

Outlaws drop games at tournament

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws had a hard time on the hardwood at their annual Sisters Holiday Tournament held Friday through Sunday, December 27-29. Sisters lost 54-63 to Junction City, suffered a 26-38 loss against Cottage Grove and finished with a 47-51 loss in a close battle against Mazama.

In their first game against the Junction City Tigers, the Outlaws were able to create offensive opportunities in their half-court sets, but the defense struggled to contain the Tigers' strong shooting. In the fourth quarter, the Outlaws cut the Tigers' lead to four, but then they made some costly mistakes. Junction City was able to pull away and record the win.

Nate Weber led the team with 14 points, Sam Nicklous recorded 13, and Connor Linn added eight.

Coach Rob Jensen said, "We did a much better job being aggressive on the offensive end and showed some big improvements. The boys attacked the rim and kept the game close."

In their match-up against Cottage Grove, the Outlaws were able to disrupt the Lions on defense, but struggled to convert on the offensive end. The Lions maintained a strong defensive back-court early in the game, but the Outlaws responded and found opportunities later in the game. Max Palanuk and Joe Scholl performed well and gave the Outlaws a boost offensively. Max led the team with 10 points, and Joe scored eight.

"Cottage Grove aggressively defended our guards and really made it tough on our top scorers (Weber and Nicklous), and we had a lot of trouble running our sets," said Jensen. "We just gave away too many opportunities and didn't score well enough."

The Outlaws were tenacious and hustled throughout



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Nate Weber grabs the rebound against Junction City.

the entire contest in their final game against Mazama. It was a great game that was held to a single-digit advantage the entire way.

Sisters trailed by nine with less than two minutes left on the clock, and then the Outlaws made some big plays on defense. Ricky Huffman

and Hayden Sharp provided a huge boost by getting big rebounds and creating turnovers, and the Outlaws cut the lead to two. Unfortunately, Mazama hit some free throws and put the game out of reach.

Nicklous and Weber scored 14 points each, and Scholl added 10.

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Outlaw Cheer takes first in Cottage Grove

By Claire Landon
Correspondent

The Outlaw Cheer team continued their winning streak last Saturday, January 4, taking home the first-place trophy from the Cottage Grove Cheer Competition.

Unusual for this type of competition, the judges combined divisions, and the girls competed against several teams that aren't in their usual group. After getting used to their divisional rivals' strengths and weaknesses over the years, the addition of teams to their pool presented a challenge the girls don't usually face until they reach the State level.

The girls improved their overall routine score from the Sweet Home competition where they also took home first place.

Coach Griffy said, "The team had an incredibly strong dance and tumbling performance. Our overall score is the highest we've had so far

this year. I'm super proud of these ladies." One of the team captains, Victoria Shelswell-White, went on to say, "I am very proud of the girls for working hard together — the teamwork was strong and there was great focus, which is what led to the team's success."

Having two first-place titles under their belt, the Outlaws cheerleaders need only one more first-, second- or third-place title to compete in the state competition in February. The Outlaw Cheer team's next competition is on Saturday, January 11 at Lake Oswego.

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