

McKinney free throws clinch Pioneer win

Senior Char McKinney sank a clutch pair of free throw with three seconds left in the game to give the Sandy High girls basketball team a 31-29 road victory over Estacada.

The win moved Sandy, 4-9, into a sixth place tie in the Timber Valley League with Molalla. Estacada dropped to last place, 2-11.

It was a gratifying win for the Pioneers, who had seen a rally come up just short in a 48-46 loss to Sweet Home Thursday. Again, the Pioneers fell behind, but this time they were able to put it all together in the third quarter and it was nip and tuck the rest of the way.

Estacada, behind the long range shooting of Sharon Bagley, opened up its biggest lead of the game just into the third quarter. Bagley sank a long shot from the wing to give the Rangers a 16-11 bulge in the low-scoring game.

But the Pioneers put together a crisp passing attack and the guards were able to get the ball inside. And inside, Sandy had a big advantage. Six-foot center Dawn New sank three straight buckets to give the Pioneers the lead, then fed teammate Cindy McCoy for a layin down the lane.

New ended up with nine points in the quarter and the Pioneers went into the final period dead even with the host Rangers.

The fourth quarter belonged to McCoy. She opened with a six-foot turnaround to give the Pioneers the early momentum. Estacada, however, scored three baskets in a row, all from long range and took a 29-25 advantage.

But that didn't seem to bother McCoy, who put together two consecutive hoops off the offensive boards within a minute to knot the score once more.

Both teams missed several opportunities in the last two minutes to score hoops and when the Rangers took over with 58 seconds remaining, they decided to pass it around and, if nothing better came up, play for the last shot.

But Sandy played some tough, aggressive defense and McKinney came up with a steal. With coach John Smith pleading for a timeout, McKinney sped up the sideline and was hacked by Estacada's Kathy Wilson.

The Rangers called a timeout to ice McKinney at the foul line, but she calmly sank the front end of the one-and-one. Her second shot missed, but Bagley was detected in the lane too soon and McKinney got a second chance. She made good on it and the Rangers were left with a desperation hook shot from 35 feet which probably didn't even beat the buzzer. No matter, it missed badly and the Pioneers had a big road victory.

The Sandy win was keyed by the inside game. New had a game-high 13 points and McCoy had 12. They both were the beneficiary of some fine passes from the Sandy guards, especially Sandy Yantes, Nancy Rohweder and Elaine Gedde.

If the Pioneers had a fault, it was trying to force it in too much as Estacada sagged all five people back into the key area in an attempt to stop first New, then McCoy.

The Rangers' offense came from the long-range bombing of Bagley, who got all 10 of her team-high points from the outside. Teresa Leatham added eight, also from the wing position.

The Pioneers lost a similar game to Sweet Home. Both teams played on even terms through the first half, but the Pioneers suffered a third-quarter lapse and the Huskies jumped out to a 41-33 lead. Marcy VavRosky had 18 points at that point for the Huskies and she was single-handedly tearing the Pioneers apart.

So Smith ordered a box-and-one with Rohweder and Zina Seal alternating as the chaser on VavRosky. The strategy worked as the high-scoring Husky guard was held to two fourth quarter points, both from the free throw line.

And Sandy began to creep back into the game. The Pioneers, behind New's nine fourth quarter points, got to within two of the Huskies before time ran out.

VavRosky ended up with 20 points to lead all scorers while teammate Tina Rappin added 14.

Sandy was paced by three girls in double figures. New had 18, while McCoy and McKinney added 10 apiece.

The Pioneers were scheduled to finish their season Wednesday in the Sandy gym, hosting league leader Oregon City. Results were not available at press time.

Sweet Home 12 14 15 7 - 48
Sandy 13 12 8 13 - 46
Sweet Home (48) - Marcy VavRosky 20, Cherry 6, Lynn 5, Rappin 14, Ormsby 3, Howard, Ford, Gail 2
Sandy (46) - Dawn New 18, Yantes 12, Mosbrucker 4, McCoy 10, McKinney 10, Rohweder, Gedde 2, Seal, Rodriguez

Sandy 6 5 12 8 - 31
Estacada 8 6 9 9 - 29
Sandy (31) - Dawn New 13, McCoy 12, Mosbrucker, Harkins, Rohweder 3, McKinney 2, Yantes 1, Rodriguez, Seal, Gedde
Estacada (29) - Sharon Bagley 10, Cain 4, Leatham 8, Moore 4, Les 2, Steubs 1, Wilson, Branson

