

Pioneers collect first win in overtime thriller

While lacking somewhat in dignity when compared to the more noble beasts of prey, nothing beats a pair of water rats in a cellar for a real battle.

Tuesday the two water rats were the Sandy and Molalla basketball teams and the cellar was the basement of the CVL Valley division.

And when the dust cleared it was Sandy that got one foot out of the cellar and its first bite of real cheese yet this year as the narrowly defeated the Indians in overtime, 47-46.

It wasn't especially artistic, but as Sandy coach Dennis Warren said, a win is a win.

"The kids felt good about it, and we won under pressure," Warren said. "But we should never have been in position."

In a game that was close throughout Sandy trailed by three points at halftime.

They were able to make that up and forge a four point lead in the fourth quarter but a late rally moved

Molalla ahead and forced Sandy to play catch-up ball for a tie in the final minute.

Then with just seconds to go in regulation play Molalla traveled, turning the ball over, but the clock continued to run after the whistle had blown and the buzzer sounded.

Warren protested, but the timer insisted he hadn't heard a whistle until after the buzzer.

But Warren thought otherwise.

"We had a good two seconds left on the clock," he said. "I know the whistle had gone off because play had stopped."

But the referees refused to adjust the clock and the game went into an extra inning.

Mike Martin was able to get the ball off the center tip, and the Pioneer proceeded to hang on to it despite persistent Molalla pressure for almost the entire three minute OT period.

Sandy showed good patience as they passed

several chances to score in order to eat up the clock.

Then with 12 seconds to go Warren called a time-out and set up a play designed to exploit a chink in the Molalla defense.

Off the inbounds pass the ball went to Mike Gynther, who was open at the baseline.

Gynther shot, but he hesitated a second before doing so and it threw his rhythm off. The ball caroomed off the hoop and Mike Martin again scrapped his way in to take the ball from a Molalla player.

With just three seconds left Martin took the ball to the hoop, missing the shot getting fouled in the process.

Martin muffed the first of his two shots, but then as Warren said "he just stepped up there like a good quarterback and put it in the hoop."

Tim Marjama was the Pioneers' leading scorer in their first win as he bagged 13. Martin got nine, and did a fine all-around job hustling and running Sandy's offense. Last Friday the Pioneers

took it on the chin during the third quarter as they were steamrolled by Canby for a 65-47 loss.

The division leading Cougars led by only five at halftime, but outscored Sandy 18-9 in the third period of their way to the win.

