

Post Sports

Huskies swamp JV team, 32-12



THE PIONEERS race down a corridor of their supporters at the start of the second half of last Friday's game. The Pioneer's defeated Silverton, 16-6, to stay in the running for a playoff spot.

Pioneers clip Foxes, 16-6

The Sandy Pioneers showed that there may be more to their playoff hopes than just wishful thinking last Friday by beating Silverton 16-6 to stay in a tie for second place with Canby.

"That really feels good," coach Woody Allen said of the win in the noisy, jubilant Pioneer locker room Friday night.

The victory raised Sandy's league record to 2-1 and gives them a shot at a playoff spot should they win their next two games against Molalla and Estacada.

Sandy kept its Homecoming crowd waiting until late in the game before sealing the win, however, and trailed 6-3 going into the final frame.

Then, Rayth Buswell capped a solid Sandy drive with a two-yard dash into the end zone and Randy Skogan booted the point after to put Sandy up front, 10-6.

The Pioneers put the game on ice just minutes later as Kevin Peterson scooped up a Fox fumble on the Silverton 48 and galloped into the end zone for the final score.

Silverton had taken an early lead in the game, driving down to the Sandy 14 from where quarterback George Koster

lofted a pass to Dale Thomas for the score.

Sandy threatened several times in the first half, but fumbles and penalties nipped drives in the bud. The Pioneer's only first half tally came when Skogan drilled a 22-yard field goal in the second quarter.

The third frame saw both teams get shut out, then Sandy unleashed their fourth quarter fireworks to collect the win.

"We played very consistently," said Allen of his troops. "We finally had the ability to take what the opposition was giving us defensively."

And take they did, as the Sandy interior line frequently ripped great, gaping holes in the Fox defense for the Pioneer runners.

The greatest beneficiary of the fine blocking was Rayth Buswell, who led all rushers with 110 yards in 15 carries, his season high.

Bill Rodden and Kevin Peterson also ran for big yardage as Rodden picked up 60 yards in seven carries while Peterson boomed along for 51 yards, including a 36-yard effort in the third quarter that moved the Pioneers out of a

hole deep in their own territory.

Overall, the Sandy offense ground out 252 yards, the most yet this year.

"The key was the line play," said offensive backfield coach Glen Smith. "Most of those yards came between the tackles."

On defense Sandy held Silverton to 186 yards and forced five turnovers on two fumbles and three interceptions.

"It took us a few minutes to get under way," said defensive coordinator Lynn Harris, alluding to the first Silverton score, "but then we played with more intelligence and intensity."

"We have about 10 defensive goals for each game," Harris continued, "and if we have half of them we're in the ball game and six of them, we should win. This game we got seven."

Some of those goals included limiting Silverton to less than 100 yards passing or rushing and intercepting one of every seven passes.

The defense played so well, in fact, that Harris changed the defensive game plan during the game, switching from the 6-1 defensive alignment they had planned on using to a 5-2 set, which was more effective

against the long yardage situations they continually forced Silverton into.

The Pioneers will attempt to improve their record Thursday against the Molalla Indians, a team that has yet to win a league game.

The Indians run the so-called "run and shoot" offense, a pass-oriented attack that puts four receivers out wide with only one running back.

"They aren't very good, but they present some special problems," Harris said. This will be the first time this year the Pioneers have faced such an offense.

"They try to spread out and

make you cover the field, then pass the ball where you aren't," Harris said. "We'll try to cause problems for them by disguising defenses and keeping them off-balance."

The Pioneers will be without the services of wide receiver Steve McGraw, who injured his ankle in the third quarter against Silverton. McGraw will be out for one week, but is expected to be back in action next Friday against Estacada.

Due to a division-wide in-service day Friday the Pioneers have just three days to prepare for the Indians.

Kickoff Thursday will be at 8 p.m. in Rannow Stadium.

George Custer thought he had problems.

Surrounded, outplayed and out-quickened, the Sandy JV football team experienced their own Little Big Horn last Thursday, losing to an opportunistic crowd from Sweet Home, 32-12.

The Pioneers had problems from the opening play—when quarterback Rick Fry was hit behind the line of scrimmage and fumbled the ball away.

Sweet Home, revealing a surprise unbalanced line, took just three plays to march 25 yards for the score—and with less than two minutes gone owned a 6-0 lead.

