

Post Sports

Pioneer Jayvees collect big wins

After some disappointing season-openers, the Sandy junior varsity basketball has started to bare their teeth, collecting two big wins in their last three games to post an early 2-1 record in division play.

Tuesday the Pioneers roared to a big 37-13 lead over McMinnville on the basis of a dazzling fastbreak and a tenacious defense.

But they ended up earning the win as McMinnville made a determined second half rally to pull within two points early in the fourth quarter. "That was kind of spooky," coach Russ Collins admitted. "We had them, but we relaxed and almost let 'em get away."

But fortunately his team realized what was happening soon enough to mend their ways and control the game during the closing minutes, hiking their advantage to as many as 11 points before the final buzzer and a 62-55 win. Collins praised Tom Curtis and Lee Godfrey with leading the Sandy fast break early in the game with their control of the boards. And with the break in high gear, the Pioneers found they

had more scoring opportunities off their set offense and got a number of short jumpers and lay-ins from their offensive patterns.

"I'm pleased with the way they're coming along," Collins said of his squad. "They're starting to do the things we've been working on in practice."

The Pioneers featured balanced scoring in their win over the Grizzlies as Godfrey and Rick Fry got 12 points while Ric Forgy bagged 10.

Although Collins felt the Pioneers played their best half of basketball this year against the Grizzlies, he cited a big win over Newberg last Friday as his team's most complete game. "It was a case of our having good intensity from the very beginning," the Sandy coach said of the easy 65-47 win. "We took the ball game from them and never let them into it."

"Our defense was especially outstanding," Collins continued. "We broke up their attack in the backcourt and denied them the middle. Collins again got balanced

scoring from his charges as Rick Fry and Scot Wenniger picked up 12 points, Allen Lowe 11 and Rick Martin 10. But the following Saturday night Sandy traveled to Astoria, where a dearth of charity shots killed Pioneer hopes for a win streak.

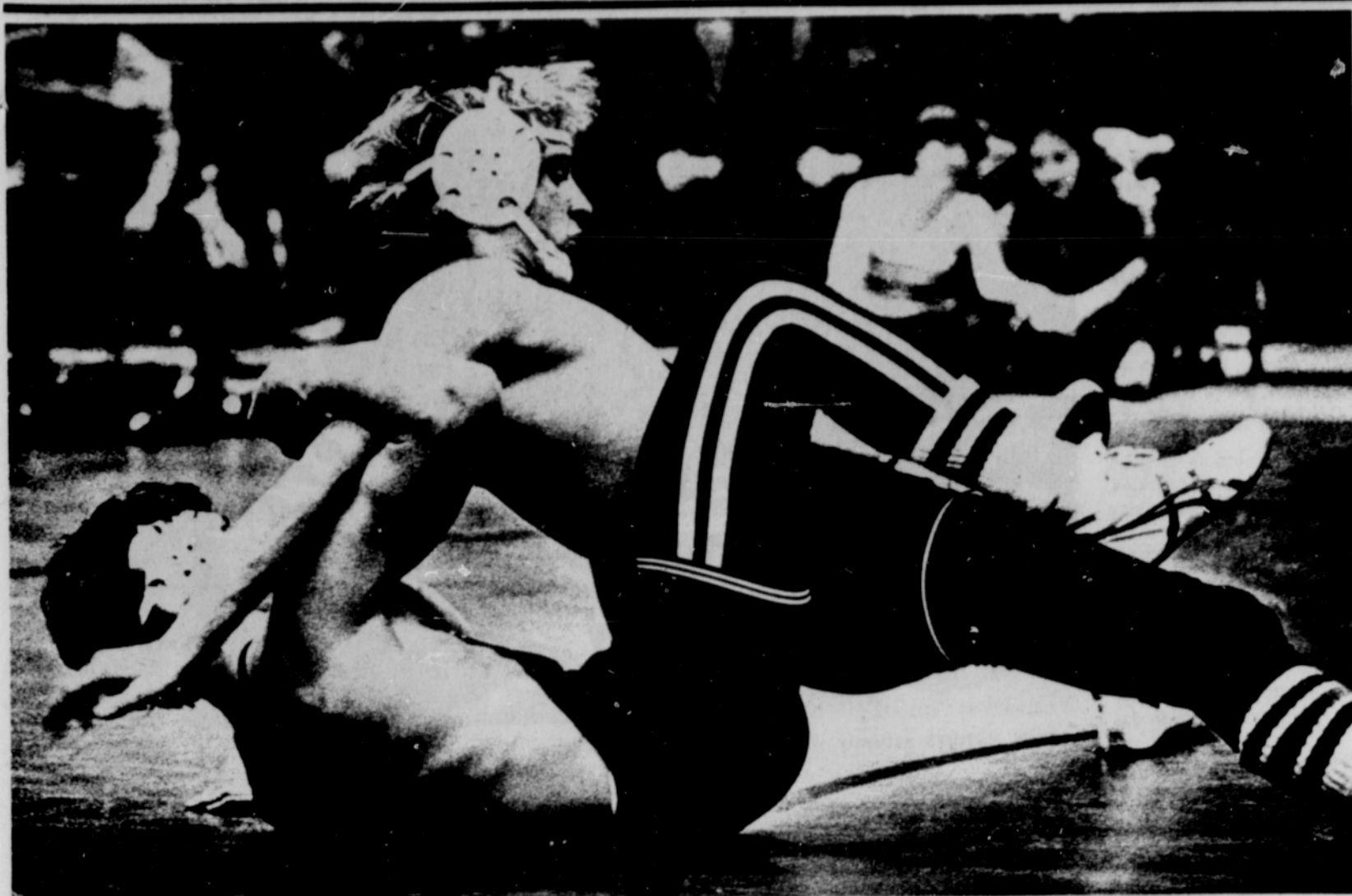
Astoria got 26 trips to the foul line against just 13 for Sandy in the 59-50 game. The two teams were evenly matched in field goals with 21 each.

