



SANDY'S STATE champion skiers posed Monday with their trophies. Standing from left are Darren Schouten, Scott Graham, Jeff Griffin, Dan Smith, Terry Galbreath and individual state champ Chris England. Sitting is Erik Pearson.

When it comes to the downhill, they're at the top of the heap

The Sandy High ski team capitalized on a stellar performance by senior skier Chris England to walk off with the coveted Dartmouth Cup trophy in the state ski championships last Thursday and Friday at Mt. Hood Meadows.

England placed first in the slalom and second in the giant slalom to win overall top honors with a combined score of 147.29, .72 second ahead of second place Joel Stevenson of Centennial.

In team scoring, Sandy totaled 464.69 seconds, 1.67 seconds ahead of second place Hood River and 5.61 seconds in front of number three Centennial.

Sandy led all the way in the two day event as England's 61.14 giant slalom run Thursday and strong performances by Scott Graham, Erik Pearson and Jeff Griffin gave the Pioneers a .84 second lead going into Friday's slalom.

England placed second to Stevenson's 59.79 giant slalom time, but he bounced back Friday with a combined time of 85.95 in the two Friday slalom runs to sew up the combined title.

But England, rather than dwell on his own successes, chose to speak instead on the fact the Pioneers took the team championship.

"I really wanted the team to win, so I wanted to do my best for the team," he said with a shrug. "And that just put me in the top spot."

In addition to having the pressure of leading the team, England also had to worry about the fact his main competitor, Joel Stevenson, was skiing right behind him on both runs.

But again, England's overriding concern was for the team.

"I wasn't too concerned whether or not he (Stevenson) beat me," he said. "I just wanted to get as much lead as possible on the Hood River guys."

Coach Charlie Rowles was, as could be expected, highly pleased with his team's performance. It isn't every

coach whose team picks up a state title during his first year.

"The whole key to the success of the team was the building of their confidence," he said.

"My whole objective from day one was to convince them they were going to be first in state. I just made sure I was there to give the right kind of coaching at the right time."

Rowles credited England's attitude with a major role in the Sandy senior's smooth performance.

"Chris was so group-oriented he could relax and perform to his maximum," he said.

Rowles also had high praise for sophomore Scott Graham, who skied the team's second and third fastest slalom times.

Rowles, a Sandy High graduate and former Can-Am ski champ, has been coaching the Pioneers this year while attending Mt. Hood Community College.

"Charlie's been great," said Peggy Hart, the team's faculty supervisor. "We wanted to get the best coach we could, and as far as we're concerned we got the best one in the Northwest."

Unfortunately, this will likely be Rowles' first and last year as Sandy's coach. His current plans call for enrolling at Oregon State last year to study civil engineering.

But coming back will be a strong nucleus for the 1979 ski team as three sophomores and a freshman return, including Erik Pearson, Scott Graham and Dave Antis.

Between them, they'll hope to give the big, silver Dartmouth Cup a permanent home at Sandy.

The cup, donated by the Dartmouth Outing Club in 1936 to the Oregon Interscholastic Ski Racing Association, goes each year to the state champions' school. It last spent a year at Sandy in 1956.

Fish and Wildlife News

Oregon nesting sites some of few left to Bald Eagle

by Ken Durbin

The bald eagle, our national bird, is now classified by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an endangered species in most of the lower 48 states. Steady losses of nesting, roosting, and feeding areas and other factors have resulted in steady declines to the point where the bald eagle is now in immediate peril of disappearing completely from many of these states.

In Oregon, as in Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, eagle habitat and populations are faring somewhat better and the birds are classified as threatened, one step away from the endangered classification. Much has been learned and is being learned in recent years about the specific requirements of bald eagles and there are growing numbers of people determined that our magnificent bird shall decline no further.

Oregon has a relatively

healthy nesting population of bald eagles. About 220 nests are known to exist in Oregon and, on the average, about one-third of them are used each year. This sounds as if many nests have been abandoned but eagles commonly build more than one nest and use alternate sites from one year to the next. In recent years efforts have been intensified to preserve and protect these important nesting sites both on public and private property.

In addition to its resident or nesting population of bald eagles, Oregon is also an extremely important wintering area for eagles, many of which come from distant areas. The Klamath Basin in south central Oregon and north and eastern California is now believed to be the most important wintering area for bald eagles in the United States except for the collective wintering sites in the huge Mississippi River Valley.

Nearly 500 of these birds

have been recorded in the basin in recent winters and they are known to come from as far away as northern British Columbia as well as eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, and a few from northern California.

Several factors combine to make the Klamath Basin such an important bald eagle wintering area. A plentiful and stable food supply is one vital consideration. Although eagles subsist largely on fish, during the winter injured, sick, or dead ducks, geese, and swans provide the staple diet. The Klamath Basin, long famous for its huge numbers of migratory waterfowl, provides this needed food supply. A series of large waterfowl refuges in the basin attract and hold waterfowl and are therefore vital to the eagles.

But of equal or near equal importance to an adequate food supply is the presence of communal roosting sites nearby. The importance of these very specific habitat

areas has become well known in recent years and biologists are now aware of three large communal roosting and resting sites in the Klamath Basin.