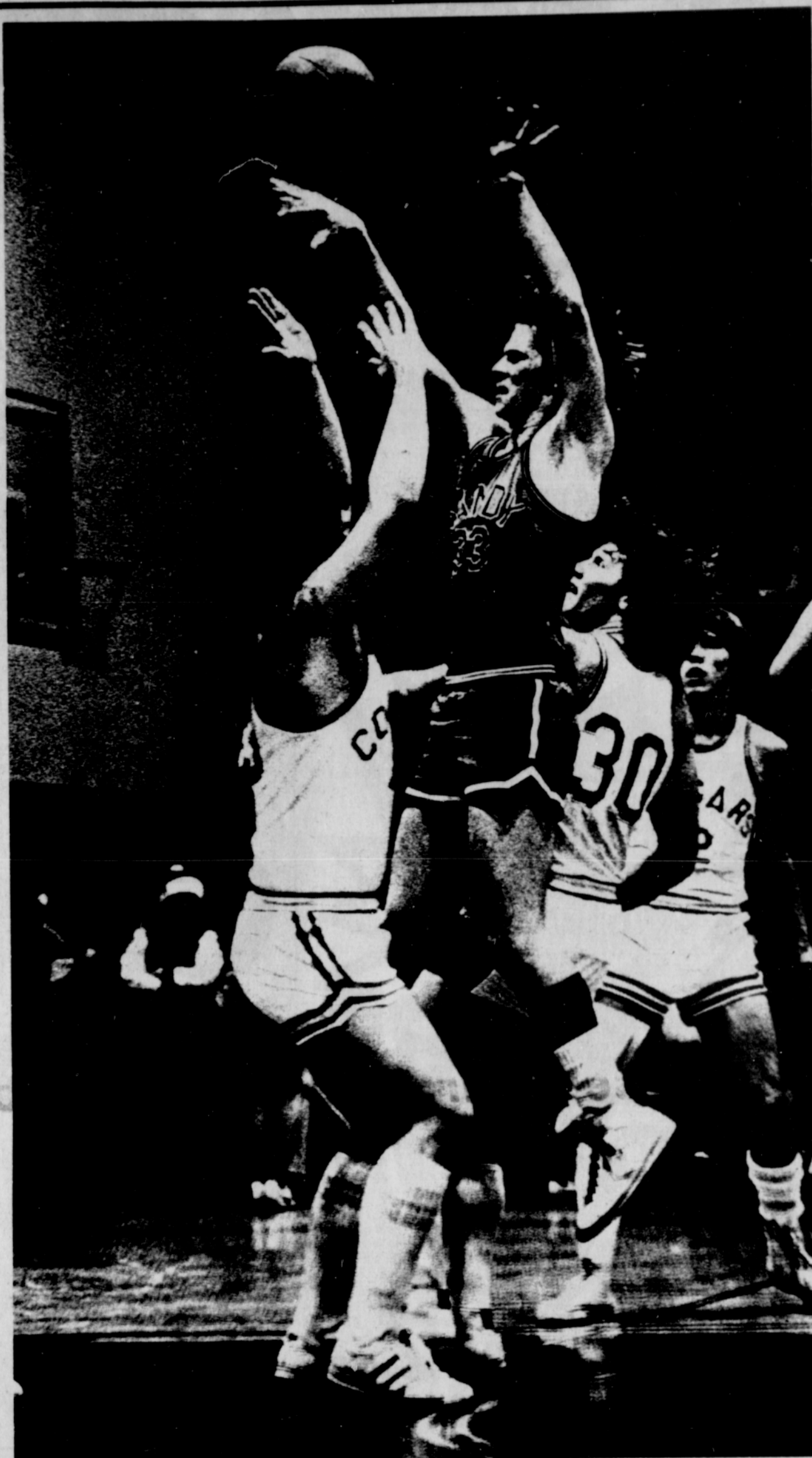
The loss overshadowed a fine individual performance by Sandy's Dan Velej, who got 18 points and six rebounds in a losing effort. Sandy will attempt to turn a win into a win streak this Friday when they host 4-1 Estacada.

Warren anticipates an emotional game against the fierce rivals from down south, and believes that the team with the best discipline under pressure will come out a winner.

"The kids will be ready," he said of his team, "but they're going to have all they can handle."

The big, strong Rangers are currently riding herd on a second place in the division.

The opening tip-off for the game will be at 7:45.



TIM MARJAMA leaps high to get off a pass during action in last Friday's game against Canby. The Cougars defeated Sandy by a 65-47 margin, but the

Pioneers got their first win of the season Tuesday by nipping Molalla in overtime, 47-46. (Douglas Gantenbein photo)

Pioneer grapplers decision Molalla in close meet

The Sandy Pioneer varsity wrestling squad picked up an early forfeit Tuesday and got some pins when they were needed to defeat Molalla 35-28 in a close, hard fought match.

The meet was dedicated to Phillip Miller, a former Sandy wrestler who died in an auto accident last year.

Sandy got off to a good start early when 98-pounder Dan Van Beek drew a forfeit.

Molalla evened the ledger out when state freestyle and Greco-Roman champion Randy Outa defeated Sandy's John Sandy in the 106-pound class, then Pioneer Ray Nelson came on strong to thrash Doyal Reed by a 16-4 margin.

Nelson got three first period take downs on his way to the 115-pound class win.

The meet set-sawed back and forth through the upper weights, with pivotal mat-

ches coming in the 141-pound and heavyweight divisions.