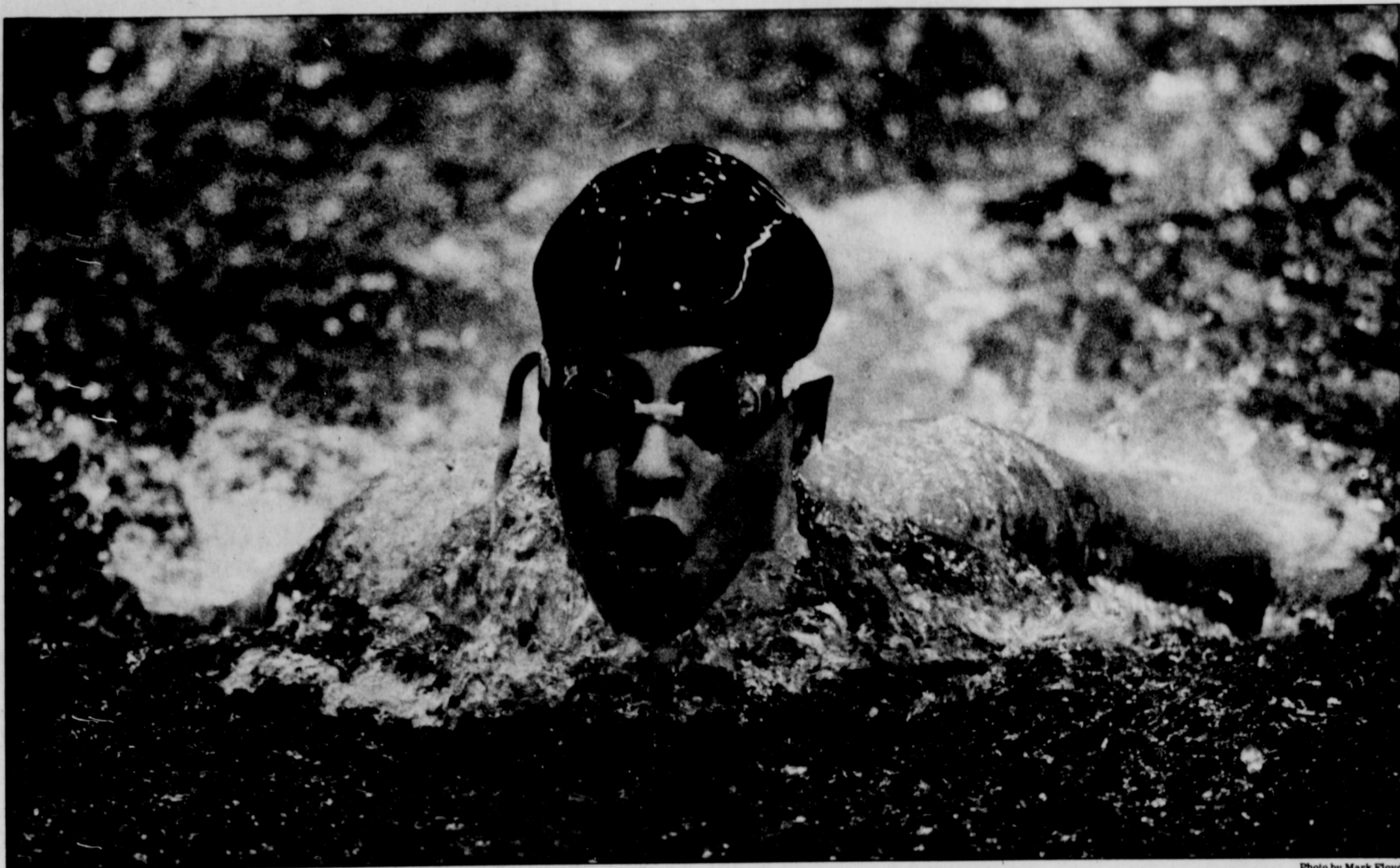


Photo by Mark Floyd

Jean Crane of Sandy placed sixth here in the 200-individual medley and swam on the winning 400-relay team to help Sandy to a second place finish in the Wilco League district meet.

