

stuff shots

Sandy spikers show potential

by MARK FLOYD
Sports Editor

This has been called a building year for the Sandy High track team.

The Pioneers lost several good athletes to graduation and, though they had one of their biggest turnouts in recent history, they are largely an inexperienced team.

For the first time in quite a while, Sandy hasn't been dominating its competition. The Pioneer girls lost their first league dual meet in three years a couple of weeks ago to Oregon City. The Sandy boys have struggled to find themselves.

But if opposing coaches would bother to look at the Pioneers' lineup card, they'd realize one thing. Sandy, with all its freshmen and sophomores, is loaded.

There are some quality athletes, oozing with potential, in Sandy's lineup this year. Most important, there is depth in addition to quality individuals.

The SUHS girls cross country team was sixth in the state. Two of its runners were sophomores, another a freshman. That has carried over to the track season where last week sophomore Donna Nelson established a school record in the 3,000 meters. Laura Stringham went to state in the 1,500 meters as a freshman last year and junior Gayle Roth is the district's defending 800 meter champ. That's quite a monopoly in the distance events.

Sophomore Paige Daugherty and junior Stephanie Hagstrom are triple threats in the throwing events and are solid threats at district. And then there are the young runners.

Sandy has a number of freshmen, Sue Phebus, Crystal Calkins and Sharon Jensen who make up what may be the best group of rookies in the school's history in the sprints. Add sophomore Sandra Peterson to that group and there will be a pretty fair relay team a couple of years down the line. Jensen is also a promising long jumper and the Pioneers have other young threats in both the horizontal and vertical jumps.

The boys have just as much potential. Sophomore Scott Skipper is already one of the better javelin throwers in the state and his shot put marks are also improving rapidly. Dale Rasmussen, a junior, is right behind in the shot and freshman Steve Pettingill as well as Locke Christman and Mike Marleau are becoming threats in the discus.

On the track, Sam Romey is shattering most freshmen records on the books, racing anywhere from 800 to 3,000 meters. He is, potentially, as talented as any runner in the school's history. Romey is still behind junior Steve Metelak, however, who is a good bet to break two minutes in the 800 and earn a trip to state.

Ryan Coombs, a freshman, heads a list of youngsters in the sprints after running for Sandy's best times this year in the 100 and 200. Junior Steve Brader is looking impressive in the hurdles and Bob Nippert is setting personal bests in the long jump and high jump.

What is most encouraging is the fact that Sandy has a potential stud in nearly every event. For the first time in recent years there are a number of sprinters. There are jumpers, throwers, distance runners and even hurdlers.

The Pioneers may or may not challenge for the district title this year. But from the looks of all the underclassmen, the rest of the league had better keep a sharp eye out in years to come.



Jill Dahlager crosses home plate in Sandy's 14-0 win over rival Estacada. Dahlager slammed a triple to left center and scored on an errant throw.

Photo by Mark Floyd

Errors kill Pioneer hopes

Sandy played its best game of the year, last Wednesday, defeating Estacada 10-0 on Patty Gray's no-hitter, the first in the school's history.

But subsequent losses to Silverton, Molalla and Canby knocked the Pioneers out of the Timber Valley League playoff picture.

Jill Dahlager and Cindy Coleman slugged triples against Estacada to give Gray all the hitting support she needed. The junior southpaw did the rest, blanking the Rangers while giving up just two base on balls. She struck out one.

"One strikeout — that tells you right there that we had an outstanding defensive performance behind her," Sandy coach Gary Curtis said. "I was very pleased. It was probably the best we've played all year."

Unfortunately, Sandy took a nosedive shortly afterwards. In a 12-inning marathon, Silverton outlasted the Pioneers 7-5 in a crucial game which knock-

ed Sandy out of third place. The Pioneers led 5-2 at one point, but allowed the Foxes to come up with a pair of runs in the sixth and the tying run in the seventh to force extra innings.

Both teams had several chances to win in the extra innings, but it wasn't until Silverton came up with a pair of runs in the 12th that the game was put away. Sandy committed a staggering 12 errors in the game and Silverton left 19 runners stranded on base.

"What happened? I don't know," Curtis moaned. "My biggest question as a coach is what the heck happened? I don't know if we let down, had a lack of intensity or what. It wasn't Patty, though, only one of those runs was earned."

Molalla put an end to any hopes Sandy may have still entertained about the playoffs when it dealt the Pioneers a 12-10 loss. After pitching 17 innings in two days, Curtis decided to rest Gray and start Debbie

Rudisill on the mound. Rudisill walked a dozen, but scattered them well, and turned in a solid performance from the mound. But seven more Sandy errors sealed the Pioneers' doom.

Rudisill slapped a pair of singles, but Sandy could manage just one other hit and left 11 runners on base in the game. Gray took over at third base and threw out two Molalla runners at home.

In the season finale, second place Canby dealt the Pioneers a 6-2 loss. Sandy managed just four hits and Rudisill had three of them. The senior had a single, a double and a triple, and reached base on an error her other trip to the plate.

But Sandy had seven more errors and stranded seven runners to put the Cougars in the driver's seat.

Sandy boys finish season

Sandy High School finished up its boys tennis season with defeats at the hands of Oregon City, 7-0, and West Linn, 6-1.

The Pioneers ended the season with a 1-13 record.

Oregon City's Mike Doane was a winner at No. 1 singles with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Damian Bollermann. Brent Ford defeated Steve Frost at No. 2 singles 7-6, 6-4 and Tom Herkamp beat Harvey Hazelett 6-1, 6-0 at No. 3 singles.

In doubles action it was Matt Love and Dan McMillan over Pat Sprigel

and Scott Bender 6-3, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles. Ken Peck and Chuck Thomas defeated Alex Brewster and Peter Kallen 6-2, 6-3 in second doubles.

Joe Gardiner and John McGrew scored a 6-1, 6-0 win over Brian Buhler and Eric Frost at No. 3 doubles and in the final match, it was Carl Rasmussen and Russ Hedge over Eric Jones and Randy Swanson by a 6-1, 6-0 score.

The Pioneers got a win from Sprigel and Buhler against West Linn. Playing third doubles, the Sandy duo topped George Grant and

Tim Rovers 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

West Linn swept the other doubles matches and won all three singles by forfeit. Ben Campbell and Chris Neilson topped Bollermann and Bender 6-4, 6-2 at No. 1 doubles and Charlie McNulty and Sam Vorderstrasse beat Brewster and Kallen 6-3, 7-5.

In fourth doubles, Randy Swanson and Mark Gundersen suffered a 6-2, 7-5 loss.

The Pioneers were scheduled to compete in the Timber Valley League district meet Wednesday.

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Prep of the Week:



DONNA NELSON

Sandy High sophomore Donna Nelson recently set a school record in 3000 meters at a Barlow Invitational track meet with a second-place time of 10:58. The school record was on the books since 1977. Contratulations, Donna!



Sandy

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