Showing a keen desire to drop still further behind, the Pioneers on their next possession graciously allowed Sweet Home to block a punt following a bad snap. The Huskies recovered in Sandy's end zone, and boom, it was 12-0 before the home team had so much as gained a first down.

Late in the first quarter the Sandy offense came to life, driving down to the Sweet Home 10 with some timely pass completions by Fry.

Unfortunately the Huskies suddenly slammed the door on Sandy and the Pioneers were forced to give up the football on downs.

On two other occasions during the game were the Pioneers to drive within 15 yards of a desperately needed six—only to come away empty handed, the distant sound of bugles turning from charge to taps.

Sandy finally got some points on the board in the second quarter when Rick Fry uncorked a 22-yard touchdown

strike to Kevin Dougherty, who made a lunging catch at the five and kept his balance into the end zone.

The two teams exchanged punts, then Sweet Home struck again when a Fry pass found the wrong hands waiting and the subsequent interception return put the Huskies in scoring position once more—and score they did to make it 18-6.

It appeared that margin would hold until half-time when a fine Sandy punt put Sweet Home 55 yards from paydirt late in the second quarter, but with just seconds to go a 38-yard Husky touchdown pass served to completely knock the stuffings from the by now beleaguered Pioneers.

Sweet Home scored twice more in each of the last quarters while Sandy achieved some respectability on a one-yard keeper by Rick Fry early in the fourth frame.

The Yin-Yang contrast between this week's jayvee performance and other, more productive ones, left Sandy coach Chris Knudsen shaking his head.

"We were less than awesome," Knudsen admitted. "They were so much quicker than us—by the time we reacted they had five or six yards."

Conversely the Sandy backs were often caught an equal distance behind their own line—and quarterback Fry was rarely able to get back in the pocket before one or two snarling and snapping Huskies had a hammerlock on his ankle.

But despite some rough treatment Fry had his best day

of the year in the air, completing 12 of 22 for 138 yards and the first Sandy touchdown.

Less encouraging was the pounding suffered by the Sandy running backs. Allen Lowe, accustomed to getting over 100 yards a game, was limited to just 42 yards in 13 attempts while backfield mate Mike Trachsel got a skimpy 21 yards on seven shots.

Knudsen put some blame for the defeat on the inability of his troops to adjust to Sweet Home's shoot-the-gap defense and their unexpected unbalanced line—in which one side ended with a tackle instead of the usual tight end.

"We tried to overshift," Knudsen said of the Sandy attempts to slow the Husky attack, "but it didn't work."

Indicative of Sweet Home's effectiveness running was the fact that the Pioneer's leading tackler was Lowe—on defense a cornerback. Following his tally of 14 stops was linebacker Trachsel with 13 and tackle Jeff Sprouse with 12.

While the contest was Thursday, Knudsen said he felt his team "lost the game all week" due to three days of generally poor practices.

"There were just too many distractions," he added, noting that many of his players had been heavily involved in Homecoming activities.

"But we're going to forget this game and go on to the next," Knudsen said firmly.

The jayvees face Silverton next, in a game to be played on the Foxes' home field.

Hopefully the Pioneers will get their big guns unspiked and have something to shoot back with. After all, the guys in the Alamo were just visiting, too.

Sandy takes sixth, fourth at CVL meet

The Sandy boys varsity cross-country team took sixth place Monday in the C.V.L. Invitational meet at Champoeg park. All 12 schools in Sandy's league competed in the meet.

The Pioneers were led by junior harrier Ken Urban, who posted a time of 16:27 over the 5000 meter course, good for a fourth place finish.

Next for the Pioneers was Jeff Griffin in 17:31, followed by Jerome Choate in 18:20 and Roger Hill with a time of 18:34.

The meet was won by Astoria with a combined time of 85:19. Sandy, at sixth, tallied a 90:18 combined time.

The Pioneers fared a little better in the girls division as

Leann Madison led Sandy to a fourth place finish. Madison toured the 3000 meter course in a time of 12:02, putting her in the sixth spot overall.

In eleventh place was Sue Wilson at 12:23, followed by

Barbie King at 13:31 and Laura Edgren in 14:22.

Forest Grove won the girls meet with a low score of 52 points. Sandy collected 142 points in their fourth place effort.

