

Sports & Recreation

Sandy High in new league?

OSAA to consider realignment of districts

by MARK FLOYD
sports editor

There is a distinct possibility that sports events pitting Sandy High School against teams from Astoria and Sweet Home may become a thing of the past.

The elimination of such contests would require the realignment of the Coast Valley league or the expansion of the number of AAA districts in the state. These and other concepts are under the consideration of the Oregon School Activities Association which regulates high school sports in the state.

Whatever the method, Sandy High School is pushing for a change, according to athletic director Mike Kostuba.

"We sent a letter wholeheartedly

agreeing with the concept of redistricting," Kostuba said. "We've requested that Sandy compete with teams on a more local level."

The OSAA was to hold a workshop Tuesday in Newport to evaluate the two dozen plans, suggestions and requests that were sent to the group by various schools and districts throughout the state. The OSAA members at the workshop will evaluate the plans and make suggestions to the board which will meet on Sept. 7.

"We're looking at about 22 different plans so there's no point in singling out any one proposal," said Ed Ryan of the OSAA. "But a couple of the plans have Sandy with schools like Reynolds and Centennial."

New League?

This doesn't mean that Sandy would

be seceding from the Coast-Valley league, however, Ryan said. If a realignment plan is approved, it is likely that a new league would be formed by taking some of the teams from the Doast-Valley league and combining them with teams from the Wilco league.

If a new league is formed, expanding the number of districts from the current set-up of eight, the action would have to be approved by the delegate assembly of the OSAA which is meeting at the end of October. The 24-person assembly consists of a representative from each district in A, AA and AAA.

Kostuba indicated that some of the teams in the proposed new league have also requested a more localized district. It could possibly include Gresham, Barlow, Reynolds, Parkrose

and David Douglas as well as Sandy.

The request for realignment is nothing new, Kostuba said, as Sandy has been pushing for some time to be included in a more localized district. However, realignment hasn't been approved because the overall feeling around the state seemed to be that it wasn't necessary, he said.

"The statewide sentiment has been to keep things the way they are," Kostuba said. "Only recently have other schools outside the Sandy area begin to push for realignment."

Too much Travel

Excessive traveling distances are the major reason Sandy High officials favor redistricting. A bus must leave by noon for a football game at Astoria. Not only are the fuel costs significant, but the kids miss a lot of school and the

coaches miss many of the classes they would normally teach. The cost of providing a substitute teacher is high, Kostuba said.

However, representatives from the Intermountain League in Eastern Oregon have expressed disbelief over Sandy's travel complaints. Many of the schools in the league have to travel several hours for every athletic contest, a trip such as the ones Sandy has to make to Astoria or Sweet Home would be one of the shortest excursions of the year for an Intermountain League team.

One difference in that league's situation is that they have no choice in the matter, Kostuba said. Because many of the towns are so isolated, teams are going to have to travel if they want to compete in sports. It doesn't

have to be that way for Sandy.

"We drive by 60 percent of the AAA schools on the way to some of our longer games," he said. "There have been games when we've driven past schools in the PIL, Metro, Wilco, Coast-Valley and Valley leagues."

"Why can't we play them instead?" he added.

If any change is made, it will not be effective until the 1979-80 school year. So, for at least a year, Sandy High athletes may be logging a few more miles than necessary. Meanwhile school officials are awaiting the Sept. 7 OSAA board meeting with some anxiety.

"I think something is going to be done and in time for the next school year," Kostuba said.

Neuenfeldt takes 15th at Junior Nationals

Erica Neuenfeldt found the competition a bit tougher than she was accustomed to, but the 13-year-old Blue Marlin swimmer still turned in an impressive performance at the Jr. National Championships in Santa Clara, Calif., last weekend.

Neuenfeldt placed 15th in her specialty, the 200-meter

butterfly with a personal best time of 2:24.37. The event had 67 entries from around the United States, and Neuenfeldt's previous best time of 2:26.21 ranked her 44th going into the meet. She was the only 13-year-old to place in the finals of the 200-meter butterfly, according to Blue Marlin head coach

Mark Smith.

