

Business slow at new winter sports center

Business has been slow at the Winter Sports Information Center, opened recently by the U. S. Forest Service at Government Camp. Terry Pearson of the Zigzag Ranger Station has been assigned to staff the new center on weekends and provide recreation information to Mt. Hood visitors.

Pearson said she has spent "two very miserable weekends" there since the center opened. "It has been pouring down rain almost every day," she said.

Between 20 and 50 visitors per day have used the center, obtaining literature, information and maps to help them choose their recreation sites.

Pearson said she believes there would have been "much more than that if we'd had snow."

The center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It will provide first aid, and will display information on hiking trails, snowplay areas, snowmobile trails, and downhill and cross country ski areas, according to Herb Evans of the Zigzag Station.

"Hopefully when people come up to Mt. Hood, they will make a stop at Government Camp and take advantage of the literature there," Evans said.

He said maps which list all the cross-country trails are distributed at the center. The maps include charts which describe the trails and list levels of difficulty.

Evans said the center will also be used as a dispatch site for the Nordic and Downhill Ski Patrols. Safety will be stressed in the information disseminated at the center, he said.

"We will emphasize the importance of using proper equipment," Evans explained. "And we're always trying to direct people away from the crowded areas and distribute the load."

The center is equipped with a rear-screen projector to present two short programs on avalanche and winter preparedness.

Keep Listening tours scheduled

Keep Listening, a series of wilderness trips for women, has set its winter schedule for the 1981 season.

Keep Listening originated in the Sandy area and is a non-profit organization which has been serving women locally since 1977. The group has a number of activities planned for the upcoming year.

A cross country ski lecture and demonstration Tuesday, Jan. 20, will open the winter season. The lecture, scheduled for 7 p.m. at 1915 NE Everett in Portland, will introduce women to cross country ski clothing and equipment.

A series of three weekly cross country ski lessons for beginners has also been slated. The first sessions will begin Jan. 24 and 25 at 9 a.m. on the slopes of Mt. Hood.

Lessons will include instruction on basic Nordic skiing skills, including diagonal stride, step turns, kick turns, wedge turns, double poling, herringbone hill climbing and side-stepping.

Also included in the lessons will be winter survival skills, such as how to prevent hypothermia, how to avoid avalanches and the use of a compass.

Weekend trips are planned in February and March.

For more information, contact Keep Listening, P.O. Box 14743, Portland, OR 97214 or call 239-6896.