Two are in northern California and one is in Oregon south of Klamath Falls. Specific locations have not been widely publicized because of the need to protect the sites as much as possible from human disturbance. The two California sites are located mostly on national forest land and are now being managed as bald eagle roost sites. This, plus the endangered status of the bald eagle in California, helps insure the protection of these sites.

The Oregon site, however, is made up of numerous scattered ownerships, mostly private. Parts of this area have already been threatened with subdivision, logging, and construction by Pacific Power & Light of a 500 kilovolt power transmission line through its

edge. State and federal agencies in the area are currently working with a private organization, The Nature Conservancy of Oregon, to secure that roosting area for future eagle roosting use.

These eagle roosts seem to fill a very specific need for the eagles and the relative use at each varies with weather conditions and shifting in the basin waterfowl populations. All three areas are within

10-15 line-of-sight miles of the valley floor feeding area. They are all generally located on north or northeast-facing slopes that contain mature or over-mature timber stands. These slopes generally face

away from prevailing storms and the timber stands provide the large open-topped trees or snags required by the large birds to

(Continued to Page 10)

Hook 'n' Sinker

Getting the gear that's right

by Dennis Luse

Steelheading continues to be the best of the year on local streams.

The Mollala and Clackamas are yielding some nice fishing with numerous limits being taken. The Sandy has been equally good, but heavy fishing pressure makes elbow room scarce.

There are lots of bright fish in and they seem to be eager to take steelies, cokies, eggs and sand shrimp. The water levels in the streams continue to be low, keeping most fish in the deeper runs.

Salmon angling has slowed down considerably with the commercial nets in the river. However, the nets came out March 8, so an improving salmon run should be in soon.

As of this writing the spring smelt run has not entered the Sandy. One trademark of a fisherman that regularly fills his punchcard and puts fish in the freezer is the equipment he uses. There are no order of importance in regards to a pole, reel and line. Each one plays an important part in fighting that big one that shouldn't get away.

The equipment used by most local steelheaders is a six to seven and a half foot pole with a good timber action the last one-third of the length. This timber section is important in "feeling" the lure's mechanical action in the water, the taps of lead bouncing along rocks and the gentle tug of a fish taking eggs. A stout pole can't produce the feeling required, so shy away from this type for stream fishing.

If your friends permit, try their poles for a few minutes until you come upon one that feels comfortable to you.

The most common pole is of tubular fiberglass construction, and many reputable manufacturers produce a quality pole that will fit your needs.

Don't buy a pole that costs \$49.95 thinking it is of better quality when a \$25.00 pole has all the features you need. A whole book could be written on what a quality pole should be, so in short, talk to other fishing friends and watch what other fishermen are using before you buy.

After you have selected the

pole that you are itching to bend on a fish, the next task before you is to pick out a reel. A closed face spinning reel is for light fishing only and should be avoided. They are fine for a weekend outing, but will not stand up to a battling, thrashing steelhead.

The open face spinning reel is the favorite among the local fisherman. It is a bit harder learning to cast, but the overall performance is worth the effort. Again, talk to your friends, watch what others are using and if possible try out different models until you find one that feels right to you.

Your selection should be based on these few important items: Check the drag system to assure it is smooth and not jerky as the line is drawn out, check the bail movement as it closes to be sure it closes and locks smoothly and rotate the handle and check the ease of movement of the gear train system. Avoid reels that are sluggish and that jerk as the handle is turned. Also look over the overall craftsmanship. That is usually a sign of good or poor quality.

The reel you selected should be filled to within one-eighth inch from the lip of the spool with a high-grade, quality line. The line is purchased in spools having the tensile strength printed on them. The most common is 8 to 10 pound test.

Avoid buying line where the stock doesn't turn over frequently since the line will become brittle with age. Line should be replaced every year as sunlight and heat will cause it to deteriorate.

Some fishermen believe that the color of the line has a direct effect on fishing. I can only say, buy what you feel is the right color.

Now that you have bought a quality set-up, you can feel confident that the only strike you get all day while standing in a cold driving March rain wasn't lost because of inferior equipment.

I fish to enjoy the outdoors with hopes of catching fish, not sitting at streamside re-wrapping guides, taking a reel apart to fix it, or unsnarling 200 yards of monofilament line from around my feet.

Next week: Steelheading water....What to look for.

LIFE BEGINS AT 40 (years ago.)



Back in 1938, a group of Clackamas County community leaders and physicians became very concerned about the costly and severely limited health insurance available in our area.

So by working closely with the people who live and work here, they developed a program, and the Physicians Association of Clackamas County was born.

That was forty years ago. Today, PACC provides in excess of \$7 million in health care to more than 24,000 members. And what began as just one plan covering basic office and hospital care has expanded to include paid-in-full

benefits tailored to meet everyone's individual needs... needs defined through direct consumer input from you and your neighbors.

PACC has come a long way in forty years, but we've still got a long way to go. As your needs continue to change, we'll keep right on changing, too. For complete information about how your

Physicians Association of Clackamas

County can take care of all your health insurance needs, call us today.



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