

Sandy drops two games; face Silvertown, playoffs

Is it an instant replay of last season where the Sandy high basketball team goes downhill at the end of the season?

This is the question many local patrons are asking as the Pioneers dropped two key contests this past week. The Pioneers lost to Astoria 48-36 and to Estacada 54-42.

Sandy has one final game Friday night at Silvertown before entering the playoffs. This is a must win for the Pioneers if they hope to stay out of inter-division playoffs and await the league playoffs on March 12-13 for the right to go to the state tournament.

The Pioneers won the first half of division play with an 8-2 record and now stand in second place in the second half with a 4-4 record.

The other teams looking for playoff spots on Sandy's side of the league are Molalla, Estacada and Central.

Last season the Pioneers won the division but lost in the league playoffs to Newberg and to Estacada on a last second shot. One of the key factors in the Pioneers' down swing last season was the illness to starting guard Dean Dickinson which kept him out of the last few regular season games and the playoffs.

This year the injury problem has plagued the Pioneers. During this second half of play, Sandy coach Jim Kitchen has not been able to use his five regular starters together. Injuries to Joe DeMarsh and

Alan Nippert have hurt the Pioneer cause. DeMarsh first was hit by the flu and then he injured his back. He now is

back, but is still not at full speed. He was the team's second leading scorer and rebounder behind Nippert

before his absence for the lineup. Meanwhile Nippert, the team's leading scorer and

rebounder has missed the past five games and appears to be a question mark for the Silvertown game with his back injury.

"We have to have Nippert in the playoffs if we plan to go to state," said Kitchen. "It really has been hard working without the board strength and scoring power of these two."

Yet even without his two starters, Kitchen has been able to keep the Pioneers playing good ball with some excellent play from his bench.

"All season long I wondered about the strength of the bench," said Kitchen, "in the past five games I have found out I can depend on good play from the bench which will help us in the playoffs."

In both losses this past week, cold shooting by Sandy was as much to be blamed for the defeats as anything. In both games, the Pioneers hit only about 25 per cent of their floor shots and missed several key free throws.

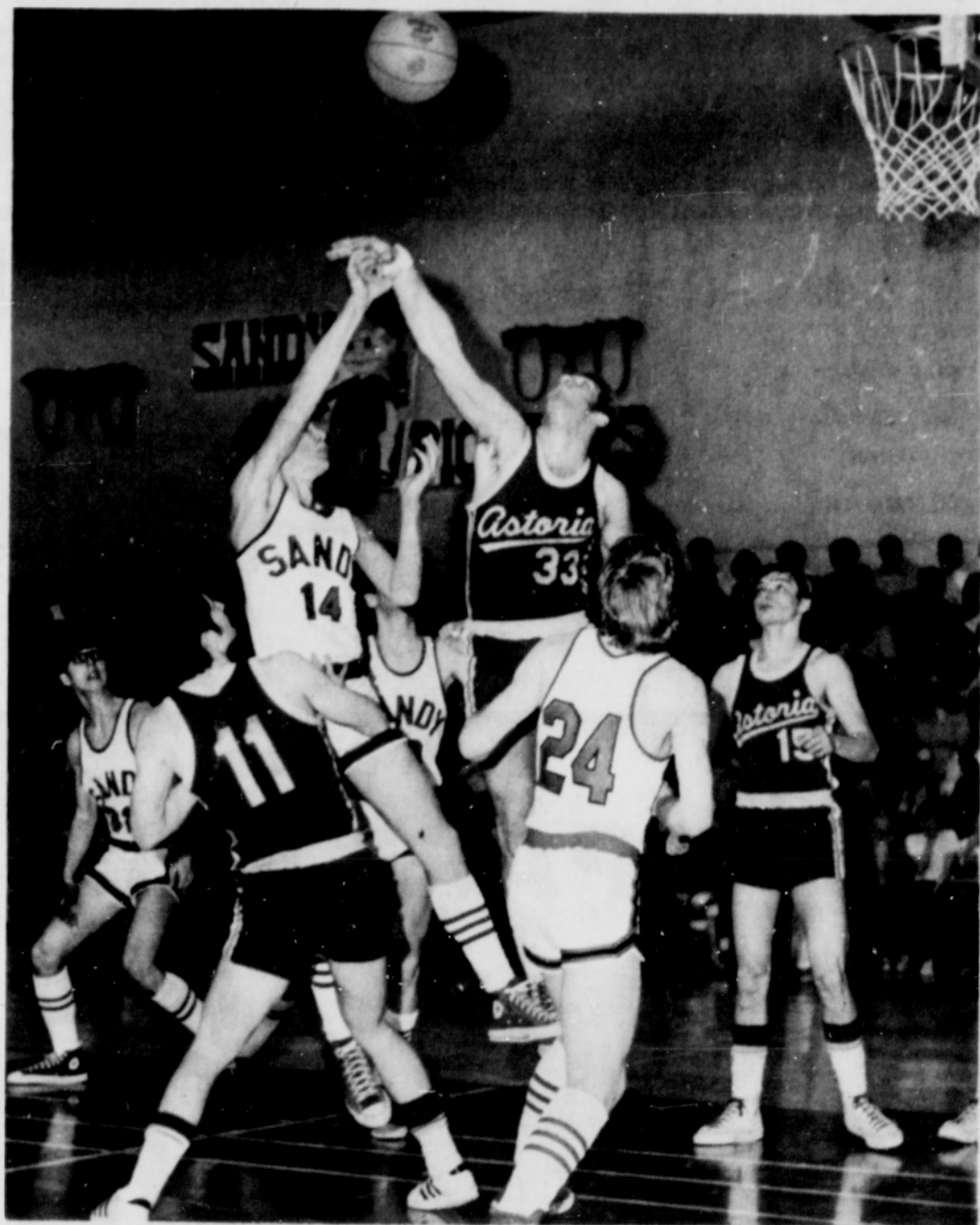
Against Estacada, the Pioneers scored only four points in the first quarter while the Rangers hit for nine and Sandy never threatened after that. Estacada led 24-13 at half and 36-23 at the end of three periods.