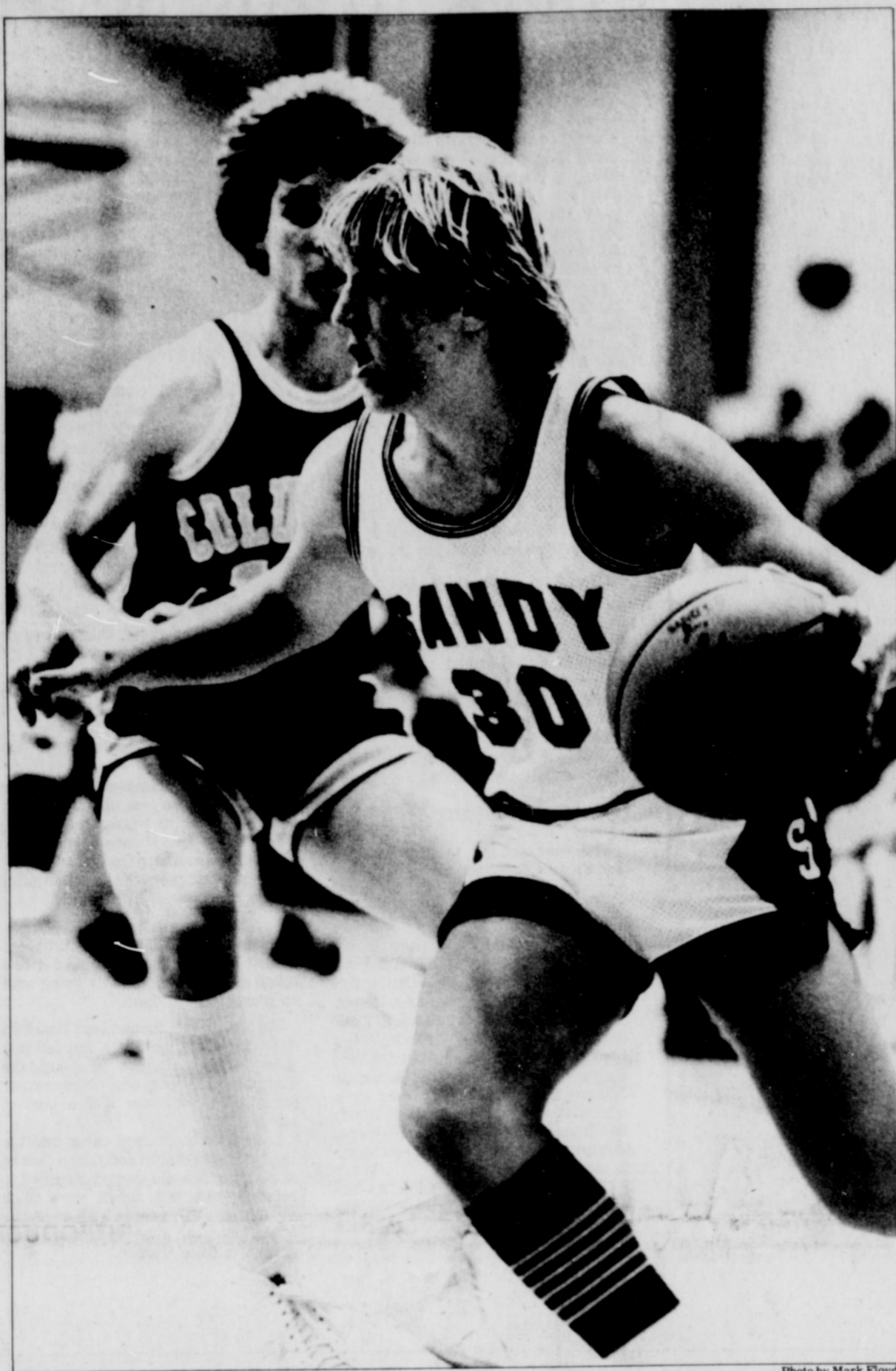
Pioneer teams gear for league

After two weeks of food, relaxation and bowl games, the Sandy High athletic teams will be back in action with league play.

The boys basketball team has a non-leaguer this Friday, Jan. 2 at David Douglas. The Pioneers open their Timber Valley League slate Tuesday at Silverton. The Sandy girls will host Silverton this Monday in their TVL opener. All games will start at 7:45 p.m.

The Sandy swimming team has one more week to prepare for Gresham, the league favorite in the boys competition and co-favorite with the Pioneers in the girls. The teams will tangle Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. in the Gresham High pool.

The Pioneer wrestling team will participate in the tough Barlow Invitational Jan. 9. The host Bruins are the defending state champions and are favored to repeat this year. The first matches are set for 3 p.m.



Sandy guard Mitch Paola drives on an opponent in a recent game. The Pioneers own a 2-4 record and have been plagued by inconsistency, a trait coach Dennis

Warren hopes to overcome by the start of league play next week. Sandy has a non-conference game with David Douglas this Friday.

Sandy cagers seek stability before entering league play

by MARK FLOYD

Dennis Warren isn't surprised that his Sandy High basketball team is 2-4 right now, but he isn't necessarily pleased with the fact, either.

The Pioneers are young, and with their inexperience, mistakes are bound to happen. But Sandy has been a shade more inconsistent than even Warren had anticipated on his less optimistic days.

"I really feel that we have progressed at the rate I thought we would," he admitted. "But our biggest problem right now is inconsistency. Portions of all our ball games have been good, but we've had a roller coaster effect — up and down, up and down. We need to stabilize to be competitive in our league."

League play is right around the corner, too. The Pioneers have a non-counter with a strong David Douglas team this Friday which won't be much of a picnic. The Scots are blessed with their best team in years.

But the game will give Warren a chance to gauge how far his team has progressed in preseason. Admittedly, it's been a rather rocky start for the Pioneers.

With just one letterman in the lineup, Sandy lost its first three games and none of them were particularly close. The Pioneers beat a weak Columbia team, then got blown away by powerful Benson. A trip to Victoria, B.C. provided a pleasant change of scenery and a nice vacation, but it gave Warren little clue to how his team was doing. The Pioneers split in two games playing international rules against Canadian teams.

So the Pioneers are faced with the prospect of taking their 2-4 record against the Scots and trying to develop some consistency, a trait which has been noticeably lacking in the early season.

"Our biggest weakness is defense," Warren said. "We're just

going to have to realize that it takes a lot more effort to play a defense and we're going to have to put out a lot more on the defensive end.

"Some of it is inexperience, but we're also not working as hard as we're capable of working," the Sandy coach pointed out. "Inexperience is no excuse for a lack of total team effort. We might have three guys out there working hard on defense, but the other two will be standing around. That's all it takes. You need five."

