the game. She broke away from the mid-field, dodged defenders, and bounced the ball between the goalie's legs to put the Outlaws on top 6-5.

Bend didn't let up and tied it back up 6-6. With just seven seconds left on the clock, Wilkins scored the game-winning goal. Pearl Gregg fed Wilkins the ball, and Skylar sent a shot through the defense and the goalie into the bottom-right corner, which cleared just by inches, for the score.

Wilkins said, "We were

all hugging and jumping, but we had to rein in because there were still seven seconds left in the game. When it was over we all just screamed and hollered and were so happy we'd won. We all hugged Reece, our sub goalie, and congratulated her. Reece was just so powerful and great at clearing the ball. She just kicked butt, and I think she was the one who really won the game for us."

Wilkins led the Outlaws' scoring effort with three goals, Cook tallied two, and Sydney Head and Mary Root each added one.

Cook said, "Our team connected super-well. We have improved a lot from our first game, especially passing and catching. Today we were definitely fast and got a lot of our goals on fast breaks. And Reese was so good in the goal! She never shied away from the ball."

Reece Harwell commented on her first varsity experience in the goal.

"It was nerve-wracking at first, being in all that gear, but I got used to it," said Harwell. "I got in the groove and just stepped in front of the balls and tried to block them. I couldn't let fear stop me from doing what I love. Even when they did make a goal, I just tried to stay positive and tell myself I'd get the next stop."

Coach Shelby Wilcox told *The Nugget* that it was an outstanding performance from the entire team.

"Everyone showed up and gave 100 percent, and it truly was a team effort," said Wilcox. "It was simply amazing, and I am very proud."

Boys lacrosse loses two on the road

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The boys lacrosse squad suffered a tough 18-2 loss at Wilsonville on Monday, March 18, and three days later fell 13-4 to Churchill.

Gator Haken scored Sisters' two goals in the loss against the Wildcats on Monday.

Sisters was short six players due to injury and eligibility issues and four of the six are starters. The younger and less experienced players on the squad had to step in and fill big shoes.

"Those young players have done a tremendous job of rising to the challenges of varsity-level lacrosse, but it's going to take some time for their abilities and understanding of the game to rise to the level of our competition," said Coach Paul Patton.

Six freshmen that Patton has asked to step up include Riley Sellers, Wyatt Maffey, Gaven Henry, Max Palanuk,

Eli Johnson, and Ricky Huffman.

Other freshmen who have been called into action for extended minutes are defensesmen Austin Ekern and Mathew Retherford, and attackmen Gavin Christian and Charlie Iriam.

Patton also acknowledged a few upperclassmen who he stated are doing a superb job of helping the younger players progress: Matt Harris, Gator Haken, Trey Stadel, Titan Kroytz, Ethan Manuel, and Anthony Randolph.

"Looking forward, this is going to be a pretty good lacrosse team once we get back to full strength," added Patton.

The contest at Churchill on Friday was a similar situation, and the Outlaws once again had to deal with a limited roster due to injuries.

Sisters did stay close to the Lancers at the start of the game, and at the end of the first quarter the score was tied 3-3. Churchill scored

twice in the second quarter to take a 5-3 lead at the half.

With just five subs, fatigue started to set in for the Outlaws in the final half. The freshmen middies, who played lots of minutes in the previous game, got in a lot of minutes in this game also, with the exception of Eli Johnson, who was out with an injury.

Churchill tacked on three more goals in the third to go up 8-3. In the final quarter, Sisters was able to score once, but the Lancers added five more and recorded the win.

Trey Stadel was a big asset for the Outlaws, and was moved from his usual attack position to fill in at middle. Stadel scored two of Sisters' four goals.

Goalie Anthony Randolph recorded 10 saves, and Matt Harris led the team with eight groundballs. Matt did a great job on defense and contained one of the best scorers in the state.

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