

BMAC pair claim ribbons at state meet

A pair of Blue Marlin swimmers placed in the top six at the Oregon Association swimming championships at Forest Grove last weekend.

Michelle Crane place fifth in the 50-yard breaststroke with a time of 49.4. She was also third in the 25-breaststroke, 20.9, and sixth in the 50-butterfly, 44.0. Her time in the 25 was a Blue Marlin record, breaking the 21.0 set in 1973 by Nancy Rohweder.

Crane competes in the girls eight-and-under category.

Another Crane, 13-year-old Doug, was fifth in the 100-butterfly for boys 13-14. His time was 1:00.28. He also had a pair of personal bests. Crane lopped three seconds off his best in the 200-individual medley with a 2:20.2 time and took a second off his 200-freestyle time with a 2:04.3.

Travis Hilstad, just seven years old, "had a pretty good meet, although he didn't make it to the finals," according to coach Carl Neuenfeldt. Hilstad was seventh in the 25-butterfly, 19.6; seventh in the 25-breaststroke, 22.05; eighth in the 50-butterfly, 45.0; and ninth in the 50-breaststroke, 49.5.

Damon Hodge, also competing in the boys eight-and-under, had a personal best in the 25-freestyle with a 16.8 time.

Troy Hilstad, 11-12 boys, tied his personal best in the 50-backstroke with a 37.1.

Those were the only Marlins to place or score personal bests at the meet, but five Marlins placed at the Association Pentathlon, held recently at Forest Grove.

Doug Crane was second for 11-12 boys (he just recently turned 13); Michelle Crane was fifth for girls eight-and-under; Damon Hodge was 10th and Travis Hilstad ninth for boys eight-and-under; and Terry Hanson was 12th for girls 10-and-under.

The next meet for the Blue Marlins will be the CBSL Championships March 6-9. The meet will be in Salem.

The spring and summer season will begin in April.



Senior Troy Bangs will provide Sandy with some power at the bat and experience in the outfield. The Pioneers open their season March 10 at

Reynolds, weather permitting.

Photo by Mark Floyd

Pioneers open baseball season Tuesday

by MARK FLOYD

The hard work logged by Sandy's summer baseball programs during the past two years should begin to pay dividends for Sandy High School this season.

At least, that is what Pioneer coach Curtis Heath is banking on. "Progress-wise, we're ahead of last year," Heath said. "Look at summer baseball; we were only losing games by two or three runs which is a lot better than the year before. Last summer we were much improved overall and we're further ahead in our defensive play."

Heath feels that the 1981 Sandy High team will also be improved. And the improvement will be in a lot of areas.

The Pioneers will field some experienced pitchers, have a strong team batting attack and may have one of the fastest Sandy teams in years.

"Last year we hit .300 as a team and we have all-league John Martin returning," Heath said of the senior outfielder and pitcher. But one of our biggest strengths will be team speed. We're going to run more, put

the bunt down and hit-and-run; we'll do things to take advantage of our speed."

Sandy will be a fairly young team, but there is a solid nucleus of experienced seniors. Martin is at the top of the list and should lead the Pioneers in home runs as well as being one of the stoppers on the mound.

Senior Mike Contreras will be another factor in the pitching rotation as will junior Randy Martin, who notched some impressive wins last year for Sandy's Babe Ruth team. Assistant coach John Rohr is working with the pitchers and said that the Pioneers have shown improvement in both speed and control.

Troy Bangs will be one of the few power hitters on the team and he brings outfield experience as well. Mitch Paola should see a lot of action at second base and the Pioneer pitchers will double in the outfield and at first base.

That isn't a lot of experience, Heath admits, but the number of returning lettermen isn't always an important factor in baseball. Many of the Pioneers have Legion or Babe

Ruth experience, which is on the same level or higher than high school ball.

One of those players is Keith Powell, a sophomore who Heath is "really high on." Powell will play shortstop and pitch and carries a good bat as well as excellent speed.

