



Lori Shelton (left) takes the handoff from Sandy teammate Gayle Roth to start the second leg of the 400-meter relay. Jackson won the race, but Sandy took the meet in the girls competition. Photo by Mark Floyd

Pioneers split opener with Raiders

by MARK FLOYD

A powerful Jackson squad humbled the Sandy High boys track team 100-45, Thursday, but the Pioneer girls claimed a 68½-56½ win over the visiting Raiders.

The girls' win came despite the absence of two strong distance runners, Laura Stringham and Donna Nelson. Both were out with an illness and both were likely first place points.

But the Pioneers made up for the absence with depth and some good efforts from their underclassmen.

"I was pleased with the performances of our freshmen, in fact, everyone competed well," Sandy coach Randy Hutchinson said. "A lot of kids got PRs and we were ahead of our first meet performance of last year."

Sandy scored heavily in the field events. The Pioneers swept the shot

put, the high jump and the javelin and won every field event. Stephanie Hagstrom took the javelin with a good early-season throw of 124-8, then came back to win the discus at 104-3.

Paige Daugherty took the shot with a put of 32-2 and had impressive marks in the javelin, 110-3 for second, and discus, 103-2, also good for second.

Freshman Shawny Thoreson cleared 4-9 in the high jump to take that event. "That was a pleasant surprise," Hutchinson said. "She hasn't jumped much and we haven't had many jumpers lately. She's got a lot of potential."

Hutchinson was also pleased with the long jumpers. Shelby Dries won with a 15-1½ jump and teammate Sandra Peterson was second, 15-0.

Jackson scored heavily in the sprints, but the Pioneers got a win from Renee Hess in the 1,500-meters. The senior

was timed in 5:30.7. Sandy also got some important second places. Darby Binder clocked a 1:05.2 in the 400 for second and Sharon Jensen was a second behind in third. Dries was second in the 800, 2:39.2, and Kelly Douglas came up with a second in the 3,000-meters with a 14:22.0.

Gayle Roth won the 300-intermediate hurdles in 52.3, but will be out of action for a while after having her tonsils removed. She also placed second in the high jump.

The boys competition wasn't particularly close, but the Pioneers did have several bright spots, mainly in the field events.

Scott Skipper won the shot and javelin and set SUHS sophomore records in both. In fact, his winning 180-2 throw in the shot was the best throw in the state early this season.

Skipper won the shot with a put of 46-5.

The javelin was Sandy's best event. The Pioneers swept as Richard Doering took second, 149-10, and Mike Marleau claimed third, 130-11.

Bob Nippert claimed the high jump with a best of 5-10, narrowly missing on two attempts at 6-feet.

Sandy's only other win came in the 400 meters as Steve Metelak came on to win in 54.4. He also took second in the triple jump with a personal best 37-7½.

The Pioneers showed a lot of potential despite the loss. Dale Rasmussen got off a 45-6 shot put effort with a standing throw; Doug Baucom was second in the high jump with a 5-6 personal best; Locke Christman came up with his best discus throw, a 122-0 for second; freshman Sam Romey turned in a very respectable 4:32.4 third place in the 1,500-meters; Kevin Layng and Russell

Fork broke up Jackson's sprint dominance with third places; and a number of Pioneers on the junior varsity came up with good marks.

Sandy's JV team won the meet 62-35. Sandy winners were Joel Dose, 1,500-meters; Christman, shot put; Bill Bowman, high jump; Bob Rathke, 100 meters; Rasmussen, discus; Kevin Weister, javelin; and Nippert, triple jump.

The Sandy girls won their JV contest by a tight 42-40 score. Sandy winners were Denise Proctor, discus and shot put; and Hess, 300-intermediate hurdles.

The next meet for the Pioneers will be this Thursday when Sandy hosts Estacada. The meet was scheduled for Tuesday but postponed due to cold, rainy conditions.

The first event will begin at 3:45 p.m.

Pioneers falter in late going; drop 3 games

by MARK FLOYD

The old late inning jinx got to the Sandy High baseball team again.