But Collins refused to make excuses. "They're quick," he said of the Fishermen. "We tried to force the ball against them too much and so threw the ball away."

Ken Urban potted 13 points to lead the Sandy cause.

The jayvees next face Canby Friday. Collins said the Cougars are a big and patient ball club but that he believes the Pioneers can come out a winner if they control the tempo of the game like they have in their last two victories.

Game time for the contest, on the Cougar's home court, is set for 6 p.m.



SURPRISE! SANDY'S Bill Blackford pulls a sudden switch on his Canby opponent, here flipping him completely over just seconds prior to his second round pin of the Cougar's heralded Ed Lowery. (Douglas Gantenbein photo)

Canby rips Pioneer wrestlers

"Jeez, they took their muzzles off and here they come," one Sandy wrestling coach observed drily as the Canby grappling squad ("mob" is more appropriate) spewed out of the locker room prior to Tuesday night's meet with the Sandy Pioneers.

The Cougars lived up to this kind of billing, as behind the fiery behavior of their voluble coach, Pete Russo, they swept the first seven matches on their way to an easy 44-13 win over a badly outgunned Pioneer squad.

The only bright spots for Sandy came in the middle weights, where Bill Black-

ford, Tim Freeman and Rayth Buswell posted consecutive wins.

The most stunning victory was Blackford's, wrestling against Ed Lowery, generally viewed as one of the state's top 148-pound wrestlers.

Lowery had managed a precarious 6-2 lead in the second round, and had control of the Sandy wrestler.

"Lowery had a figure-four on Bill across the body," Sandy coach Ron Calhoun said. "Then Bill rolled over and got Lowery between himself and the mat. He crowded him down and got

the pin." But that sounds kind of dull. Blackford's sudden reversal actually took just a few seconds and left the partisan crowd roaring with delight and slapping each other on the back.

Sophomore Tim Freeman followed Blackford's shocker with a convincing 11-5 decision over Canby's Dale Ruford. Freeman had a 9-0 lead going into the final round, but some errors cost him points.

Still, Freeman continued to make his case as the team's most rapidly improving wrestler. Rayth Buswell closed out

Sandy's streak with an easy 14-2 win over Norm Vermillion. Buswell got three takedowns and three near falls in picking up the win.

Outside of that, it was a grim day for the Pioneers, four of whom were pinned by the tough, experienced Cougars.

"Canby is a candidate for one of the strongest dual-meet teams in the state," Calhoun said after the match.

Friday the Pioneers nearly upset highly regarded Newberg Tigers in a meet that went to the last match before an injury forced Sandy heavyweight Leon

Wilson to forfeit. Newberg won the meet, 30-26.

