



It was a race to the base Friday and Sandy and Glencoe split a doubleheader. Mitch Paola (left) easily beats the throw home to score a run, but the Pioneers' Matt Falgout (right) has a tougher time.

Photos by Mark Floyd

Late inning woes shoot down Sandy glovemen

by MARK FLOYD

For six innings it looked like the Sandy High baseball team would get a win in its first Timber Valley League game of the season.

But games are seven innings. Under wet and darkening skies, visiting Canby came from behind to post a 9-5 win over the Pioneers Tuesday. There were strategic moves by both sides to speed up the game, then stall for time.

Sandy took a 4-1 lead into the seventh and final inning. Then the proverbial

roof fell in. Canby used three errors, a pair of walks, a hit batsman and a couple of singles to score eight big runs in the inning. Sandy could never recover.

"It was reminiscent of the past," Sandy coach Curtis Heath said, recalling similar disaster in late innings last year. "We played six excellent innings of baseball, but we fell apart in the seventh. We went through two of those games with Canby last year, now this is the third. I'm getting a little tired of them."

The loss overshadowed a fine performance by the Pioneers — at least for

six innings. Sandy got four in the first as John Martin, Randy Martin and Mike Contreras all smacked RBI singles.

The lead held up until the seventh, although the Cougars chipped one run off the deficit in the fifth.

The Pioneers tried to rally in the bottom of the seventh when John Martin singled in Mo Contreras, but the rally fizzled and Sandy was saddled with a league loss it didn't think it had.

"I was pleased with six innings and displeased with one," Heath said.

"We've just got to learn to cap the game off right."

Late inning problems plagued the Pioneers against Glencoe Friday. Sandy won the opener 8-3, but lost a chance to sweep a doubleheader for the first time in recent memory when the Pioneers gave up four late runs and dropped the game 6-3.

In the nightcap, Sandy was up 3-2 after five, but Glencoe scored two unearned runs in the sixth during a two-out rally. It scored two more in the seventh and the Pioneer bats, which had accounted for all three runs in the

first three innings, went down to the fourth straight scoreless frame.

The loss offset a fine offensive performance by sophomore catcher Mo Contreras, who went four-for-four at the plate.

Kraig Gifford pitched a strong game, going the distance for Sandy, but he suffered three unearned runs and took the loss.

The Pioneers had no trouble winning the first game. Sandy erupted for six runs in the third inning and two more in

the fifth to blast the visitors.

Randy Martin, Keith Powell, Troy Bangs, John Martin, Mitch Paola and Dave Kirkland all rapped two hits for Sandy. Powell, who pitched five and a third innings, got the win with the save going to John Martin.

"We're 2-3-1 right now, but we should be 6-0," Heath said. "I'm not discouraged though, the kids want to win and they're working hard at it. We've come a long way. I have nothing but high hopes; we just need to win our first league game so we can establish a winning pattern," Heath said.

MHCC coach off to China to push track

The road goes ever onward for Jim Puckett.

The globe-trotting Mt. Hood Community College track coach took off last weekend on his latest foreign adventure, a three-week journey to mainland China on behalf of the U.S. Masters Track and Field program.



Jim Puckett

Puckett, who three years ago coached an American track contingent which toured the Soviet Union, will visit six Chinese cities on his tour, including Peking.

Puckett will be traveling with James Waiste of the California Masters program and the two will serve as advisors to Chinese track officials.

"We're going to be introducing the Masters program in different cities and planning some international meets for 1983 and 1985," Puckett said.

He added that a run along the Great Wall of China is also on the drawing board but that it is "yet to be seen."

The trip is being sponsored by the Chinese Track Federation with Pan American Airways taking care of the transportation. Puckett and Waiste will be accompanied by two Chinese liaison officials and travel agent Helen Paine of San Diego, Calif. Paine's husband began the Masters Track program in the United States.

Puckett left Portland Saturday morning, flew to San Francisco and joined the rest of the group for a direct flight to Hong Kong. From there, the group will travel to Peking, then Shanghai, Nanking, Wuxi and Hungchow.

"I expect we'll get a lot of special treatment because the small size of the tour," Puckett said. "We should have a little more leniency and flexibility than a normal tour. But it's the first time I've been over there, so who knows?"



Getting a jump

Steve Metelak works on his spring during Tuesday track practice. The Sandy High junior and the rest of the Pioneers will open their season this Thursday, March 26, against Jackson. The meet will be on the SUHS track. Metelak will run middle distance and triple jump this year.

Photo by Mark Floyd

Pioneer softball team plays tough in losses

The Sandy High softball team is picking up a few pointers, but the Pioneers are learning their lessons the hard way.

Sandy played well last week, but suffered doubleheader losses to Glencoe and Putnam, then dropped a single game Tuesday at Gresham.

"We got an education in bunting and aggressive baserunning," Sandy coach Gary Curtis said of the Glencoe games. "Hits and errors were pretty much even, but they really showed us how to bunt. That's what practice games are for, though. Now we've been practicing a lot on bunting in the batting cage."

Glencoe used its speed and aggression to sneak past the Pioneers 8-5 in the first game and 14-9 in the second.

Patty Gray and Debbie Rudisill picked up the losses on the mound for Sandy, though Gray notched six strikeouts in the opener.

Putnam also claimed a doubleheader win over the Pioneers, 8-6 and 10-8. Sandy was in both games until the final inning, but Putnam tightened up its defense and picked up the wins. Carlene Clark continued to stand out defensively for the Pioneers, making a running, diving catch in the second game to keep the score close. Rudisill poked a triple in that game to provide Sandy with some offensive spark.

The Pioneers' game with Centennial Monday was rained out and will be made up as a doubleheader April 11.

Sandy snuck a game in Tuesday

under threatening skies and had Gresham on the ropes. But a four-run inning for the Gophers gave them a 7-4 win over the Pioneers in Gresham.

The Pioneers went up 4-1 in the early going before Gresham began to chip away. The Gophers picked up a run here and a run there before exploding for four in the bottom of the fifth. Sandy tried to rally, but the Pioneers' line drive went right to Gresham fielders in the last two innings.

The rain and muddy field made conditions miserable, but the Pioneers played well in the losing cause, according to Curtis.

"It really was miserable playing conditions," he said. "It was wet and the field turned muddy. We made a couple more errors than we usually do, but I attribute that to the conditions. We played well. We didn't totally collapse after falling behind. We hung in there and stayed in the game emotionally. I don't think we would have done that last year."

The Pioneers are sporting an 0-7 record, which is rather misleading. Sandy has been in six of those games down to the wire; only one game against powerful Barlow was a rout.

"I pleased with the team hitting," Curtis said. "We're making opponents play defense against us. We've only had one or two strikeouts a game and everyone is getting the bat on the ball. We'll win some ball games."

Inexperienced Sandy golfers drop opening match of year

A young and inexperienced Sandy High golf team suffered a pair of losses to open its 1981 season.

Barlow defeated the Pioneers 220-254 and Oregon City claimed a 166-205 win. Five scores counted in the Barlow match while four were tallied in the contest against Oregon City.

Sophomore Mike Beaudoin led the Pioneers with a 46 against Barlow. Senior John Allen had the low score for Sandy against Oregon City with a 48. "Generally, this is a year for develop-

ment," Sandy coach Richard Kennedy said. "We have a couple of players who could develop and we expect some good freshmen in next year. We've got mostly underclassmen now who haven't played much. It could be a long year of development."

"We probably won't win much, but we'll try to knock off a few strokes during the year," he added. "Right now we're averaging about 50 strokes a man. We'd like to get that down to 45 or 46."