Another sophomore expected to crack the starting lineup is Mo Contreras, a catcher. "We should be stronger in the catching position than we have been in a while," Heath said. "Mo has a strong arm and he can hit the ball."

Senior Matt Falgout, who played junior varsity last year, should anchor the infield from the third base position.

One of the fastest boys on the team, if not in the entire Timber Valley League, will be junior Dave Kirkland, an outfielder. Kirkland will undoubtedly get the green light whenever he's on base and should be a catalyst for Sandy's new run-like-the-devil approach.

Senior Chris Davis will be a utility infielder and juniors Bill Patty and Kraig Gifford will see action in the

outfield and on the mound.

"This group is ahead of last year's team at this time," Heath said. "There is not a kid here who can't contribute with attitude or ability. The most exciting thing about the team is the attitude. It's an enjoyable group to coach and it will be good to work with a group that thinks it can win."

Heath feels that West Linn, a perennial power, will be favored to win the TVL and Oregon City will be right behind. But after that, it should be fairly wide open.

Heath said that he feels the Pioneers may reach the .500 mark overall this season and improve greatly on last year's 2-12 league record.

Heath said that Sandy's strengths will be team speed, offense and improved pitching. A weakness may be inexperience at the skill positions defensively.

The Pioneers will open their season this Tuesday, March 10 at Reynolds.

The game is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

Sandy threat to state ski crown

After a resounding victory at the Mt. Hood Championships, the Sandy High girls ski team may find itself in the favorite's role at this week's state meet.

And the Pioneer boys team is a darkhorse contender.

The Sandy girls had a convincing victory at the championships, which combined all the teams of the Valley and Wilco Leagues. The Pioneers won by 1.5 seconds over Hood River despite skiing without their top girl, sophomore Anne Sarich.

In her sister's absence, Sue Sarich scored a big win on the Mt. Hood Meadows giant slalom course with a time of 35.6. She is also a sophomore.

The young Pioneers showed their depth as freshman Ulla Pearson claimed fourth, 36.6; Charr Bridge was 10th, 37.5; and Britt Pearson was 13th, 37.9.

Carrie Brewster was 41st for Sandy, 41.6, and Kris Van Steenis was 42nd, 41.7.

The Pioneers got the second place trophy for combined teams after the Sandy boys got fifth in the championships. They would have placed higher, probably second, had not Darren Schouten suffered a fall. Schouten finished 61st in 39.4, but might have placed in the top four or five on a clean run.

Hood River won the boys competition.

The individual race was won by Sandy's Scott

Graham, who pulled off a major upset with the win. He defeated Hood River's Craig Mallin who had been unbeaten in 15 races over a span covering nearly three years.

Graham, a senior, was timed in 32.7 on the course. Sandy's Kip O'Connor was 34th in 36.6, Chris Welch and Robert Spradling tied for 37th with 37.0 times and Mike Wall was 75th in 46.4.

Sandy coach Bob Karsten feels that his girls team will be one of the favorites along with defending champ Medford and the always-tough girls from Hood River.

"We may be on top, though," Karsten said. "We've got five really good girls, much more depth than any other team. The harder the course is, the better for us."

Karsten feels that the Pioneers could stand to have one or two girls fall and still pick up a good team time (the top three count) while other teams have much shallower lineups.

He also feels that the Pioneer boys have a chance to finish high, although Hood River, Medford and Lakeridge will probably be favored.

