

stuff shots

Beavers were long overdue

by MARK FLOYD
Sports Editor

I can't resist it any longer. A few words about the Oregon State Beavers.

As an ardent follower of the Beavers since my freshmen days in high school, I was overjoyed to see OSU reach its No. 1 ranking. There have been a lot of ups and downs for the Beavers since those days of Freddie Boyd, Neal Jurgenson and Sam Whitehead, but the disappointments always seemed to outweigh the achievements.

In 1971, the Beavers had a chance to upset UCLA in Gill Coliseum, but Sidney Wicks rejected an OSU shot and Boyd dribbled the ball off his foot in the last few seconds. Wicks then sank a jumper to win it 67-65 and the Bruins went on to win the NCAA.

In 1979 Oregon State wound up the regular season with a 17-10 record, and earned a berth in the National Invitational Tournament. Despite playing at home, the Beavers suffered a 62-61 loss to Nevada-Reno in the first round.

Worse yet, lightning can strike twice. Last year OSU had a banner season, going 26-3 in the regular season and had high hopes in the NCAA tourney. OSU lost its opener to Lamar 81-77 and had to watch the rest of the tourney on television. The loss took the glimmer off OSU's first conference championship since 1966. Worse yet, UCLA, just fourth in the Pac-10 Conference, went on to the NCAA finals.

There have been other disappointments. The 1976 team rolled up an 18-9 record, but had to forfeit 15 of those wins for using big Lonnie Shelton, ruled ineligible.

And the worst blow of all came in Miller's first year, 1971. The team had a 10-2 record when an automobile accident claimed the life of popular starting guard Mike Keck and injured forward Larry Webber. The shaken Beavers lost 12 of their last 14 games to end the season at 12-14, Miller's only losing season at OSU.

Suffice it to say, Oregon State, and the Pac-10 Conference, needed success. UCLA has been so dominant, it won every conference title from 1967 to 1979. UCLA compiled a 130-18 record during the past 10 years; OSU was second in the Pac-10 with an 89-59 mark.

And now the Beavers are No. 1. Do they deserve the ranking? Many people think not. A lot of coaches do, though, especially after having played the Beavers. OSU doesn't have as much individual talent as a DePaul or Virginia, but the Beavers play the team game as well as anyone. They may be the best passing team in America, and their defense is certainly no weak point. OSU has some backboard deficiencies, but their strong points have made up for it.

The Beavers have good balance, with 6-foot-10 Steve Johnson in the middle and the backcourt tandem of Ray Blume and Mark Radford. Starting forwards Charlie Sitton and Jeff Stoutt have been plagued by inconsistency this year, but coach Ralph Miller's ace in the sleeve is depth. He can insert Rob Holbrook for Sitton; Holbrook started last year. If Stoutt is cold, in comes Lester Conner, one of the top JC players in the country last year. If Johnson gets into foul trouble, Senior Bill McShane brings in his aggressive defense and rugged boardwork. Remember, McShane led OSU to second in the conference as a starting freshman center.

Depth has been a key for OSU's drive to a second consecutive league title. When you rely on team play, you can't have a weak link. In the past, the Beavers had had one; hence the losses to the Lamars and Nevada-Renos. But this season, when one of the Beavers is off, a thoroughly capable sub is waiting on the bench. That is a luxury not many coaches have.

No. 1 in the nation. It may not last, but it's a great feeling in the meantime.



A study in concentration, Tim Zimmerman contemplates his next move in a recent chess match against Clackamas. This is the second year of existence for the Sandy High chess club, advised by Roger Ford.

Photo by Mark Floyd

For SUHS chess club

Creativity overcomes inexperience

by MARK FLOYD

There are no cheerleaders for this game. No ovation for a great play. In fact, there are rarely any spectators at all.

The game is chess. The participants are intelligent, motivated and fiercely aggressive — athletes of the mind, if you will.

Chess has been around for centuries, but it is just recently getting its start at Sandy High School. A club was formed last year with Roger Ford as the faculty advisor. The club struggled in its initial outings and wound up with just a 1-8 record last year.