The Pioneers played a lot of good baseball, but faltered in the late going and suffered three losses last week, all to non-league opponents.

Gresham claimed a 6-1 win over the Pioneers, Thursday, and Sandy lost a doubleheader to Class AA power St. Helens Saturday. The visitors took a 1-0 squeaker in the first game, then unloaded the big timber in the nightcap for a 9-3 win.

Sandy and Gresham locked up in a pitchers' dual for five innings, the Gophers taking a 2-1 lead at that point. Mike Contreras pitched for Sandy and "did a pretty fair job," according to coach Curtis Heath. But Contreras tired in the sixth and Gresham came up with a pair of runs on an error, a single and two doubles.

Contreras yielded to Keith Powell, but the Gophers came up with two more in the seventh to put the game on ice.

"Gresham didn't hit us all that hard, but errors in the fifth and sixth really hurt us," Heath said. "They got most of their hits in those last innings."

Sandy, meanwhile, rapped eight hits but stranded eight runners. The Pioneers just never bunched their hits and couldn't get a rally going. They scored their only run in the fifth when Mitch Paola singled, stole second and scored on a single by Mo Contreras.

Gresham scored five of its six runs in the last three innings.

The Pioneers got into another pitchers' dual Saturday in the opener with St. Helens, the defending state AA champs. The Lions scored once in the second and the run stood up as St. Helens held on to take the 1-0 win.

Randy Martin opened on the mound for Sandy and survived some early wildness to settle down and pitch five good innings. Kraig Gifford came on in relief. The two combined to halt St. Helens on one run, scattering 10 hits. But the Pioneer bats were a bit silent as Sandy could manage just three hits and stranded seven baserunners.

In fact, Sandy loaded up the bases in the fifth with just one out and couldn't pick up a run. Mo Contreras grounded into a force out at home, then John Martin fanned with the bags full to end the inning.

"It was a case of us not cashing in," Heath said. "It was a good game, though. Keith Powell played a terrific defensive game for us at shortstop. He had two or three diving saves on ground balls and caught two pop flies headed for the outfield."

The pitchers' battle went out the window in the second game, at least, after a while. Powell got the call on the mound and held St. Helens in check for four innings while the Pioneers got a 2-0 lead. But in the fifth, the proverbial roof fell in.

St. Helens started to get to Powell, and Heath yanked him. Gifford came in, but by the time the Pioneers could stem the tide, the Lions had five runs on seven hits in the inning. Two of those hits were doubles.

St. Helens then got three hits in the sixth and four in the seventh to put the game away.

"Those first four innings were as good a pitching performance as we've had all year from a pitcher," Heath said of Powell. "But then things fell apart a bit."

Sandy got two runs in the first on RBI grounders by Mo Contreras and Troy Bangs. A solo run in the seventh resulted from an RBI single by Chris Davis, scoring Randy Martin.

Despite the losses, the 2-6-1 Pioneers remain in good shape in the topsy-turvy Timber Valley League. Sandy has an 0-1 record and there doesn't seem to be a powerhouse team this year. Everyone looks capable of beating everyone else.

Sandy was scheduled to play Molalla Wednesday (results unavailable at press time), then Sweet Home Thursday and West Linn Friday.

That many games in a row could deplete a pitching staff, but it may work to the Pioneers' advantage. Sandy has five or six pitchers who are adequate, but no real stopper. Their depth may neutralize some of the other teams that rely on one or two fireballers to get them through a season.

McDevitt tops in hoop benefit

John McDevitt of Sandy was the top local participant in the Jack Ramsay Basketball Shootout Easter Seals benefit.

McDevitt collected \$82 in pledges. Contributions were collected based on the number of baskets the participants could sink within a three-minute period.

Ramsay, coach of the Portland Trail Blazers, is a national Easter Seals official.

Sandy nabs softball win

Sandy picked up its first softball win of the season Friday and it couldn't have come at a better time.

