

Sandy girls grab first in state ski tournament

by MARK FLOYD

For the third time in the last four years, Sandy High has won the state skiing championship.

But this year it was the Pioneer girls who nabbed the title.

Sandy won with a total time of 4:15.23; Medford was second, 4:24.11; and Clackamas was third, 4:36.23.

Scoring combined both the slalom and giant slalom runs at the Mt. Hood Meadows course.

"People expected Medford to be way out in front," Sandy coach Bob Karsten said. "I thought it would be between Medford and us. I didn't expect the kind of lead we ended up with, but it was nice. The girls did well, real well."

Sophomore Anne Sarich, a transfer student from Beaverton, led the Pioneers, placing third in Thursday's slalom and winning the giant slalom on

Friday. She placed second in the individual combined competition.

"The competition for Anne were the girls from Medford and Ashland," Karsten said. "They were very good skiers, but Anne skied really well." Individual times were not available.

Freshman Ulla Pearson was eighth in the combined, placing 10th in the slalom and 15th in the giant slalom.

Britt Pearson, a junior, was 10th combined, placing 12th in the slalom and 14th in the giant slalom.

Sarich's sister, Sue, would have been right up there in the standings, but the sophomore fell in the slalom. She got up and finished 51st, but the mishap put her out of the individual running. She did come back Friday to place ninth in the giant slalom, however.

"Sue skied very aggressively, but her fall in the slalom hurt her mentally," Karsten said. "She still skied well, but

the fall hurt. She cut it close, ran into the bamboo and dropped a ski."

Sandy got a good steady performance from freshman Charr Bridge, who placed 15th in the slalom and 18th in the giant slalom.

Karsten was especially pleased with the performance of Britt Pearson, who was the top girl on the team last year, but skied in the number five position this year.

"I feel that Britt was one of the best surprises in the meet," Karsten said. "She was racing in the number five position and came in with our third best times. She just decided to race and put in an excellent performance. She really showed her maturity in ski racing."

Karsten was naturally pleased with the performance of the Pioneers, but his happiness goes beyond securing Sandy's first girls state title. It extends to the future.

"What's really nice is that they're all back next year," Karsten said. "We'll be stronger and better. We should be known as a very large threat over the next three or four years."

Sandy's competition isn't so lucky. Medford is a senior-laden team, and third place Clackamas will lose much of its depth, although the top skier will return.

But the Pioneers are solid, almost frighteningly so. The Sarich sisters are both sophomores and usually one-two for Sandy. Right behind are Ulla Pearson and Bridge, who are both just freshmen. At the number five position is the old lady of the team, Britt Pearson, who is just a junior.

Sandy's two alternates at state this year were senior Carrie Brewster and junior Kristin Van Steenis.

Six of the top seven girls are back and that spells trouble for opposing schools.

Sandy's victory must have come as something of a surprise to other schools. After all, the Pioneers came out of nowhere in their rise to power. Sandy has been known almost exclusively for its strength in boys skiing and the girls program didn't really get underway full tilt until last year.

Fielding a full team for the first time, Sandy didn't even qualify for state last year. It is easy to see how other teams may have underestimated the Pioneers.

But the Sarich sisters moved into the district, and Pearson and Bridge became eligible for varsity. That's four new, high quality skiers, and it takes just three good times. That also gives Sandy, with the returning Britt Pearson, five skiers from which to get three times. If the course is rough, with a lot of falls, the Pioneers are going to win. "It's kind of the same situation as the

boys were in a few years ago," Karsten said. "The boys went on to maintain that state championship for two years. The girls, hopefully, will maintain it for three years, maybe longer."

The season is over for Sandy, but the skiing will continue. Most of the team will ski PNSA, Pacific Northwest Ski Association. In fact, Anne Sarich is currently in Tahoe trying out for the junior national team.

Karsten plans to stick around the area this summer and help out his team when he can.

"The summer training keeps up their mental ability needed to race," he said. "It will also help their physical conditioning and improve some of their finer points of technique."

With three potential years of state titles ahead, the practice may be necessary just to make the team.

If they can build a field

Improved Sandy softball team ready to take field

by MARK FLOYD

If you're looking for a progress report on the Sandy High softball team, here it is.

Second base is beginning to look pretty good, but there are still a lot of rocks around home plate. The pitcher's mound is woefully short of dirt and the infield is still pretty bumpy.

Some scouting report. But if you want to know what the Pioneers have been doing in practice, there you have it. They've been building a field.

New programs always take a while to get off the ground and there simply wasn't the funding necessary to pay for a first class construction job. So coach Gary Curtis and team decided, out of necessity, to do the job themselves.

The new field is going in at Kelso School and the work has been going rather slowly. Things had better speed up, because the Pioneers host Barlow in a doubleheader this Tuesday, March 17, at 12 p.m.

