



SANDY'S TAMI Tallard clears the ball during last Thursday's game. out under an Astoria player's block

Girl hoopers lose two straight to end 6-12 inaugural season

The Sandy girls basketball team ended their season Monday the way they began it—losing but scrapping right to the end.

In between that first game against Washington and Monday's 57-38 loss to unbeaten Dallas there was a world of difference, however.

Against the Colonials, the Pioneers lost to a so-so team by 42 points. Against the Dragons, one of the state's top squads, the Pioneers gave an extremely creditable account of themselves.

The Dragons raced to a quick 21-10 lead in the first quarter but were unable to build on that margin thanks to Michelle Cleland's fine shooting.

But gradually the Pioneers faded because of foul trouble and some turnovers, yielding Dallas the final 19 point margin.

Cleland finished with 17 points to lead the Pioneers and hauled down 12 rebounds to go along with them. Nancy Perkins, while held scoreless, was effective on the boards as she picked up

13 rebounds.

Thursday the Pioneers were visited by Astoria, a team far better than their 10-4 record indicates. But Sandy managed to give the Fisherettes a heckuva scare before losing by a 50-32 margin.

Astoria, like Dallas, got off to a fast start against Sandy and led 14-4 at the end of the first quarter, thanks largely to some long range bombs by Cyndi Miller that barely touched the net as they swished through.

Sandy was able to do little

more than hold even through the second quarter, but after the half they came out in a pressing defense and started to gain ground on Dallas.

But although Sandy outscored the Dragons 14-8 in the third quarter the rally sputtered in the final period as Dallas put the game on ice with some good defensive work.

Michelle Cleland took scoring honors for Sandy with 13 while Cyndi Miller picked up 12 for the visitors.

The two losses put Sandy's fine record at 6-12 overall

and 6-10 in their division, good enough for third place.

"We made a lot of progress," coach Darrell Glover said of his team's season. "I'm really proud of this group of kids. They worked hard and deserved all the wins they got."

The Pioneers will lose five seniors to graduation; Nancy Perkins, Margaret Kallen, Rebecca Koepke, Mary Beth Nicholas and Jennie Johns but a good, seasoned nucleus remains behind for next year's campaign.

Fish and Wildlife News

Oregon sea otter colony declining

by Ken Durbin

Results of a sea otter survey along the southern Oregon coast last summer confirm the sad fact that these playful, unique animals are steadily declining. If the trend continues, attempts to reintroduce the animal through transplants in 1970 and 1971 will have failed.

Current sea otter population information for both the Oregon and Washington coastlines is contained in a report written by Ron Jameson and Karl Kenyon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists who conducted the survey last June and July.

Both land-based and boat observations were attempted in the known sea otter haunts but only four animals were sighted in Oregon and none of them were pups. All four were seen during the boat survey of Blanco Reef. Eleven otters were seen in 1976, 13 in 1975, and 22 was the average for a three-year period, 1972-74.

In Oregon sea otter populations have been monitored since 1971 but sightings in Washington have been sporadic and there is apparently not sufficient data to confirm whether sea otter numbers are slipping downward there, too.

The Oregon coastline was searched from Coos Bay to the California border from shore and offshore areas within about a 10-mile area north and south of Port Orford were searched from a boat. In addition, approximately 20 miles of beach were surveyed for other carcasses and skeletal material. Nothing was found.

The sighting of only four sea otters in Oregon with no signs of reproduction means the prospects are bleak that the current population will be able to expand. Sea otter females whelp only one pup every other year, so under ideal conditions population growth is slow.

The beautiful sea otter was one of Oregon's native fauna and its fur is considered among the most beautiful in the world. That fact and the sea otter's natural curiosity and friendliness nearly spelled its doom.

Once plentiful in the reefs and kelp beds along the entire north Pacific coast, these interesting animals were almost wiped out by the early fur trade. The last known sea otter recorded along the Oregon coast was in 1870 or thereabouts.

Populations never recovered along the Oregon coast but, fortunately, herds continued to exist in several areas in California and along the Alaska peninsula and the Aleutian chain.

This, plus the fact that the Oregon sea otter habitat remained mainly unchanged, permitted an attempt at reintroduction.

Discussions with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game began in 1965 about the possibility of trapping sea otters from that state for relocation here. But the talks really bore fruit in 1968. That year the Atomic Energy Commission became a partner in the venture when it took over Amchitka Island—the home of a large sea otter herd—as a site to test nuclear devices.

The AEC provided

materials for holding pens and air transportation to fly biologists to and from the trapping grounds and the otters from Alaska to the Oregon coast. The Alaska Fish and Game Department helped biologists from Oregon trap the animals.

Amidst much publicity and excitement, 29 sea otters were flown to Port Orford in 1970 and released in the Cape Blanco area. An additional 64 animals were received the following year. Initially they took to their new home along the south coast like sea otters to water.

For a few years pups were seen in the new population and it appeared as if they might once again become established along the Oregon coast. The turning point may

have come in 1975, or it may have been earlier than that. At any rate, fewer otters have been seen each year since then.

Otter surveyors James and Kenyon speculate the decline in Oregon has probably come from a combination of factors. To date, only 11 sea otters are known to have died in Oregon waters although there may well have been more than went unrecorded. Even though the death rate is apparently not high, the animal numbers have continued to dwindle and observers feel emigration from the area may be a more important factor than mortality. In any case, the losses of sea otters from whatever cause are outstripping additions to the

population from reproduction.