At 141 pounds, Sandy's Dan Rowhder overcame a 1-0 deficit in an extremely close match to score on a reversal then pin Molalla's Bruce McMin with just 15 seconds left in the match.

"That was a real barn-burner," coach Ron Calhoun said of Rowhder's match. "Dan showed real courage."

Calhoun also had praise for heavyweight Leon Wilson, who squared off against undefeated Molalla wrestler Ron Roth.

Wilson was pinned by Roth late in the second period, but not before scoring several points on Roth and controlling the tempo of the match. "He gave it everything he had," said Calhoun of Wilson's effort.

In a closer match than was expected Sandy's undefeated Rayth Buswell showed the

effects of a recent weight loss as he struggled against Indian Russ Northrup before pinning him midway through the final round.

Buswell has been trying to drop down to the 157-pound class, and gave several pounds away to his Molalla opponent.

In second varsity action the Pioneers gained an easy 59-11 victory over Molalla.

Sandy winners included Karl Rohweder, Randy Paul, Mark Henry, Mike Martin, Shannon Myers, Dave Jensen, Steve Velej, Dan Davis and Tony Anderson.

Sandy next takes on tough Estacada, a team ranked tops in the state until a recent defeat by Sweet Home.

One of the top match-ups should come between Sandy's Bill Blackford and Ranger Rick McReynolds in the 148-pound division. If Blackford can defeat his

Estacada opponent he should go into the district finals as top seed in February.

He'll have his work cut out for him, however, as McReynolds is a seasoned veteran who placed fourth in state last year.

The Thursday meet against Estacada will be on Sandy's home mats and will begin at 7 p.m.

Complete results of the Sandy-Molalla meet are as follows:

98-pound: Dan Van Beek, won by forfeit.

106-pound: John Sandy dec. 0-5 by Randy Outa.

115-pound: Ray Nelson dec. 10-0 by Doyal Reed, 16-4.

123-pound: Dave Kissner dec. 2-5 by Scott Morris.

130-pound: Pat Graham dec. 0-2 by Chris Nash.

136-pound: Scot Gernhart dec. 1-11 by Dave Connelly.

141-pound: Dan Rohweder pinned Bruce McMin at 5:45.

148-pound: Bill Blackford won by forfeit.

157-pound: Tim Freeman dec. by Bernie Beger, 8-10.

168-pound: Rayth Buswell pinned Russ Northrup at 4:55.

178-pound: Carey Vincent dec. by Bob Roth, 5-15.

191-pound: Larry Carmony pinned John Beck, first round.

Hwy.: Leon Wilson pinned by Ron Roth, second round.

Sandy swimmers roll past Forest Grove, Oregon City

In two recent dual meets the Sandy High School boys swim team picked up a couple of wins while a lack of depth was a critical factor in two losses suffered by the girls.

In their first conference meet of the season last Thursday the boys easily rolled past Forest Grove by a score of 98½ to 78½.

The most exciting moment for the boys came in the 50-yard freestyle, where a mere tenth of a second split the first three places. Pioneer Bob Rathke tied for second place with a 25.3 second time.

First place winners for the boys included Huie Hazelett's 5:03.8 time in the 500-yard freestyle and Mike Zogg's 1:09.0 time in the 100-yard breast stroke.

The Sandy girls didn't fare as well as the boys, however, bowing to the Vikings by a 92-62 score.

Even six first place swims weren't enough for Sandy as the Vikings were able to get enough swimmers in the other places to out-point the Pioneers.

Leann Madison and Katie Neuenfeldt each scored the maximum 14 points possible

for any one swimmer.

Lack of depth was also the crucial factor for the girls Monday when they were narrowly beaten by Oregon City, 82-73.

Madison and Neuenfeldt each picked up two first place wins to lead the Pioneers.

For the boys it was no contest as they clobbered Oregon City by a 119-37 margin.