Sandy grade team wins 11 games

The Sandy Mountaineers' eighth grade basketball team completed their basketball season by winning their 11th straight game 42 to 40 over Molalla. The Mountaineers only loss of the season came at the hands of Damascus in the first game of the season.

Randy Keller and Brad Paluck provided the spark in the victory over Molalla by scoring 15 and 13 points respectively. Wade Buswell and Mark Halverson led the rebounders.

The annual team-faculty game will be held today in the upper grade gym to culminate the basketball year at Sandy Elementary School.



SANDY'S STEVE Konell (14) gets off a hook shot over the defense of Astoria player in game this past week. The Pioneers dropped the game to Astoria and

also one to Estacada during the past week. Sandy will play its last regular season game on Friday at Silvertown and then will enter playoff games.

(Post photo)



SANDY'S GARY blount (24) puts up shot as Astoria player comes over his back to foul him. The Pioneers lost to Astoria and Estacada this week and face a must win game at Silvertown Friday night.

(Post photo)

COAST VALLEY

East	West
Estacada 53 Astoria 20	
Sandy 44 Dallas 19	
Central 44 Newberg 17	
Central 44 McMinnville 14	
Silverton 23 St. Helens 14	
Molalla 24 Forest Grove 13	
Scappoose 23 LaSalle 12	
Forest Grove 24 Sandy 21	
St. Helens 40 Forest Grove 37 (OT)	
Newberg 39 LaSalle 37	
Central 36 Sandy 34	

SCORING LEADERS

Player	Team	GP	TP	Aug	HI
Wilder	Newberg	18	408	18.1	42
Posley	Dallas	18	381	17.9	32
Larson	Astoria	17	361	15.4	32
Reed	Estacada	17	351	14.8	32
Nippert	Sandy	18	341	13.9	32
Payfus	LaSalle	18	336	14.2	30
Anderson	Central	17	327	14.0	30
Wickline	Silvertown	17	324	13.7	24
Van	McMinnville	17	329	13.4	23

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Wrestling continues at Sandy

From now until March 10, any grade school boys wishing to enter the Jr. Development tournament will be able to receive instructions on free style wrestling.

Giving the instructions will be Sandy high wrestling coach Ron Calhoun and other members of the wrestling staff. The high school wrestlers will also be working out in preparation for a four day tournament which begins on March 18 at Coos Bay.

The Jr. Development tournament is set for March 10 at Centennial high school. Contact wrestling coach Calhoun for more information.