## Lady Outlaws corral **Caldera**

## By Rongi Yost Correspondent

The Lady Outlaws earned a 55-46 win over Caldera's JV squad on Saturday, January 8. Their roster was reduced to a total of 14 girls due to illness, and the JV game had to be cancelled.

Caldera got off to a great start, quickly went up 8-0, and forced the Outlaws to take a time-out to regroup. The Outlaws were able to settle down and refocus, and went on a run that put them on top 14-12 to close out the quarter. Ashlynn Moffat was instrumental in the comeback with two big shots from behind the arc.

Sisters struggled in the second period and only scored nine points to Caldera's 13, and trailed 23-25 as teams entered the half.

The Outlaws had a strong third quarter and put 16 points on the scoreboard. Payden Peterson led the scoring effort with nine points off three long balls. Caldera netted 14 points, and at the close of the third period the score was even 39-39.

Sisters kept their offense rolling in the final quarter and tallied 16 more points. Peterson stayed hot from behind the arc and scored two more three-pointers. Haleigh Froelich chipped in five points, and Juhree Kizziar hit a big three. The Lady Outlaws defense was also impressive down the stretch, and tightened up to hold Caldera to just seven points in the quarter to secure the win.

Peterson had her best game of the year, finishing with 19 points. All of her buckets were three-point shots. Moffat had a strong performance, tallying eight points, and pulling down three boards.

Froelich led the team with nine rebounds, and also scored seven points and recorded three steals. Josie Patton was a big factor in the Outlaws' defensive success, with five steals, and four rebounds, three of those in the final quarter. Shae Wyland had four rebounds, and Delaney McAfee helped out by dishing out four assists. Coach Paul Patton told *The Nugget* the team played without their starting point guard, Emma Lutz, and backup point guard, Maggie Lutz. Ellie Mayes had to fill in at that crucial position, and Patton said she did an admirable job. Kizziar also got a lot of minutes at the point guard spot and Patton said she made positive contributions in almost every statistical category.

Ila Reid, who is a big part of the Outlaws' post-player rotation and gives them inside points and rebounds, was also unable to play due to illness. Reese Harwell and Sage Wyland stepped up as post players and got in solid minutes in relief roles.

Hadley Schar returned to action for the Outlaws after being out five weeks with a shoulder injury. Schar helped out and subbed in at three different perimeter positions.

The Lady Outlaws hope to be healthy by next week as they were to open league with a home game on Tuesday, January 11, against Stayton. They will play at home against Sweet Home on Friday, January 14.

By Rongi Yost Correspondent The boys basketball squad defeated the Wolfpack at Caldera in a final score of 49-36 on Saturday, January 9. Their game against Klamath Union that was scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, was cancelled due to inclement weather and plans are to reschedule it at a later

Saturday's match-up against the Wolfpack was the first game the Outlaws had played in nine days, and their first game on the road in three weeks. Needless to say, Sisters had a hard time in the first quarter finding rhythm on the offensive end of the court. It was a defensive slugfest, and the Wolfpack's aggressive man-to-man defense forced the Outlaws into tough, contested shots that were not part of their offensive game plan. At the close of the quarter Sisters trailed 6-9.

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Caldera continued their defensive pressure in the second quarter and forced the Outlaws to take more quick

shots. Sisters kept plugging away and right at the buzzer that ended the half Noah Pittman hit a long ball that gave the Outlaws their first lead of the game, 18-16, and good momentum that carried into the second half.

The Outlaws put the defensive clamps on the Wolfpack in the third quarter, and unlike the first half, they rebounded on the defensive end, and limited the Wolfpack to just one shot, which allowed them to increase their lead. Pittman had a great quarter and scored six of the Outlaws' six points. Jesse Murillo contributed four points in the quarter to help the Outlaws push to a 33-24 lead.

In the final period, the Outlaws increased their lead behind a solid performance from Murillo, who scored 10 points in the quarter. Murillo took advantage of several offensive rebound opportunities and inside passes from driving teammates. Ricky Huffman scored six points and had some great finishes at the rim. Murillo and Huffman combined for all the points in the quarter and helped the Outlaws secure the 13-point victory.

Coach Chad Rush said, "This was a great game for us to play right before we head into league play on Tuesday. Facing a team that really pressured us and pushed us around a little will get us prepared for the competition we'll face in the Oregon West Conference."

"It was great to see players step up on the offensive end, when the Wolfpack harassed and annoyed Max Palanuk all game and limited him to just four points on the night," added Rush. "Jesse, Ricky, and Noah had great games to carry the scoring load on a night when our leading scorer struggled to even touch the ball. This was a great team effort that I know will help us in league play."

Murillo led the Outlaws with 17 points. Huffman and Pittman scored 11 points each, and Adam Maddox-Castle and Palanuk each added four.

Sisters was to play at home against Stayton on Tuesday, January 11. They will face the Sweet Home Huskies at home on Friday, January 14.

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**Outlaws earn win over the Wolfpack** 

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