The boys took all but three first places on their way to the win, led by Huie Hazelett's win in the 200 and 500-yard freestyle races.

Wheelblazers challenge

Sandy

faculty

If you like your basketball with a little twist to it you'd better be at the Sandy High gym next Monday at 8 p.m. when a team comprised of high school faculty members will attempt to take on the world famous Portland Wheelblazers.

Yes, the host team will be on wheelchairs, also.

The event is being sponsored by the Sandy chapter of the United States Volleyball Association. Proceeds from the game will be split between the Wheelblazers and the USVBA.

Among the highlights of the game will be a door prize of two Trailblazer tickets. The scarce Blazer ducats, donated by Pete Carlson Chevrolet, will be presented to the lucky winner at half-time.

Second half surge propels jayvees past Molalla, 76-48

The Sandy junior varsity basketball team overcame a sluggish first half Tuesday to score 46 points after the break and defeat the Molalla Indians 76-48 in a foul-ridden game.

Possibly inspired by the host team's sloppy play, the Pioneer committed 25 turnovers in the first half and were able to forge only a skimpy 30-25 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, however, Sandy got their running game off the treadmill and started to get layups off steals and fast breaks. The Pioneers eventually shot 52 percent from the field.

Sixty five fouls were called during the contest, 31 of those on Sandy.

Leading scorer for the Pioneers was Lee Godfrey, who sank five of 10 shots from the field and 12 of 13 at the charity stripe.

Supporting Godfrey's high point performance was Rick Fry, who shot an impressive seven for 10 from the field en route to a 15 point night. Fry also contributed two assists and had three steals.

Although describing his team's first half play as "a little atrocious," coach Russ Collins praised his squad for coming out during the second half to play their kind of ball

game. "We pressured their front guards on a half and full court press," Collins said. "That upset their flow and forced them out of their offense."

The Molalla win boosted the jayvee's record to 3-2 in league play following a close 53-50 loss at the hands of the Canby Cougars last Friday.

Ironically, the Canby game was characterized by Collins as one of his team's best of the season.

But despite some fine overall floor play Sandy never found the hoop consistently, and even in the waning seconds had numerous opportunities to score but came away empty-handed.

"We were in it all the way," Collins ruefully said of the loss. "We feel we can beat them when we get them on our court."

Ken Urban scored 11 points to lead Sandy while Rick Fry had 10. Normally high-scoring Lee Godfrey could manage just one for 10 from the field, while the Pioneers as a team shot just 16 for 42 for a 38 percent average.

The Pioneers will face a tough test Friday when next door rival Estacada comes into town. The Rangers feature a big (6'7") center

and some guards who like to shoot, so Sandy will have its hands full. Collins said he plans to have his team run a controlled game, keeping the

ball away from Estacada as much as possible.

The game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

Grade school wrestlers top Centennial tourney

A first place finish at the Centennial Invitational Wrestling Tournament by a contingent from Sandy Elementary School topped the early season sports schedule for the school.

Led by 75-pounder Larry Toplift's four wins, the Mountaineers collected 16 victories between each other to get the first place trophy.

In a regular dual meet

Sandy defeated Estacada by a 57-33 margin.

On the basketball circuit the schools seventh grade team remains undefeated by virtue of their most recent wins over Damascus (32-31) and Cottrell (29-17).

The eighth grade team earned a split against the two local rivals, defeating Cottrell 32-26 but losing by a 37-33 margin to Damascus.

Carew to appear at clinic

The eighth annual Pete Ward Baseball clinic will be held Feb. 11 on the Lewis and Clark College campus.

Rod Carew, 1977 American League Most Valuable Player will headline the list of celebrity participants.

Other guests will be Brooks Robinson, former Baltimore Oriole great, Tom Lasorda, manager of the Los Angeles

Dodgers and professional umpire Tom Gorman.

The regular session will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with baseball films starting at 9 a.m.

Coaches Corner will run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Tickets and registration information can be obtained by calling the Portland Park Bureau, 248-4325.

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