"Our kids performed pretty well," Calhoun said of the meet. "Newberg has some real tough spots, but they have some weak spots as well."

Buswell and 191-pounder Larry Carmony pinned their opponents, while John Sandy, Ray Neison, Dan Rohweder and Bill Blackford all won decisions.

Sandy next takes on Molalla in a home meet next Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Aloha swimmers beat Sandy boys, tie girls

Coach Mark Smith will be juggling his swimmers to find a winning combination for this week's first conference meet against Forest Grove after a close meet last Thursday against Aloha.

The Pioneer girls fought it out to a 77-77 tie in an evenly matched competition while the boys narrowly lost by the score of 82-87 with the final relay making the difference.

The Forest Grove girls are among the district's

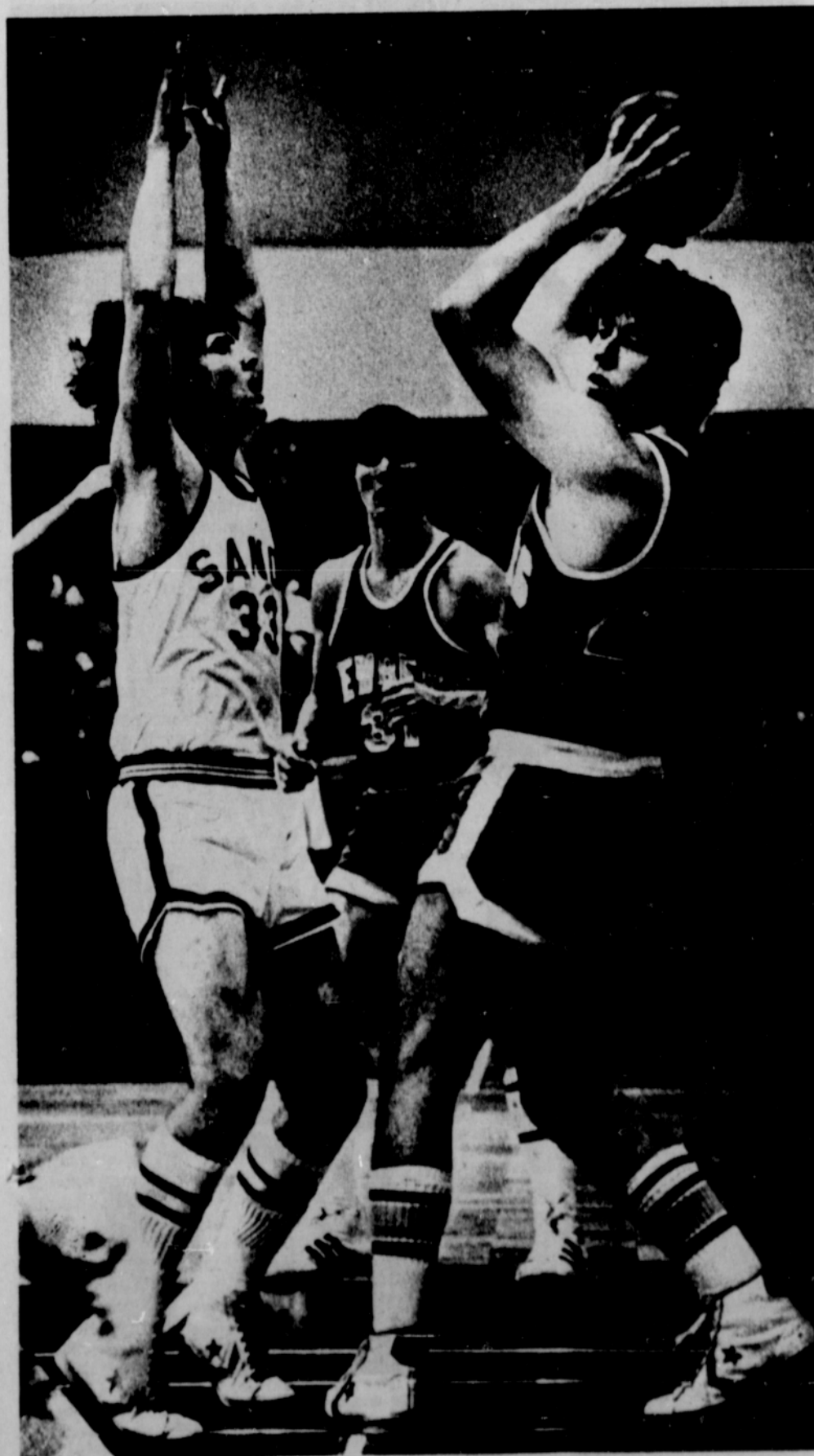
strongest competitors but the boys should not be a serious threat to the Sandy boys. The meet will be held at the Sandy pool on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