Things are looking up this season. As a team, Sandy is 4-2-1, and the Pioneer chessmen have beaten the other three participating Timber Valley League schools for the unofficial league dual meet championship. Interestingly enough, Sandy has never won the first board match in the club's two-year existence.

"We don't have a really dominant player," Ford said. "None that have played tournament chess. We rely on coming up with a scheme during the game rather than reading books. Other schools have kids who read books and attend Pacific Northwest chess tournaments."

Therein lies one of the Sandy

weaknesses. The players don't recognize some of the established patterns of the game and are unable to utilize traditional defensive strategies. On the other hand, opposing players are often confused by Sandy's tactics. What may appear to be a book move is actually freelance. Still, Sandy's lack of book training has led to some disadvantages in its matches.

"A general team weakness is that we don't have as much book knowledge in openings as other teams," Ford noted. "So we often get behind early. Then the creative ability of our students comes out and we come back."

Sandy's top man during the past two years has been Stuart Bilyeu, a senior and president of the club. Bilyeu has the honor, and misfortune, of playing first board most of the time, which means tackling the best player from the other team. More often than not, it is a player with tournament experience and book knowledge.

At second board this year is Chris Botchees, who owns a 6-1 record thus far, best on the Sandy team. Tim Zimmerman is at third board; Roman Scott on fourth and Pete Watkins, fifth. Scott was the most valuable player last year as a freshman, posting the most wins on the team.

The positions are not permanent. Challenge matches and a rating board give the players a chance to move up, or down, during the week and those positions carry over to the matches. Sandy practices twice a week and usually has a match in between.

Matches are often tense. Players have 80 minutes to make 40 moves and if a player touches a piece, he must move it. Ford said that the good games usually take quite a while, but that fifth board games may be over in minutes because "they play faster and don't see all the combinations and subtle tactics."

Sandy goes over the games during its next practice, and Ford, himself an avid player, points out mistakes.

"I enjoy being an advisor," Ford said. "Chess is my hobby. I have 21 postal games going right now and have played competitively."

Ford feels the average chess player has higher than average intelligence and usually does well in math. He is also optimistic about the future of the club. Bilyeu is the only senior, the rest should be back next year. Sandy has gone from a 1-8 record last year, to its current mark of 4-2-1. And the Pioneers have a shot at the district championship.

The round robin district meet will be held Feb. 14 in the Sandy High

Library. Matches will begin at 9 a.m. Sandy should be in a battle with Oregon City for the top spot after claiming a tight 21-19 win earlier this season.

The tension, always great in a chess match, should be doubly heavy at district. Ford said players will often get up and walk around during a match for one reason — nerves.

"There is a lot of tension in chess," he said. "You can see it in different ways. You can see it in the way some people stare, or tap their fingers or sit on the edge of their seat. Our top player likes to eat, he's always munching a candy bar or something."

"Chess players are extremely competitive people," Ford added. "They always like to say they crushed the opponents. Some of them may not be athletic and they take care of their competitive urges through chess."

"Chess players are the kind of people who will shake your hand after a match, then run outside and kick in a garbage can."

Pioneer boys top Centennial in swimming

The Sandy High boys swimming team rolled to an 81-63 win over Centennial Thursday, but the Pioneer girls were upset by the Eagles 84-72.

Sandy won seven of the 10 boys events to win easily at the Centennial pool. Clint Brown and Bret Crane picked up two victories apiece and the Pioneers won the opening 200-yard medley relay.

Crane's victories were especially encouraging. The Sandy senior has been struggling to get back into shape after a long illness caused him to miss much of the early season. But Crane came through with a first place in the 100-backstroke, 1:06.11, and tied his personal best in the 50-freestyle, where he was first with a 24.99.

Brown won the 100-breaststroke, 1:07.56, and the 100-butterfly, 1:00.87.

Crane, Brown, Rick Topliff and Glenn Izer combined to win the medley relay with a 1:52.30 time.

Izer also won the 200-individual medley for the Pioneers with a 2:16.30 time. Topliff took the 100-freestyle with a 53.21, a personal best by a full second.

The Pioneers also got important second place finishes from Matt Falgout, Herb Hazelett and Shawn Burns.

