

TENNIS: Outlaws opened season with strong resolve

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beat Lizabeth Garcia 6-1, 6-1. Freshman Katie Ryan (No. 3 singles), who had never touched a racket before this season, defeated Reagan Schlick 6-0, 6-1. Ryan is athletic and played quick on the court. VonStein noted that Ryan is a natural and is exciting to coach.

Jenna Kizziar and Josie Patton earned a win at No. 2 doubles. The duo defeated Jazmyn Ceely and Ava Turner 7-5, 6-1.

Freshmen Leah O’Hern and Brooke Harper lost their match against Tie Garrison and Natalie Hunt, but in a very good match that went to a tiebreak. They won the first set 6-4, lost 4-6, and then fell 13-15 in the tie breaker. The two freshmen, who’d just picked up a racket for the first time five days ago, did a good job in their first match of the season.

Brooke Harper was Sisters lone winner in their match against Cascade on Thursday.

“Brooke is a very focused young lady who is quickly picking up the strategy and nuances behind singles play,” stated VonStein. “She places her shots appropriately in different areas of the court and covers the court

very well. It will be exciting to see her transform into a good singles player over the next few years.”

The top three singles players, Juhree Kizziar (No. 1), Ellie Mayes (No. 2), and Katie Ryan (No. 3) all played well at Molalla on Friday, and took their matches to a tiebreak. Mayes won her match over Kylie Smith with scores of 3- 6, 6-4, 15-13.

The players are showing marked improvement on a daily basis — Alan VonStein

“Ellie did a phenomenal job,” said Von Stein. “She showed great resolve in a very long match against a very even opponent. Her shot placement is improving on a daily basis and it will be fun to watch her rise in the tennis ranks.”

VonStein commented on his team’s play so far.

“Overall the players are showing marked improvement on a daily basis,” he said. “All 15 cover the court well and are very coachable.”

The Lady Outlaws were scheduled to play at Madras on Tuesday, April 20. On Thursday they will face Philomath at home and on Friday the team has a road match at North Marion.

RODEO: Event could not meet tight capacity restrictions

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a permit while Deschutes County remains in an elevated risk category under state metrics.

“We were not able to meet all of the standards and protocols established by the State of Oregon’s Health Authority,” said Rodeo Association President Curt Kallberg. “The recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Deschutes County put our five-day event in the high-risk category. With the limitations placed on events for capacity, we had to make our decision based on our financial capabilities to try again next year [in 2022] to have a full capacity rodeo.”

The cancellation did not come as a surprise to most — but it was a disappointment to many who love the event.

Longtime volunteer Bonnie Knox told *The Nugget*, “I was there Tuesday night and it broke my heart.”

She noted that the Rodeo Association Board of Directors had no other option.

“They didn’t have a choice — the board,” she said. “They tried everything.”

Knox still plans on volunteering this summer.

“We are going to have limited work parties to keep the place up,” she said. “So that’s good.”

Hardtails Bar & Grill is traditionally one of the major venues for post-Rodeo parties. Owner Steve Macey said that he had a band booked on standby and was ready to go if the Rodeo went forward — but he understands the decision.

“Of course we were all saddened by it, but I think it’s the right call, actually,” he said.

He urged people in Sisters to act responsibly in an effort to get beyond COVID-19. In that light, he decided not to go forward with any entertainment on Rodeo weekend.

Sisters Saloon hosts a locals night and other Rodeo-related entertainment.

Owner Aaron Okura said, “I wasn’t surprised (by the announcement). Financially, it’s a bummer because it makes up for a lot of the slow season... I respect the very difficult decisions these leaders have to make.”

He noted that the restaurant, which reopened last week after closing for three days due to a positive COVID case, has been “pretty busy” with diners and takeout. He said that he and his staff have thought about providing some sort of activity on Rodeo weekend, but there are no solid plans. Much remains dependent on caseloads.

“The way cases are going up, it might not be a very good idea by then,” he said.

So, as Sisters business owners have been doing

for over a year, he plans to remain flexible and adaptable and respond to circumstances as they evolve.

There’s no opportunity to push the Rodeo back later in the season when it is hoped the current surge in cases will have abated.

Postponing the rodeo to a later date in 2021 was not an option, according to the Rodeo Association. Due to other obligations, the rodeo’s stock contractor, announcers, and entertainment/contracted personnel would be unable to all get to Sisters at the same time. All tickets for the 2021 rodeo that have been pre-sold will automatically rollover to the equivalent dates for the 2022 Sisters Rodeo.

The decision to cancel could not be pushed any later. The rodeo was obligated to notify the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) of the cancellation in a timely manner to allow contestants and contractors to be informed and able to make other arrangements.

“With heavy hearts, the decision had to be made,” said SRA Public Relations Director Amorita Anstett. “The Sisters Rodeo will survive and will come back next year. We ask our fans and community to stay with us during these challenging times, and hope that come the second week of June in 2022, we will be ready to rodeo and once again present the ‘Biggest Little Show in the World.’”

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