The 1-7 Pioneers have been playing games tough all season, but losing by a run or two. Friday, however, the pitching jelled and the Pioneers came away with a 3-1 win over Silverton on the Foxes' home field.

The win was significant because it came in Timber Valley League play. Sandy stands 1-1 in the TVL after the win and a surprisingly close 7-1 defeat at the hands of state power and league favorite Oregon City Wednesday.

But it was the Silverton win which pleased Sandy coach Gary Curtis the most.

"We maintained our mental composure," he said. "We kept our composure and didn't get rattled. Once they loaded the bases and we shut them down without a run."

In fact, Sandy shut down the Foxes for the first six innings without a run. Silverton got its lone run, an unearned one at that, in the seventh and final inning.

Sandy, meanwhile, picked up a run in

the first and two in the fifth, thanks to a couple of hits, a few walks and some aggressive baserunning.

Debbie Rudisill led the Pioneer batting attack with a two-for-four afternoon, but the standout of the game had to be Patty Gray. The southpaw fired a six-hitter on the mound and fanned five Silverton batters. More importantly, she held down her base on balls to just two, never allowing the Foxes to get a rally started.

The Pioneers will now face Molalla and Estacada, both teams picked for the second division of the TVL. But a bigger problem looms with the recent rainouts, keeping the team sharp for whenever the next game might be played.

"We are looking forward to Molalla and Estacada, but our biggest problem will be maintaining our attitude and intensity," Curtis said. "I'm happy with our progress, though. We're not complacent in our project. We know we can improve some more."

"But I'm pleased with the progress we've shown so far."

Rain erases prep slate

A week of downpours has wreaked havoc on the spring sports schedule at Sandy High School.

As expected, baseball, tennis and softball contests were rained out, as well as track and golf, sports which are usually played under adverse conditions.

The calendar on page 2 of this section carries the original slate of games scheduled for next week. A number of additions have been made.

This Thursday, April 2, the SUHS baseball team will travel to Sweet Home. The freshmen baseball team will be at Oregon City. A softball game, varsity only, is scheduled for Estacada and the track team will host Estacada.

Sandy's boys tennis team will travel to Molalla while the girls will host the Indians.

The Pioneer softball team will host Canby Friday. The baseball team is also at home, taking on West Linn while the freshmen baseball team will play at the Lions' home field. A golf match is scheduled at Canby.

Sandy will play a baseball doubleheader this Saturday at Centennial and the track team will compete at the Timber Valley League Invitational at Oregon City.

Monday's schedule includes a softball game at Tigard, baseball at Molalla, boys tennis at Sweet Home and girls tennis at home against the Huskies.



A number of these players off the 1962 Sandy High team will be participating in the second annual Alumni Tournament. Scheduled to play are Milt Marcy (fourth from left), Mick Hoffman (fifth from left), Gerald Hale (fourth from right) and Dan Nichols (third from right).

Alumni tourney opens April 9

The second annual Sandy High Alumni Basketball Tournament will get underway this Wednesday, April 9, and continue through Saturday.

The field is expanded to 12 teams this season following the success of last year's tourney. The defending champs, the Class of 1971-72, will be back to challenge for the trophy once more.

Also in this year's field will be a team from 1960-and-back and a team of grads from 1961-66.

The oldest returning player will be Gordon Nilsen, who graduated in 1953.

Last year's leading scorer, Alan Nippert, may be unable to play because of other commitments, but the other top players are all returning, including former Portland State player Jack Paola and 6-foot-9 Rick Zimmerman, who played in Europe. The first games will begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the upstairs and downstairs gyms at SUHS.

The tourney will culminate Saturday

when 10 teams will play, including two for the championship at 8 p.m.

Also scheduled for "Super Saturday" is an alumni barbecue and dance. The barbecue is sponsored by the Future Farmers of America; the dance by the SUHS booster club. The Sandy High band will play music of the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s.

Tickets will be \$2 each night for adults and students.

For more information, call Sandy High at 668-8011.