The Blue Marlin swimmer also entered the 1500-meter freestyle, but didn't place in the event. Her time of 17:48.6 was three seconds off her best mark.

"The length of the meet got to Erica a bit," Smith said, "plus the fact that it was her first national meet."

"You try to get as much rest as you can before you go; you can't rest much on the trip because of all the activity," he added.

The weather was on the hot side for the Santa Clara meet and switching climate rapidly usually hurts a

swimmer's performance. To offset the rapid switch, Coach Smith and Neuenfeldt left for California on Tuesday, five days before her first event. Smith feels this may have helped her do so well in the butterfly.

"I was especially pleased,

and so was Erica, that she got into the finals of the 200 fly," Smith said. "That's what we set out to accomplish."

"She got some very valuable experience at the meet," he added.

The time spent out of the pool proved to be informative as well. Neuenfeldt attended a luncheon where the featured speaker was John Naber, the backstroke ace who gained fame, and gold medals, at the Montreal Olympics.

While Neuenfeldt was doing her thing in Santa Clara, two Blue Marlin swimmers remained in Sandy to train for this weekend's Far Western Championships in Concord, Calif.

Huie Hazelett and Doug Crane trained all week and left Tuesday for their biggest meet of the season. Hazelett is entered in the 200-meter and 400-meter freestyles, while Crane will be swimming the 50-meter and 200-meter freestyles and the 50-meter and 100-meter butterfly races.

Hazelett hopes to make the finals of the 400-meter freestyle and just "do the best I can in the 200-meter race."

"I like the longer races better," he said. "If you miss a turn, it doesn't hurt you as much, if you mess up in the 100 though, boy, you're in trouble."

Hazelett would like to have been able to enter the 1500-meter freestyle, but unfortunately the 400-meters is the longest race scheduled at Concord.



Hazelett heads toward Concord

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Sports briefs . . .

Physicals offered

A doctor will be giving physicals to Welches students who wish to compete in after school sports beginning at 12 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Welches Grade School.

Students who wish to take the physical must bring a note of permission from their parents and the cost of the examination before noon.

After these items have been brought to the office, the student will be given a physical form for the doctor to fill out. The doctor will not give a physical to any child who does not have a legal form from the office.

Students must have a physical and insurance to participate in after school sports.

practices

Practice for the Sandy High School soccer and

cross-country teams will begin Aug. 28.

Practice for the coed cross country team will begin at 4 p.m. in gym C at the high school.

John White was announced as the new head cross-country coach by athletic director Mike Kostuba. White ran cross-country for Grant High School in Portland before going to school at Oregon State University and the Oregon College of Education. White will also teach science classes at SUHS.

Soccer becomes a team sport for the first time this year at Sandy High, losing its club status. Lon Welsh will be the head coach for the team which will meet at 6 p.m. in the boy's locker room.

Ruef decathlon set

The 6th Annual Pete Ruef Memorial Decathlon will be held Sept. 16 at various places throughout the Oregon City area.

The 10-event program is not the same as the decathlon in Olympic competition, but it nevertheless demands skill in a variety of events.

Competition begins at 7 a.m. with nine holes of golf at the Oregon City Course. Other events include free-throw shooting, the 100 and 440-yard dashes, field-goal kicking and shot putting at Clackamas Community College; horseshoes at Clackamette Park; bowling and billiards at Gladstone Lanes and Tri-City Bowl and a 50-meter swim at Oregon City's Municipal Pool. For those participants unable to swim, an archery competition at the college may be substituted.

The women's events will vary slightly as they will hit seven-irons at Clackamas

Community College at 8 a.m., throw a softball and have a soccer ball kicking contest before continuing with the other events.

Participants must furnish their own transportation between events.

The Tri-City Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the decathlon which is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The competition is open to anyone 18 years or older, and is limited to the first 130 participants to pay the registration fee. The fee (\$14 for men, \$12 for women) may be paid at the Chamber of Commerce office at 703 John Adams St. in Oregon City.

The decathlon is named after Pete Ruef, the former president of the Chamber of Commerce and one of the co-founders of the event. Ruef died from cancer in 1976.

For registration information, contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 656-1619.

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