The tough competition with Aloha resulted in a number of broken times including Katie Neuenfeldt in the 200-yard freestyle, Heidi Sather in both the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard freestyle and Markieta High

in the 100-yard freestyle. Markieta also got her highest dual meet diving score with a total of 198.10 points.

Broken times for the boys were Harvey Hazelett in the 200-yard individual medley, Joel Frost in the 50-yard freestyle, Mark Mayfield in 100-yard butterfly and Bill Hewgley, Huie Hazelett, Jeff Binder, Mike Zogg and Scott Bashman all in the 100 freestyle.

Grizzlies gun down hardluck Pioneer hoopers



Some day soon the sun is gonna shine, Dennis Warren, some day soon...

The Sandy varsity hoop coach could scarcely be blamed for thinking otherwise recently as his team has just endured a rigorous ordeal of four games in six days, three of them on the road, against one top-ranked team and one that well could be.

Four games and four losses, the most heart-breaking of which was a 45-43 barn-burner against the Newberg Tigers.

The Tigers, who had soundly thrashed Sandy in mid-December, got all they bargained for as Sandy ran an effective four-corner offense throughout the first half to post an 18-15 halftime lead.

Leading the way for Sandy in the early going was junior wingman Kevin Peterson, who canned most of his team-high 20 points on swooping lay-ups and short jumpers in the early going.

In the meantime, the Sandy defenders, led by Paul Daugherty, were effectively muzzling Sandy Wiltshire, Newberg's big gun.

But just as they did in their last game with the Tigers, Sandy came out of the locker room after the half in body but not in mind, and as a result Newberg bagged six quick points after Sandy's opening field goal to take a 21-20 lead.

This was opened up to a 27-20 margin by the end of the third quarter, and with Wiltshire starting to hit the Tigers threatened to blow Sandy off the court as they opened an 11-point bulge early in the final frame.

But the giddy Pioneers refused to quit, and led by Mike Martin and Kevin Peterson they began a determined run at Newberg.

Sandy tied the score at 43-43 with just a minute to go, then two Pioneer steals went for naught as they turned the

ball over.

Finally, with just 10 seconds to go Newberg got the ball to Wiltshire and the big forward powered his way over what seemed to be the entire Pioneer squad (bench included) to get the winning hoop.

"We knew exactly where the ball was going," Warren said of that final play. "We had three guys on him (Wiltshire) but he put 'er up off balance and put it in the hole."

"I guess that's the sign of a good ball player."

Wiltshire finished the game with 21 points to lead all scorers. In addition to Peterson's 20, Mike Gynther got nine points for Sandy.

One reason the Pioneers put on such a tough performance was probably due to the fact they had met number-one ranked Parkrose the prior Wednesday, playing the whippet-quick Broncos as well as any team has although losing by a 61-29 margin.

But nonetheless the close loss to Newberg and the Parkrose rout probably took some of the mental edge off Sandy's game, and they turned in an uninspired performance Saturday in a 53-36 loss at Astoria.

Then the roof caved in with a vengeance Tuesday as Sandy traveled to the home court of the high-powered McMinnville Grizzlies.

Whether McMinnville really got "10 points before we had our sweats off" as Warren said is debatable, but the fact is that the Grizzlies raced to a 27-3 first quarter lead and never looked back on their way to a 92-47 shellacking.

"Our kids never quit," Warren said. "But last night (Tuesday) we just met a team that on that night was like meeting a bear with a switch."

"McMinnville has a very good basketball team," he added. "I look for them to

NEWBERG'S LANDY Wiltshire finds his path blocked by Pioneer Tim Marjama during last Friday's game. Although stopped here, Wiltshire scored 21 points, to lead Newberg to a 45-43 defeat.

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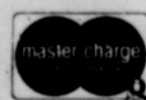
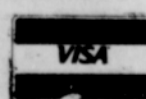
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