Personal bests propel Sandy at district

by MARK FLOYD

The Sandy High swimming teams gave one of their most memorable performances of recent years last weekend and nearly walked away with some district hardware.

For the record, the Sandy girls took second and the boys third.

But that doesn't quite tell the whole story. The Pioneers had a total of 29 individual swims and came away with 22 personal records and four season's bests.

The boys team reached its goal of beating Barlow for third place. Barlow had nearly 20 swimmers, Sandy just six.

"It was just a terrific individual effort on everyone's part, and I mean everyone," emphasized Sandy coach Mark Smith. "Our coaching staff is very proud of what both teams accomplished."

Every boy reached the finals for Sandy. Glenn Izer came away with the best finish, a first in the 100-yard freestyle. Izer upset Gresham's Tim Musgrave, winning with a personal best time of 51.68. Musgrave took second, just edging Sandy's Rick Topliff who was third. Musgrave was timed in 52.86, Topliff in 52.88. The top two swimmers in each event qualify for state.

Freshman Harry Hazelett placed 12th for Sandy in the 100 with a 56.21 time.

Izer also placed in the 200-freestyle, taking third with a 1:52.97. Teammates Topliff and Shawn Burns were fourth and seventh with times of 1:56.51 and 1:58.47.

Sandy's 200-medley relay team also qualified for state by placing second behind Gresham. Bret Crane, Matt Falgout, Topliff and Izer combined for a 1:46.64 time, best this season and just

.01 seconds off the school record set in 1977.

Falgout was fourth in the 200-individual medley with a 2:12.85 time and he qualified for state in the 100-butterfly by placing second in 56.75. Crane was fourth in the fly with a 1:00.75 mark.

Burns took fourth in the 500-freestyle with a time of 5:14.92.

Crane came back to place fourth in the 100-backstroke with a 1:01.34 time.

Hazelett was fourth in the 100-breaststroke. His time was 1:09.95.

Izer, Falgout and the medley relay team will go to state, set for this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21, at Mt. Hood Community College.

The Sandy girls began the meet as 20-point underdogs to Gresham. They cut it to 18 after the prelims and cut the final margin to six.

The Pioneers were led by Gayle Roth,

who successfully defended her championships in the 50 and 100-freestyle races. Roth, a junior, won the 50 in 25.35 and took the 100 in 57.42. She had a mark of 56.34 in the prelims which broke the district record she set last year.

Bonita Connelly placed second for Sandy behind Roth, with a personal best in the 100 of 58.22. Dawn Miller was 10th in that race, 1:09.65, and ninth in the 50, 30.13.

Connelly also placed second in the 200 and qualified for state in both events. Her time in the longer race was 2:07.55. Teresa Lamer was third in the 200, 2:11.65; Heidi Lamer was seventh, 2:21.94; and Lisa Izer was eighth, 2:23.83.

Jean Crane placed sixth for Sandy in the 200-individual medley with a time of 2:33.44. Nici DuBois was 10th in 2:46.67. Sandy's 400-freestyle relay team

demolished the Wilco League field and finished in first by a whopping 10 seconds. Crane, Connelly, Teresa Lamer and Roth were timed in 3:58.94, a new district record.

Lamer was also second in the 500-freestyle and qualified for state in that event as well. Her time was 5:53.41. Crane was fourth in 6:03.79 and Izer was sixth in 6:35.19.

DuBois placed ninth for Sandy in the 100-backstroke with a 1:17.99 time. Kelly Russell was 16th in 1:27.68.

Heidi Lamer was seventh for Sandy in the 100-breaststroke with a 1:17.70 time.

Roth, Connelly, Lamer and the freestyle relay team will go to state for the Sandy girls.

Gresham will represent the league as champions in both the boys and girls competitions



Photo by Mark Floyd

Sandy's Steve Brader (44) drives the baseline on Estacada's Tim Troeh and looks for an open teammate. Estacada opened up a 33-14 halftime lead and held on to defeat Sandy on the Pioneers' court 57-42 Friday in a Timber Valley League game.

Cold shooting plagues cagers

Cold shooting proved to be the nemesis this week as the Sandy High boys basketball team dropped a pair of Timber Valley League games.

Visiting Estacada topped Sandy 57-42 Friday and the Pioneers dropped a road game to Sweet Home Tuesday by an 81-55 score.