Centennial was paced by Mark East, who won the 200 and 500-freestyles and anchored the 400-free relay team.

The Sandy girls trailed the entire meet, but kept within striking distance until the last two or three events. Centennial put a lid on the coffin by going first, third and fifth in both the 100-backstroke and 100-breaststroke.

The Pioneer girls were led by junior Bonita Connelly, the most consistent of the Sandy girls this year, won the 50-freestyle in 27.74, then came back to take the 100-butterfly with a 1:09.50. The latter time tied her personal best.

Sandy got just one other individual win, that coming from junior Gayle Roth. Roth hung on to win the 200-individual medley with a 2:23.81 time. She was edged in the 100-breaststroke by Centennial's Tami Shearer, who won with a personal best 1:16.22. Roth was timed in 1:16.69.

The Pioneers also won the 400-freestyle relay as the team of Connelly, Roth, Teresa Lamer and Jean Crane rolled to a 45-second win with a time of 4:10.76.

calendar

SANDY HIGH

BOYS BASKETBALL
Jan. 23 Sandy at West Linn 7:45 p.m.
Jan. 27 Sandy at Canby 7:45 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Jan. 22 Estacada at Sandy 7:45 p.m.
Jan. 26 Sandy at Oregon City 7:45 p.m.
Jan. 29 Sandy at Silverton 7:45 p.m.

WRESTLING
Jan. 22 Estacada at Estacada 6 p.m.
Jan. 24 Sandy at Hood River 9 a.m.
Jan. 29 Silverton at Sandy 7 p.m.

SWIMMING
Jan. 22 Barlow at Sandy 4 p.m.
Jan. 27 Aloha at Sandy 4 p.m.
Jan. 29 Sandy and Lakeridge at Tigard 4 p.m.

BOYS JV BASKETBALL
Jan. 23 Sandy at West Linn 6 p.m.
Jan. 27 Sandy at Canby 6 p.m.

BOYS FROSH BASKETBALL
Jan. 22 Canby "A" and "B" at Sandy 4 p.m.
Jan. 26 David Douglas "B" at Sandy 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 26 Malola "A" at Sandy 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 29 Portland Christian "B" at Sandy 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 29 Estacada "A" at Sandy 4 p.m.

GIRLS JV BASKETBALL
Jan. 22 Estacada at Sandy 6 p.m.
Jan. 26 Sandy at Oregon City 6 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL
Jan. 29 Sandy at Silverton 6 p.m.

GIRLS FROSH BASKETBALL
Jan. 22 Sandy at Moss 4 p.m.
Jan. 26 Sandy at Gardiner 6 p.m.
Jan. 29 Sandy at Silverton 6 p.m.

SKIING
Jan. 24 Giant Slalom at Multapor (weather permitting) 8 a.m.

BLUE MARLINS
Jan. 28 Blue Marlin AC at Eastmont (Gresham)

CEDAR RIDGE

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Jan. 24 Jamboree at Sandy High 10 a.m.
Jan. 27 Orient at Cedar Ridge 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 29 Corbett at Cedar Ridge 3:45 p.m.

WRESTLING
Jan. 22 Redland at Cedar Ridge 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 27 Cedar Ridge at Estacada 3:30 p.m.

bowling

SANDY EARLY BIRDS Jan. 19, 1981		
	W	L
Toni's	12	4
Sandy Lbr	10	6
Eagle Foundry	9	7
Zig Zag Inn	8	8
S. J. Pounder	8	8
Deane's Auto Rep	8	8
Alpine Hut	5	11
Brightwood Store	4	12

High Game: Darlene Hollenbeck 205
High Series: Darlene Hollenbeck 365
Team Game: S. J. Pounder 760
Team Series: S. J. Pounder 2,150

Prep of the Week:

12-year-old Doug Crane, seventh-grader at Cedar Ridge, won three of six races he entered recently at the Tualatin Hills Invitational. His time in the 50-yard free style race was only half a second slower than the state record time. In fact, he set new personal records in all six races, swimming his best ever. He competes for the local Blue Marlin Aquatics Club.



DOUG CRANE

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