Defense has been a sore spot. Benson rolled up 96 points against the Pioneers who couldn't handle their quickness. Not many teams can. But against a few other teams,

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the Pioneers were guilty of standing around then reaching out when an opponent went by. Laziness has cost the Pioneers dearly at the free throw line this season and it is something that will have to change, according to the Sandy coach.

"We're not displaying the type of enthusiasm we should be on defense," Warren noted. "We'll just have to find the people who are willing to work on defense and those people are the ones who will be playing."

Despite preseason troubles, the Pioneers do have a shot at a Timber Valley League playoff spot. There will be three berths in the eight-team TVL this year and the league is more open than usual. West Linn, one of the preseason favorites, has a 2-5 record and recently suffered the loss of both centers for the season due to an automobile accident. That leaves the talented, but inconsistent

Cougars of Canby as the team to beat. Oregon City should also have a say in the race, but any team should be capable of beating anyone in the league.

"I don't feel that there is a team we can't beat if we play the way we're capable of playing and eliminate the immature mistakes," Warren said.

The first league contest for Sandy will be Jan. 6 at Silverton. Sandy will then host Oregon City Jan. 9 at 7:45 p.m.

But in the meantime, there are practices over vacation and David Douglas to worry about.

"I don't want to sound like I'm totally displeased with the team," Warren said. "We've had some good individual performances at different times in different games. But 32 minutes of basketball we have yet to play. When that happens, we'll be competitive."

"I've been pleased with our offensive performance at times this year," he added. "We've moved the ball better than in the past and there have been streaks where we do things rather well. The kids have worked hard in practice and are enthusiastic. But in ball games we have mental lapses — we don't play like we do in practice."

Warren praised junior Bob Nippert, the team's only letterman and the Pioneers' most consistent performer. He also expressed pleasure with the development of junior David Paugh who is taking on increasing responsibility inside, helping Nippert out.

But the thing that would please Warren the most is a little consistency, especially on the defensive end. And, especially with league play starting next week.

"We're a young team and we're going to have up and down nights as league play progresses," Warren said. "What we'll have to do is work extra hard on our defense on those down nights because there's no excuse for a poor defensive effort."

Pioneer girls open TVL slate Monday

by MARK FLOYD

Christmas vacation provided a time for the Sandy High girls basketball team to lick its wounds, but the pressure of league play is nearly at hand.

The Pioneers needed a bit of time after back-to-back shellackings at the hands of St. Mary's and Lake Oswego. But those two schools are among the top five teams in the state and the blowouts were more or less expected. Time should erase any lack of confidence those games may have produced.

Actually, when the Pioneers reflect back on their preseason experience, they should come away feeling pretty good, according to coach John Smith.

"I consider the season a success, so far," he said. "We have a 3-3 record which isn't too bad (the best in the program's brief history, in fact). But we need to be more intense. We're losing our intensity during parts of games and we need it for the full duration. We have these lapses and we haven't gotten over them."

"That's the key to our season," Smith emphasized. "We can't fall asleep during the game. Against the better teams we've given up 10 quick points during a lapse. We're a fair ball team, but we're not the kind of team that can come back very often after giving up 10 quick points."

The competition may have had something to do with that. In addition to the losses to St. Mary's and Lake Oswego, the Pioneers suffered a season-opening defeat to Gresham. The Gophers appeared to be a good, but not great team, but then they turned around and beat St. Mary's two weeks ago. All three of Sandy's losses have been to pretty fair teams.

The wins haven't exactly come against weaklings. Forest Grove is no powerhouse, but Columbia is fair and Centennial is one of the favorites in the Wilco League. The Eagles are on par with Gresham.

The tough preseason may have been a blessing in disguise for the Pioneers, although they were probably cursing the schedule-maker when St. Mary's was running away with a 75-30 win. Sandy won't face tougher clubs in league than it did in preseason.

It will face some that might be on the same level, however. Oregon City is a top 10 team and is probably just a shade below, if that, Lake Oswego. West Linn has come on strong this season and may be as good as Oregon City.

Those teams appear to be the cream of the Timber Valley League crop. A notch lower and there's Sweet Home

and Canby, according to Smith. He said that the general consensus around the league is that the lower division will be made up of Sandy, Silverton, Estacada and Molalla.

"Our team goal is to get into that top four and be a part of the interleague playoffs," Smith said. "To do that, we'll have to take on Sweet Home and Canby and beat them at least once. Then we'll need solid games against Silverton, Molalla and Estacada."

The Pioneers won't have long to wait. They tangle with Silverton this Monday, Jan. 5 in the Sandy gym. It will be the league opener for both teams and the 7:45 p.m. contest may reveal how each squad fits into the overall league picture.