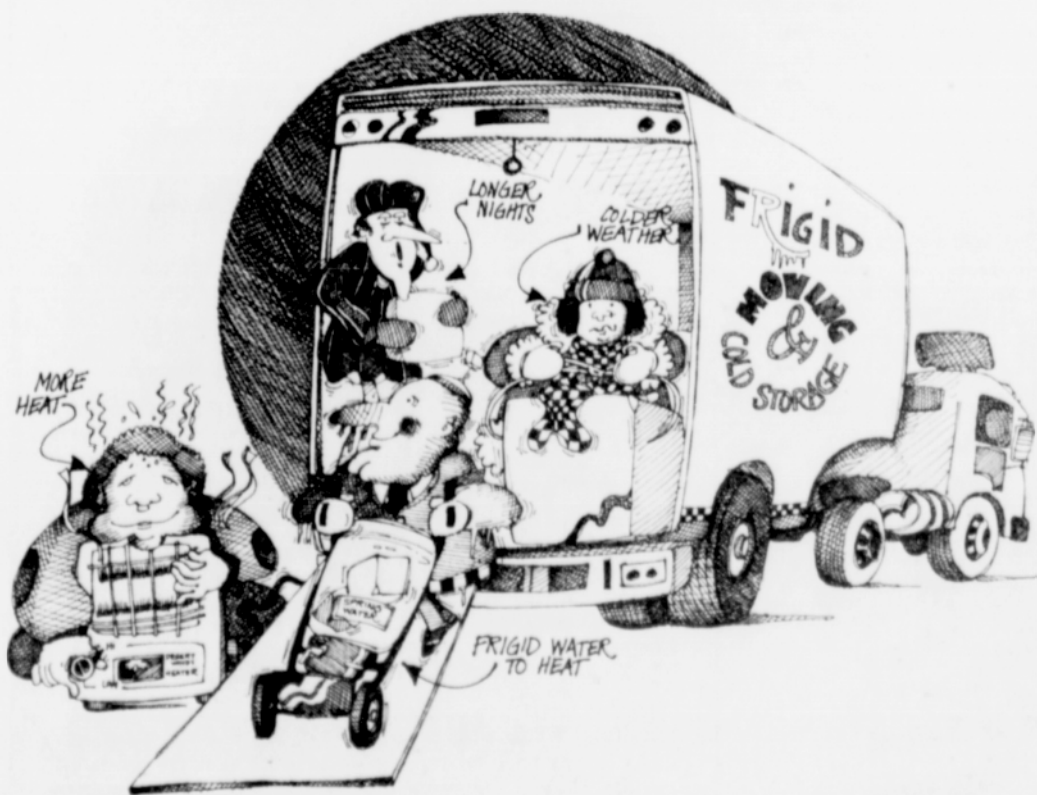
"If Darren does a stand-up and Scotty pulls off one of his races, we could be right in there," Karsten said.

The state slalom will be held this Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and the giant slalom will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. Both races will be held at Mt. Hood Meadows.

scoreboard

Sandy Early Birds March 2, 1981		Reliable Realty		1	2
W	L	Pleasant Home Mobil		0	2
Sandy Lumber	23 17	Wooden Hutch		0	2
Toni's	23 17	Tuesday's Results:			
Zig Zag Inn	22 18	Funny Farm 82, Pleasant			
Eagle Foundry	22 18	Home 70			
Alpine Hut	20 20	Deli Barn by forfeit over			
Deane's Auto Repair	21 19	Wooden Hutch			
S.J. Pounder	15 25	Thursday's Results:			
Brightwood Store	14 26	Loggers 87, Clackamas			
High Game: Helen Starr	189	Bank 74			
High Series: Clarence Smith	459	Funny Farm 73, Deli Barn 72			
Team Game: Brightwood		"B" Division			
Store	747		W	L	
Team Series: Brightwood		Ron's No Place	3	0	
Store	2,094	Dairy Queen	2	1	
Sandy Rec League		Drones	2	1	
"A" Division		W	L		
Funny Farm	3 0	Swimmers	2	1	
Schoppert's Loggers	2 1	P/C Construction	1	2	
Clackamas Co. Bank	1 1	Sandy TV	0	3	
Deli Barn	2 2	Saturday's Results:			
		Drones 41, Sandy TV 32			
		Ron's 52, Dairy Queen 50			
		Swimmers 52, P/C 45			

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