

Sandy claims Hood River mat tourney

Sandy knocked off Metro League champion Aloha, Saturday, and went on to win the Hood River Valley Invitational wrestling tournament.

The Pioneers scored 132 points; Aloha had 116; Hood River, 92; and Lakeridge, 43.

In dual meet scoring it was Sandy 35, Aloha 30; Sandy 48, Hood River 21; and Sandy 61, Lakeridge 6.

Six Sandy wrestlers won individual championships. Larry Topliff, 98; Mike Rohweder, 106; Scott Quick, 136; Mike Russell, 141; Chris Jones, 148; and Dan Martin, 157; all won titles for the Pioneers.

The only team that really gave Sandy a battle was Aloha, the defending Metro League champs. Sandy used its strength in the lower and middle weights to build up a huge 35-9 lead, then sat back and watched Aloha make a run. Aloha won the last four matches and three of those came by pins. But Sandy had already clinched the match with Dan Martin's pin at 157.

It was an impressive win for Sandy. Larry Topliff and Mike Rohweder pinned all of their opponents at 98 and 106 to start the Pioneers off on the right foot in every match. Sandy was unbeatable in the middle weights.

From Scott Quick at 136 to Dan Martin at 157, Sandy won 12 matches and didn't lose a single one. Eight of those 12 wins came by fall.

The Pioneers had a few problems with inconsistency in the upper weights, but got a second place from junior Tim Sytsma. Sytsma had a pair of pins, but suffered a 10-3 loss at the hands of Aloha's Tom Fisher.

The tournament win also boosted some of Sandy's individual records for the year. Topliff and Russell lead in wins with 19. Topliff has a 19-3 record, Russell is at 19-2. Jones is 18-2, Martin 12-1, Sytsma 15-6 and Quick 11-4.

Sandy's junior varsity also won the Hood River tournament. Sandy had 132½ points; Aloha, 116½; Hood River, 92; and Lakeridge, 43½.

Individual champions for the Sandy jayvees were John Cox, Randy Swanson, Dave Kenison, Mike Shepard, Mo Contreras, Dean Fischer, Gary Jensen and Cal McKinnis.

Meet cancelled

Sandy High's season-opening ski meet, a giant slalom at Multnorpor, was cancelled this past Saturday because of the lack of snow.

However, the Cascades received a fresh blanket of snow this week and prospects look good for future skiing on Mt. Hood.

The Pioneer's next meet will be this Saturday, Jan. 31, weather permitting. A slalom is scheduled at Multnorpor beginning at 8 a.m.



Sandy's Dawn New puts a block on Carrie Stiles of Estacada (left) and her own teammate, Cindy McCoy (right) to save possession. Unfortunately for Sandy, the Pioneers didn't control the ball often enough and Estacada escaped with a 46-36 win.

Sandy girls lose two; drop to sixth in TVL

TIMBER VALLEY LEAGUE
Girls Basketball

	W	L
Oregon City	7	0
West Linn	6	1
Silverton	4	3
Canby	3	4
Sweet Home	3	4
Sandy	2	5
Estacada	2	5
Molalla	1	6

Monday's Games:
West Linn 49, Canby 29
Silverton 40, Molalla 18
Oregon City 77, Sandy 29
Sweet Home 57, Estacada 31

by MARK FLOYD

Two losses during the past week have put a dent in the league playoff hopes of the Sandy High girls basketball team.

One of those losses, a 77-29 drubbing by second-ranked Oregon City, was expected. A 46-36 loss to Estacada was not.

The Pioneers now find themselves in a tie with Estacada for sixth place in the league with a 2-5 record. The top four teams in the Timber Valley League are guaranteed post-season play. Sweet Home and Canby are currently tied for fourth with 3-4 records.

"We're one win off the playoff pace," Sandy coach John Smith said. "We're going to have to go at least 4-3, maybe 5-2, in the second half to assure ourselves of a spot. We're going to have to play with a little more intensity and beat the people we are capable of beating."

"We've had a look at everyone in the league and we are certainly capable of going 5-2," he added.