Jameson and Kenyon speculate sea otter populations off Oregon's shore may have dwindled after release almost immediately below the survival "threshold," a magical undefined level below which animal populations will not expand due to accidents, death, geographical separation, and other factors even under ideal conditions.

It will be a sad day for many of us if sea otters once again disappear from the state. As before, however, the habitat for the sea otter off Oregon's rocky south coast is still there and perhaps there will be opportunities for further attempts at reintroductions in the future.

Forfeits halt MHCC grapplers

Gary Head was counting the points that got away.

His Mt. Hood Community College wrestlers lost a meet, 22-14 to Clackamas CC Wednesday, that on paper Head figured was a win.

"We had it won and blew it," Head said. "It went down to the end."

"We wrestled well. Combined with our fine showing against Portland State, it gives me encouragement that we're peaking at the right time for

The Saints were at the Oregon-Washington CC Wrestling Championships Saturday at Clackamas CC, results were unavailable at press time. Heavyweight Dave Bartkowski and 142-pounders Steve Moses and Gary Van Steenwyk (moved down from 150) are considered Hood's best hopes.

The 11-team championships will end Hood's mat season.

In the Clackamas dual, Jim Deming wrestled his

Head, and scored a pin. But Stephen Smith lost a 5-0 lead, and had to settle for a draw. Riding time proved the difference in Tony Brouhard's loss at 134.

Following a double forfeit at 142, Moses scored a big 12-8 win but Van Steenwyk lost when a move of his turned five points for his opponent. At 167, Steve Anderson lost but he big decider came at 177 where Jon Reimer lost an 8-4 decision where Head planned on a win.

Hook 'n' sinker

New cloumn features area fishing

Sports editor's note: This week sees the start of a new column in Post Sports. Called Hook and Sinker and written by Dennis Luse of Brightwood, it will cover such topics as fishing techniques, equipment and where they're biting.

In the first column, Luse recounts an experience he had while steelhead fishing recently.

We hope you enjoy this new feature.

by Dennis Luse

The clock alarm shot a piercing scream into my resting ears; only to subside with the vision of my going to the stream and tying into one of the most sought after prizes, the steelhead!

The morning is overcast with fog hanging lazily over the hilltops. A distant cry of a blue-jay Breaks the silence of the newborn day.

After wrestling with putting on the multitudes of

clothing required to stay reasonable warm, and the gathering armament to meet the quarry, a short ride to the stream poses a question. Upon parking next to the battlefield of the next few hours, a quick glance answers that question—AH! No fresh tire tracks!

With pole and gear in hand, along with a lump in throat I cautiously stumble down to the headwater of the hole hoping not to spook fish possibly laying in next to the shoreline. A common mistake made by novice steelhead fisherman is to approach the hole like a D-9 Cat in a gravel pit.

Steelhead have acute senses: being sight and the ability to pick up the slightest vibrations which in turn startles him and heads for the deeper and often unfishable portion of the pool.

After convincing myself I made a church mouse entrance, I cast my ½ oz. red

and white Steelie into the swifter and upstream portion of the pool. A little extra slack to assure quick sinking of the lure in the faster water should put the lure near the bottom as it enters the populated area of the pool.

A sudden thump increases the adrenalin only to realize it was a rock. Another rock telegraphs the message that the lure is right down where it should be.

Another thump! Then as if snagged to the cow-catcher of a locomotive, the reel screams... pole bent in a

half circle, and line cutting the pool in half, a silver mass of pure energy leaps high, thrashing its body above the water. Fish on!

A frantic tackle busting, nerve smashing 10 minutes later, 13 pounds of mint condition steelhead is slithered onto the wet sand. This same scene is repeated 15 minutes later with a 6 pound male.

Many a fisherman has gone out only to come back minus five dollars worth of

lures and a nasty headache. The secrets of fishing for steelhead are a hundred-fold times the number you fish for them. In this column I will share my techniques and past experiences to help you snap your rod on one of these "ironheads". Future articles to include the how, when, where and why of fishing for steelhead.

Till next week, good luck and good fishing!

'78 Chev. Diesels

In stock — We have several new ½ ton pick-ups with 350 V8 diesel engines.

You can expect a 22 percent increase in mileage while using less expensive diesel fuel and get much longer engine life with less maintenance cost.

We're convinced this is the most practical and most economical way to go—and the place to go is

PETE CARLSON

668-4101

SANDY

Open Sunday & Evenings

Clearance sale continues

Levi's pre-washed

MEN'S JEANS 30% Off

DAY'S FOXFIRE
SPORT JACKETS
SLACKS-VESTS

1/3 to 1/2 Off

Ladies name brand
**TOPS-SHIRTS
SWEATERS**

1/2 to 1/3 Off

**LADIES
SHOES**

1/3 to 1/2 Off

**DECKERS
STORE**

find us at

Pioneer and Shelly
Sandy, Oregon 668-4144

Area bowling

Mt. Hooders 2-9-78		Early Birds 2-23-78	
Williams Thrftwy	13	Action Auto	21
Jennie Welches Ant	11	Calico Ctry	17
Oregon Trail	10½	Sandy Lbr. & Hdw.	14
Pioneer R.E.	10	Runnings	13
Sheppards Exc.	9	Alpine Hut	13
Sandy Travel Serv.	9	Eagle Foundry	12
The Cleanery	5	Zig Zag Inn	12
Sandy Fnl. Home	4½	T.J.'s	10
High individual game and series: Barbara Johnson 201 and 539.		High individual game and series: Fern Hunter 219; Dorothy Searls 571.	
High team game and series: Williams Thriftway 976 and 2649.		High team game and series: T.J.'s 729; Calico Country 2106.	