"Silverton is in about the same position that we are," Smith said. "I consider us on the same level. They've got about four lettermen returning and they're a pretty fair team. We'll need to play good to beat them."

The Silver Foxes will be led by forward Kim Smoot and 6-foot sophomore center Chris Venables.

Sandy will counter with a 6-foot center of its own in Dawn New and a faster paced game which Smith said is one of the more pleasing characteristics of his team.

"Our goal at the beginning of the year was to move up and down the floor more quickly and we've done that," he pointed out. "When we move well and control the turnovers, we've been in every ball game. Even for a half, or part of a half, against St. Mary's, we moved the ball fairly well. When we do, we're a much more effective team."

It will be two-and-a-half weeks between the Lake Oswego game and Monday's contest against Silverton. The Pioneers may be a little rusty, but they were beginning to come around individually going into vacation and Smith hopes that it will continue through league play.

"Linda Mosbrucker has been our most consistent performer," he said of the sophomore guard. "She gives us quickness and she's out there hustling no matter what the score is. Char McKinney has been good for us, averaging eight or nine points a game and Dawn has had some very good games."

"Cindy McCoy, Zina Seal and Becky Rodrigues haven't played much, but they've been working hard and hustling well when they've been in there," he added. "And Nancy Rohweder has finally stayed out of foul trouble the last couple of games. She didn't play much early because of foul trouble, and we need her in there."

License and tag fees marked for an increase

Another session of the Oregon Legislature will convene soon and in past sessions there have usually been many bills bearing on fish and wildlife resources or on the organization or operation of the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Some of these have been introduced by the department; many others have come from or on behalf of other groups.

This year the department will introduce only one piece of legislation. It is one in which no one takes any joy, but one considered at this point to be very necessary. It involves a hike in the basic license and tag fee structure that provides the funds to support a large percentage of the department's operations.

Although none of us enjoy paying fees, it has often been said that the best bargain available to the sportsman today is his hunting and fishing license. The license, after all, permits 365 days of fishing and several months of hunting each year in addition to providing year-around support of the management programs that benefit these activities.

And though all these costs are on top of everything else, what the hunter and fisherman is obligated to pay for licenses and tags is small in comparison to what he pays for transportation, gasoline, special clothing, ammunition, guns, tackle, dog upkeep, food, decoys, boats and motors, motels or camping equipment, and a myriad of other essential pieces of the hunting and fishing experience. And, of course, the costs of all these things has risen, too.

As should be obvious, the problems facing the department are the same as those facing everyone. The dollar simply doesn't buy as much as it used to. The department's total annual budget has steadily increased over the years in terms of dollar numbers. But the amounts of goods and services it buys has steadily shrunk.

"The license fees keep going up and up," we've heard said by a few disgruntled sportsmen. But, in fact, there have been only two general license fee increases since 1950. In that year the hunting and fishing licenses were each increased from \$3 to \$4. The next general increase was passed by

the 1975 Legislature and took effect in 1976. Over the years some license fee changes, such as those providing free or reduced fee licenses and tags for certain groups, have actually cut into department revenue.

There have been, since 1976, some significant increases in the cost of nonresident licenses and tags, and minor adjustment to a few resident tags. But the revenue from the increased nonresident fees has been of little total significance because only three percent of all licenses sold go to

nonresidents, and only one percent of the tags.

Not only, have revenue increases not kept up with the costs, but license and tag fees have not kept up with increases in wages. This will be small solace to the sportsman who is out of work or one whose wages have not kept up with national averages. But using wage figures from the U.S. Department of Commerce, it has been found that when the current fee structure went into effect in 1976, it took 1.85 hours of work to purchase an angling license. If the proposed structure goes into effect in 1982 and wage projections are valid, it will take only 1.42 hours of work to purchase that annual license. For the hunting license it drops from 1.44 hours in 1976 to 1.04 hours in 1982.

Shown below are the licenses and tags proposed for increase in 1982, the amounts now charged, and the amounts proposed; in parentheses. Resident Combination, \$15 (\$17); Resident Hunter, \$7 (\$8); Resident Deer Tag, \$4 (\$5); Bird Stamp (New), \$0 (\$5); Resident Angler, \$9, (\$11); Juvenile Angler, \$2 (\$3); Nonresident Angler, \$25 (\$40); 10 Day Angler, \$10 (\$15); Daily Angler/Inland, \$2.50 (\$3); Daily Angler/Ocean, \$2.50 (\$4); Salmon-Steelhead Tag, \$2 (\$5); Resident Antelope Tag, \$5 (\$10).



by Ken Durbin