But first, the inconsistency. The Pioneers turned in a fairly solid first half against Estacada, Thursday, and went into the intermission with a 20-16 lead. But the visiting Rangers slapped on a press that rattled Sandy and the Pioneers were outscored 30-16 in the second half.

Smith was at a loss to explain why the press hurt Sandy so much. The Pioneers had certainly seen tougher presses and broken them, even against Oregon City. They were especially hurt late in the fourth period after guards Sandy Yantes and Nancy Rohweder were benched with five fouls. That left Linda Mosbrucker as the only ballhandler left on the court for the Pioneers.

Nevertheless, Sandy led by four, 26-22, with two minutes left in the third period. But Estacada scored the final seven points of the quarter to take a three-point lead. The Rangers then sank three free throws to extend the lead to six to open the fourth quarter.

Elaine Gedde broke the ice for Sandy by sinking a pair of free throws, but Estacada had the momentum for the press. Carrie Stiles and Kathy Wilson began driving on the foul-plagued Pioneers and getting inside shots.

Sandy got its fourth quarter baskets through Mosbrucker's hustle and the play of Gedde off the bench.

Again, inconsistency plagued the Pioneers. Mosbrucker had four points in the first quarter and five in the last, but nothing in between. Char McKinney had eight points for the game and seven of those came in the second quarter. She had just one point in the second half.

The loss to Estacada was a tough one to swallow. Not only did Sandy drop a game off the playoff pace, they dropped it to a team they could have beaten.

That wasn't the case against Oregon City, Monday. The league leaders just had too much depth and overall talent for Sandy. Oregon City is atop the TVL with a 7-0 record and just climbed to the number two spot in the state behind Marshall.

Oregon City opened up a 21-4 lead against Sandy and the scary thing is, the Pioneers weren't playing all that bad. They handled OC's press in the early going, but just missed the layins. Defensively, they had no way to stop Margie Park and Denise Wheatley, each of who scored 18 points in the game on nine of 12 from the field.

Sandy played without 6-foot center Dawn New, who was out with illness, and forward Sue Hartke, still hobbled by an ankle injury.

The Pioneers sank 10 of 33 from the field, which isn't altogether terrible, but Oregon City was over the 50 percent mark.

The task now facing the Pioneers is to rebound from the two losses and concentrate on the second half of league play. Sandy travels to Silverton Thursday to take on the third place Huskies who hosts West Linn Monday. West Linn is a carbon copy of Oregon City, so the Pioneers really need a win at Silverton.

"We're going to have to do it in the second half," Smith said. "The things that will help will be the improved play of Cindy McCoy and the return of Sue Hartke. She had two good games before injuring her ankle, but she should be back Thursday."

SANDY	4	10	6	9	29
OREGON CITY	21	16	27	13	77

Sandy (29) - Char McKinney 8, Yantes 2, Mosbrucker 3, Rohweder 2, Gedde, McCoy 2, Seal 2, Rodrigues 2, Danlager 4.
Oregon (77) - Margie Park 18, Lind 2, Casebeer, 8, Klein 2, Smith 4, Wheatley 18, Haun 2, Christensen 2, Allmain 4, Chan 1, Gorton 7, Kraemer, Stone 4, Coughlin 1, Reeder 2

ESTACADA	8	8	13	17	46
SANDY	8	12	6	10	36

Estacada (46) - Wilson 7, Branson 4, Leatham 4, Steubs 6, Fix 8, Stiles 9, Moore 2, Bagley 6
Sandy (36) - Linda Mosbrucker 9, Yantes 2, New 6, McKinney 8, McCoy 5, Rohweder 2, Gedde 4, Rodrigues, Seal.

Skyscraping Cougars top outmanned Pioneers

TIMBER VALLEY LEAGUE
Boys Basketball

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Canby	6	1
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Oregon City	4	3
Sweet Home	4	3
Silverton	3	4
West Linn	3	4
Estacada	2	5
Sandy	1	6

Tuesday's Results:
Canby 90, Sandy 45
Molalla 72, Sweet Home 59
Silverton 54, Oregon City 52
Estacada 63, West Linn 61 (OT)

By MARK FLOYD

The Canby Cougars got it all together Tuesday night and took out their frustrations on the Sandy boys basketball team, dealing the Pioneers a 90-45 loss.