That isn't a lot of time to get a field, or a team ready. The Pioneers have spent more than a few hours digging a field just so they can get on the field. And those practice hours look especially short considering that Sandy opens this Monday at Franklin.

But Curtis is optimistic that Sandy, in the second year of the program, will be much improved over last season. "We couldn't be much worse," he joked.

The Pioneers will return several lettermen and most of them are juniors. That will give Sandy some needed experience, but will help build for next year as well.

Allison Carpenter returns at catcher to anchor the defense. The strong-armed junior is a mainstay behind the plate and possesses a strong arm.

Her battery mate will be lefty Patty Gray, at least most of the time. "We've got four or five girls who can throw, but Patty is, by far, our best pitcher," Curtis said. Gray pitched sparingly last year, but came on at the end of the season and was effective. She'll see a lot of action this year.

Dawn New returns at the first base sack and the 6-foot infielder has a good reach for errant throws. Jill Dahlgren brings experience to second base.



Girls softball practice has been rather slow this year, thanks mainly to the work it has taken to build the field. The gravel came full of rocks and members of the

SUHS team spent more than a few minutes pulling the pebbles and boulders out of the basepaths.

The only seniors in the infield are on the left side. Debbie Rudisill will play shortstop where her cannon arm and good range should keep her busy. Christi Coleman will get the starting nod at third base.

Cindi Coleman will play left field, sophomore Kathy Bath will be in center and Sabrina Leathers will start in right. All have varsity experience.

In fact, the whole Pioneer team is experienced. Sandy lost few players from last year and should be much improved with the maturity of the extra season.

Doreen Turin will be Sandy's designated hitter and one of the top relief pitchers. Carlene Clark will back up Carpenter at catcher and play outfield. Colene McDonald will be a utility infielder and Debbie Doering will back up the outfield.

Bath, Rudisill and Christi Coleman should lead the Sandy hitting attack, and Rudisill is an absolute terror on the basepaths.

Curtis feels that Turin is also a valuable hitter.

"Doreen is a good, clutch hitter," he explained, "which is why she's our designated hitter. She doesn't

have much power, but she makes good contact."

One of the weak spots of last year was pitching, but the emergence of Gray should help that situation.

"Our pitching has got to be better than last year," Curtis said. "We've gone to clinics and practiced on a semi-regular basis since Dec. 1. We should be better."

Curtis feels that Oregon City will be the team to beat in the division and Lakeridge and Lake Oswego the best teams from the other division.

His goals for Sandy are simple. "I just want us to play better than

last year," he said. "I want to see some improvement. We need to play as a cohesive unit and show a little progress and I'll be happy."

If numbers mean anything, Sandy should be improved. The Pioneers will have a junior varsity team for the first time this season and coach Cece Gillies has 19 girls trying out for the team.

The enthusiasm is there and the talent is beginning to come around. Sandy softball is finally getting off the ground.

Now if they could just finish that darn field.

Pioneer boys 10th in skiing

A rash of falls in Thursday's slalom doomed any chance that the Sandy High boys had to win the state skiing championship.

But the Pioneers came back to place sixth in the giant slalom and 10th overall.

"I felt we had a chance for number one and we were trying for number one," Sandy coach Bob Karsten said. "We probably could have been number four without trying, but who wants to go for fourth? We were after first."

"We didn't play it safe, we were going for it," he added. "We were trying to be the best."

The Pioneers fell short, although it would have taken a major effort for Sandy to win. Whatever chance the Pioneers had at the title went down the drain Thursday on the Mt. Hood Meadows slalom course.

Sandy's top boy, senior Scott Graham, was second after the first run of the slalom. But he fell during the second run trying to make up the necessary margin and was out of it.

"He was taking the second run considerably faster," Karsten said, "and he had a good chance at catching up. But his ski released and he fell. His fall took him way down the hill, but he picked up his ski and finished up."

Graham, with the fall, could manage just a 51st place in the slalom, but he came back in the giant slalom to take third place. That third place came despite being the 22nd boy down the chopped up course, a distinct disadvantage.

The Pioneers' number two boy, Darren Schouten, was 52nd in the slalom, also falling in his run. He placed 15th in the giant slalom, however.

The rest of the Pioneers also had their problems, Karsten said.

"Robert Spradling had two good slalom runs and fell in the giant slalom," Karsten noted. "Kip O'Connor was disqualified in the slalom after crashing a gate and was our third boy in the giant slalom. Chris Welch had one good slalom run, but fell on his first one. With so many falls in the first run, we were out of it. We were tense and fell, and that pretty much took us out of it."

"Mike Wall did very well, though," he added. "He had good runs in the slalom and giant slalom."