The junior varsity runners

also took fourth, hammering down that position on the strength of Dave Slack's first place finish. Slack has a time of 10:25 to take top honors.

Eighteenth for the Pioneers was John Stables, who clocked a time of 11:21 over the course.

Jim Forquer was 27th in 11:40. The jayvees collected 126 points for their efforts as opposed to first place Dallas's 63.

The Pioneers travel to Clackamas High School Saturday for the 28-team Clackamas Invitational Meet.

OVERTIME.

by Douglas Gantenbein sports editor

I can feel it... just beginning to take hold. Sports writers bloat—the undoing of some of the best.

It makes its dread appearance at the instant you realize that every adjective for win, lose or draw in Roget's thesaurus has been used up.

That, or a long term of duty editing the society page.

Ah, my poor Dodgers. Losing the first game of their long-anticipated series was a cruel blow indeed.

Still, I see no reason for Dodger fans to despair. The Yanks, of course, are a hapless bunch of overpaid sandlottery who shouldn't put up too much more of a fight.

Kidding, just kidding. New York played mighty tough ball to get by Kansas City. However, I don't think their injury-plagued pitching staff will prove up to the task of quelling the Dodger bats.

I see it as a six game series with L.A. taking it in the end. New York should win one game on hitting and another on pitching—and since Gullett already gave them their pitching win that mean they'll win one more on their bats—but no more.

Unfortunately, this is going to press at the same time as the game is starting so by the time you read this I could've already been made into a fool. Ah, well.

Whoever you are for, Monday night's opener surely presented perhaps the finest expression this year of what baseball is all about.

The Dodger's ninth inning rally against New York ace Sparky Lyle was as good a display of clutch-hitting as you'll see, and Jerry Grote's

liver the eyes dilate, the cranium shrinks, the skin pales and hangs loosely from the bones and the once-sharp writer is reduced to a babbling idiot repeating over and over "PUNT... PUNT... PUNT."

The only known cure is a hatpin through the frontal lobes to cut off all but the major motor reflexes, which are breathe, eat and rattle off box scores.

That, or a long term of duty editing the society page.

Which is behavior not at all suited for the sport, as baseball is one of the few competitive activities left with even a shred of dignity.

Baseball has experienced a real re-birth recently, and aside from all the hoopla about livelier balls (the "Rawlings rabbit"), bizarre uniforms and free agents the fact is that baseball has remained relatively unchanged. It's still the subtle, easy-going game it always was, where the runner rounding second will almost stop to exchange pleasantries with a second baseman he happens to know.

At least, I hope it's still that way. A nasty, spike-'em-in-the-shin philosophy seemed to prevail in the American league playoff. I hope that was a temporary aberration, not a move toward the legalized massacre that hockey (also a former game of grace—until less-skilled players came in to make their point with force) and football have become.

Kind of an ominous thing happened to me last Friday.

Following the game that night—Sandy's 16-6 win over Silverton—I thought I'd drop by the locker room to get some

cat-like play behind home plate kept the game going into innings that wouldn't have happened had a less skillful catcher been in.

I wasn't always a baseball fan. In fact, it has been just recently that I have started to spend Saturday mornings or Monday nights glued to a glowing television set, clawing wildly at the screen while screaming for somebody, ANYBODY to rip the LUNGS out of that umpire who just called Steve Garvey out at home.

But then I recognized with a start my name being hollered, over and over. None too politely, either. "Gantenbein... Gantenbein..."

Hmm. That's kind of like reading in Time magazine that notorious mobster Benny "Bambi" Carullo has just put a price on your head.

Seems the team and I didn't see eye to eye on my predictions. And for sure, I had predicted a Sandy loss. But that's the nature of this kind of thing—if you win, you lose. If you lose, you win.

Voodoo yells notwithstanding, this week I'm willing to go with the flow. The improved Sandy defense should not have too much trouble with Molalla, although a pass or two could slip through for six.

But, if the Sandy offense can keep improving, and especially if they cut out those useless fumbles, they should score more than enough points.

Fumbles and penalties—that's the key. There is now no way the Pioneers can call themselves a sound, consistent ball club until they stop killing half their drives with errors.

Still, even allowing for mistakes the Indians shouldn't be too tough. It looks like Sandy, 24, and Molalla, 9.

Now don't get overconfident, guys.

Oh, by the way—thanks for pronouncing it right.

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