Canby had been having internal problems all year, but the Cougars turned in a topnotch performance, rolling to a 47-21 halftime lead and coasting the rest of the way.

Nab personal bests

Swimmers split with Bruins

The Sandy High girls swimming team re-established itself as the team to beat at district, topping Barlow 80-74 Thursday at the Sandy pool. Barlow beat a short-handed Sandy boys team 86-60.

The Bruin girls had beaten Gresham and Reynolds, two of the league's stronger teams. But Sandy came up with a number of wins, personal bests and a big victory in the final event of the meet, the 400-freestyle relay.

Sandy led the entire meet, but not by much. The Pioneers opened with an impressive win in the 200-yard medley relay as the team of Teresa Lamer, Gayle Roth, Heidi Lamer and Bonita Connelly raced to a fast 2:05.2 time.

Connelly then took the 200-freestyle,

"They just gave us an old-fashioned whipping," Sandy coach Dennis Warren said. "There are times when you have to admit that you got beat by a better team and this was one of them. Canby is as good a team as we've run into this year. They've got the potential of Benson and they shot better."

Any team that shoots better than second-ranked Benson has to be good. The Cougars sank 36 of 62 from the field, many coming on fast breaks.

Canby won for a number of reasons, but two were most readily apparent. The Cougars started a pair of 6-foot-7 players and Sandy had no one to counter. Canby would either clean the boards and start the fast break or block a shot out to halfcourt. And Carey Martenson and Brad Parkinson were there to collect.

The second reason is that Sandy didn't take very good care of the ball. An aggressive Cougar defense forced 31 Sandy turnovers. Canby committed just four.

"They just got momentum and everything they shot went in," Warren said. "We were really mismatched against the 6-7 kids. They'd put (Dan) Doney high and (Jeff) Spalding low. We'd have them blocked out and they'd go right over the top of us for the rebound."

"They also broke the ball well, but when you have 6-7 kids who can clear it, it's pretty easy to do," Warren added. "They've got a lot of potential. That's the best team that's been in our league in a long time. Of course, maybe we made them look good, too."

Warren was pleased with 6-4 pivotman Bob Nippert, who held his own against the taller Cougars. Nippert led Sandy with 10 points.

Canby was led by Spalding with 18 and Doney with 15.

The Pioneers also suffered a defeat at West Linn Friday night, but played one of their better games of the year — at least, for three quarters.

West Linn won 64-51, but the Pioneers

had them running scared for most of the game. Led by guard Marvin Schaffer, the Pioneers jumped out to a 27-23 halftime lead and kept that lead for much of the third quarter. But West Linn exploded near the end of the third period and went on to win going away.

"I'm really searching for answers about that one," Warren said. "We played like we have in the past. We had them for two and one-half or three quarters, but then we made a few mistakes and key turnovers and found ourselves behind."

The Lions went into a control game and Sandy didn't have the speed to take it away. So Warren went to a halfcourt trap and the Lions broke it for some easy hoops.

"I was pleased with the way we played for three quarters, but the old fourth quarter has become a real nemesis for us," he said. "Against West Linn we were mismatched in speed at the guard and forward positions. Ever since the double overtime loss to

Oregon City, we've had trouble holding leads. It's had a psychological effect. We get ahead and play like we're behind."

Warren is quite pleased with the progress the Pioneers have made, and feels that every member of the team has shown significant improvement. Indeed, only two teams have dominated Sandy. Canby and Sweet Home were in control the whole way. But the Pioneers have played the rest of the Timber Valley League tough, a fact which belies their 1-6 record.

"We've played them down to the wire and we haven't always played good," Warren said. "If the kids take hold mentally and keep their heads above water, we could do better in the second half. We've got to get over that fourth quarter hurdle, though."

"When you lose three or four close ones in a row, you tend to lose a little confidence, too," he added.

Sandy's only win in the first half came on the road against Estacada.



Shawn Burns came up with two wins and a pair of personal bests against Barlow.

Photo by Mark Floyd

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