The Pioneers will lose their top three boys to graduation, but will return Spradling, Welch and Wall.

"We'll have a fairly good team, but we won't outshine everyone," Karsten predicted. "We'll do well, though, but we're going to have to work for it."

Walleye becoming established Oregon game fish

No one is exactly sure when or how the walleye first established itself in Oregon waters. But anglers should be glad that it did.

Walleyes can be found only in the Columbia River. Two things made the immigration of the large game fish possible. One was the series of federal dams which changed the Columbia from a fast flowing river to a series of impoundments. The other was the introduction of the fish elsewhere in the Columbia River system years ago.

The walleye is a native of the midwestern and eastern states. There, it is extremely popular as a gamefish, partly because of the savage way it attacks the lure and partly because of its fine taste.

Many people incorrectly refer to the fish as a walleyed pike. A walleye bears no relationship to the pike. It is more closely related to the yellow perch and is the largest member of the perch family.

The name walleye comes from the species' distinctive large opaque eyes which glisten from reflected light.

The walleye has a torpedo-shaped body with rough, textured scales. It has two dorsal fins completely separate from one another with the first supported by stiff, spiny rays and the second by soft rays.



by Ken Durbin

The mouth is filled with sharp, canine teeth. Don't make the mistake of picking up a walleye by the lower lip as you might a bass.

The walleye may have come from a release above Hoover Dam in Montana or by one in the Spokane River in Washington. There is also a report that walleye were introduced in the upper Clarks Fork River, a tributary of the Columbia, in the late 1940s.

Whatever the origin, there is no ques-

tion that it has expanded its range in the Columbia mainstem and is now firmly established in the pools above Bonneville Dam. Some have also been caught downriver from Bonneville as far as Portland.

Walleye live in both lakes and streams but prefer large lakes or impoundments which have deep, cool and fertile water with a lot of open area. They prefer water temperatures of 70 to 73 degrees in the summer and 38 to 42 degrees in winter for maximum growth.

Because of extremely light-sensitive eyes, the walleye is most active at night. The fish spends most of the brighter hours of the day in deeper water. They move to shallow waters to feed during dimmer hours, such as late evening, early morning or on overcast days.

Adult walleye feed primarily of fish, although they will include in their diet such things as midgefly larvae, mayflies, crayfish and frogs. They are extremely efficient predators on other fish, especially trout, which is why they

were never intentionally stocked or planned in Oregon waters except for the Columbia.

Young walleye feed extensively on insects and small crustaceans. They begin feeding on small fish, including each other, when they reach two inches in length. This cannibalistic trait has proved troublesome in hatcheries where walleye have been reared. In fact, some walleye will begin feeding on each other and form long chains of small fish fastened together head to tail as they try to devour each other but find their intended prey too large to eat and too hard to release.

Walleye can reach a large size, attaining lengths of 36 inches and 25 pounds. The current world record of 25 pounds was taken in 1960 from a Tennessee impoundment.

Oregon's largest verified catch was an 11-pound, 13-ounce fish taken in 1980. It measured 32 inches and was taken on a flatfish plug near Umatilla. Larger fish may have been taken and not reported, however.

Fish caught in the Columbia River

fishery average two to four pounds, but it is not uncommon to get fish in the 10 to 15-pound range.

The Oregon walleye fishery is centered on the Columbia River upstream from Bonneville Dam. The sport is in its infancy and is virtually unknown, except by a small number of enthusiasts. Interest is growing rapidly, however, and the sport will undoubtedly blossom in the next few years as anglers pioneer new techniques effective in local waters.

Fishing pressure is currently concentrated in two general areas. One is the first few miles below John Day Dam where good opportunities exist for both boat and bank anglers. The other is from McNary Dam downstream to just below the Umatilla bridge. Bank fishing opportunities in the latter area are much more limited.

Anglers will have their best success from the bank in late May and June in the backwater areas that connect directly with the Columbia River mainstem. Sloughs that open under a bridge or trestle to the mainriver seem

to be better than those which open through a culvert under the railroad tracks and I-84.

Bank fishermen use plugs, large spoons, spinners, jigs and even streamer flies for fish, which are usually taken in water four feet or less, but close to deeper water. Dropoffs between shallow and deeper water are an especially good location to find fish.

Boat fishermen usually have best luck in deeper water, from 15 to 30 feet. The channels adjacent to rocky shoal areas below both dams have been productive and boat anglers have a longer season of good fishing, it seems, as walleye are plentiful from July through November.

A wide range of lures are effective, most imitating small fish. Some anglers have also had luck with nightcrawlers.

Although walleye are a game fish, there is no closed season and no daily bag limit or minimum length restriction. The catch rate for boat fishermen can often run as high as three fish an hour once the fish are located.