

Outlaws send three to tennis tourney

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws tennis team sent three of their players, Jed Kizziar, Isaiah Chapen and Nate Weber, to the 4A/3A/2A/1A State Tennis Tournament held at Oregon State University (OSU) on Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18.

Seniors Jed Kizziar and Isaiah Chapen defeated Wyatt Jensen and Deardon Woodruff from Nyssa 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, in their first round of play. The senior duo played some of their best tennis in the opening set, and rolled through their opponents.

Coach Carl Click said, "Chapen's lobs were spot on, and Kizziar's put-aways at the net were near perfect. Things took a turn for the worse in the second set as they let their opponents back into the match. But the Outlaws returned to solid tennis to take the third set."

Kizziar and Chapen went on to lose 6-2, 7-6 (7-4), in the quarterfinals to Marist Catholic sophomores Ethan Cross and Joey Laing. The match had many great points and rallies, and a few winners pulled out of nowhere by both teams. Jed and Isaiah were ahead early in the tie-breaker and tied it up 4-4 before losing three points to end the match and bring an end to their high school tennis careers.

Click said, "We started the season with a realistic goal of getting Jed and Nate to state, either in singles or as a doubles team. In the end, the kids did one better by forming a doubles combo that included Isaiah. Jed and Isaiah quickly learned the game of doubles. They won important matches, came close in others, and in the end can say they were quarterfinalists, among the

final eight at state. As seniors that's a big deal. There were lots of hugs and tears with parents, teammates, and coaches after the season-ending match."

Chapen capped his four years of high school tennis with a first trip to state, and Kizziar finished his third trip to the big event. Jed finished as a quarterfinalist his last two years, in singles as a junior, and in doubles this year.

Sophomore Nate Weber represented the Outlaws in singles play, and fell to Peter Ye of Catlin Gable 6-1, 6-3, in his first match. Weber moved into the consolations and earned a 9-7 win over Shane Cunningham of Baker. Nate built a 7-3 lead, but gave up four straight games to make it 7-7, but put it together to win 9-7.

Click said, "Nate had a long wait for his consolation match, but started strong against Cunningham. In the pro set to eight games, Nate decreased his errors from early in the day, and increased his winners. He hit some big-time passing shots that were impossible for Cunningham to return."

At 8 a.m. on Saturday, Weber played at the SOU indoor tennis facility. The six outdoor courts were wet to start the day, but eventually dried out. Weber lost 1-8 to senior Andrew Hyssop of Marist in the consolation semifinals.

"Nate made a lot of errors in the first set, but remedied that and played a solid second set," said Click.

Just a sophomore, Weber has a bright future ahead of him, and will be a force to be reckoned with as one of the top singles players in the league next year.

"Nate took a step forward advancing to state and winning a close match in

consolation," said Click. "He has the potential to take more steps up. He'll mature mentally and with his skills, and will do even more in the next two years."

Click explained the stiff competition that his players face.

"Our state classification includes tennis powerhouse private schools," he said. Those kids play year-round, on indoor courts, and with private instruction. Our kids don't get those opportunities. It's hard to compete against that.

"Getting as far as we did is a huge accomplishment," added Click. "Just as impressive is the fact that parents of opponents, and several opposing coaches complimented our kids on their sportsmanship and integrity in a sport where you make your own calls. 'Your kids were the nicest kids ours played all year,'" one parent said of Jed and Isaiah, and another parent commented that Nate's 'honesty on his line calls was really impressive.'"

Sisters High Desert Chorale to perform

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Connie Gunterman and her Sisters High Desert Chorale will sing Sisters into spring.

On Friday, May 31, at 7 p.m., and again the following Sunday, June 2, at 2:30 p.m., the Chorale will offer their annual spring concert with songs from the movies, shows and musical theater. The concert is titled "Show Time!"

Songs will include favorites like, "What A Wonderful World," "Over the Rainbow," "Down to the River to Pray,"

and a Broadway medley of Rodgers and Hammerstein show tunes.

The Chorale is a community favorite, and the singers love to celebrate music with the people of Sisters. This year the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders of Sisters Elementary School's Kids Choir, under the direction of Sara Miller will again join the chorale.

The concerts are free to the public and are held at the Sisters Community Church, 1300 W. McKenzie Hwy. on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon.



PHOTO BY SUE ANDERSON

Sisters High Desert Chorale, under the direction of Connie Gunterman, wowing the audience during last Christmas season's performance.

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