Estacada's Jerry Zornado staked his team to an early lead and the Pioneers could never overcome the gap. Zornado, a 6-foot-1 senior forward, slipped inside the Sandy defense for 15 points in the first quarter as the Rangers roared to a 19-7 lead.

Meanwhile, the Pioneers had trouble getting things rolling and Estacada's tight zone defense had a lot to do with it.

Tony Britt took over for Zornado in the second quarter and sank three long jumpers, the last with four seconds remaining to give Estacada a 33-14 halftime lead.

Needless to say, it wasn't of the better halves turned in by the Pioneers this year. But Sandy came out fired up in the second half and nearly turned things around.

The Pioneers began to pressure Estacada all over the floor and the

defense fired up the team. Marvin Schaffer was a demon, hawking the Ranger guards and the Pioneers began to close the gap. Schaffer and Bob Nippert combined for nine points in the quarter as Sandy cut the Rangers' lead to nine at one point.

Jeff Yoder hit twice early in the fourth quarter to keep Sandy's hopes alive, but Estacada got some big hoops from Britt and some big free throws from Pat Kiggins to ice the game.

Zornado led all scorers with 19 and Britt had 14. Sandy was led by Nippert with 11.

The Sweet Home loss was simply a case of too much team speed for the Pioneers to handle.

The Huskies may be the quickest team in the league from top to bottom of their lineup and they used that quickness to put the crunch on the Pioneers. Sweet Home broke open a fairly close game in the second quarter, outscoring Sandy 21-9, and built up a 17-point halftime lead.

After that, Sandy was forced to go in to a man-to-man in an attempt to create turnovers and the Huskies were too fast to handle.

"To beat a team like Sweet Home, you have to shoot exceedingly well and play a tough zone defense," Sandy coach Dennis Warren said. "We just got outquicked. We got ourselves in a position where we had to go man and we couldn't match their quickness."

"In no way do I fault the kids for their effort," he added. "They went out and worked hard at it. But it just wasn't there."

Sweet Home had four players in double figures, led by Toby Volz with 15. Nippert led the Pioneers with 20.

"Bob Nippert played the best game he's played in five or six ball games," Warren noted. "Part of that I attribute to the rest of the team which got him the ball when he was open, at least some of the time."

Nippert also led the Pioneer rebounders with seven boards.

But it was the cold Sandy shooting which ultimately spelled the difference in both games. The Pioneers sank 16 of 43 shots from the field against Estacada, a 37.2 mark. But that wasn't bad compared to Sweet Home. Sandy managed to make just 22 of 71 tries against the Huskies, a .309 percentage.

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Three Pioneers nab top seeds

Despite their number four ranking in state, the Sandy Pioneers are going to have to scramble to do well in the Timber Valley League district wrestling meet.

Four of the eight TVL teams are ranked in the top 12, far and away the toughest district in the state. Another team, Molalla, dealt Sandy a loss just last Friday. And Sandy coach Ron Calhoun said that his team didn't fare too well in Tuesday night's seeding.

"I don't think we came out of it too well," Calhoun said. "The way it comes out, it almost looks like we're having a dual meet with Sweet Home."

"A lot of our pinners got byes in the first round, so we'll lose some points

there," he added. "It was strictly the luck of the draw and our luck wasn't too good."

Larry Topliff, 98, Mike Russell, 141, and Chris Jones, 148, were all awarded number one seeds by the league's coaches.

Dan Martin is seeded second at 157; Scott Skipper, 178, and Tim Sytsma, 191, are seeded third; and Scott Quick, 130, and Randy Carmony, 191, are seeded fourth.

Topliff has a 7-0 league mark, 24-3 overall, and has pinned his last 13 opponents. Russell is 7-0 in league, 26-2 overall; Jones is 6-0 in league, 23-2 overall; and Martin is 5-1 in league, 22-2 overall.

The league is so tough this year that Kris Pihl, the defending state champion from Canby, is seeded only third in the district at 148.

Calhoun feels that the competition should be good and many teams will be in the thick of it for the district title.

"Oregon City and Sweet Home put two in every event, so they'll pick up a lot of points and Molalla got some pretty good luck in the draw," Calhoun said. Throw in Silverton and Sandy, plus some strong individuals from Canby and Estacada, and the competition should be wide open.

District will be held this weekend at Oregon City High School.