



Running the steeplechase isn't quite as easy as it looks, especially the first time out. Brian Reick found that out Friday at the Barlow Invitational as he took a

splash in the landing. Reick and the Pioneers finished seventh in the eight-team meet, won by Beaverton.

Pioneers best marks at Barlow Invite

Sandy High got some strong individual performances, but placed well back as a team Friday in the annual Barlow Invitational Track Meet.

Host Barlow won the girls competition with 134 points, while Sandy was fourth with 56; Beaverton took the boys meet with 149, while Sandy was seventh with 24 points.

The Pioneers got a win from Stephanie Hagstrom, who continued a Sandy tradition by claiming the girls javelin. Her winning throw of 135-8 was a season best.

The other top performance came from sophomore Donna Nelson, who placed second in the 3,000 meters and set a school record with her time of 10:58.2. The record had been on the books since 1977. Barlow's Sheryl Culver won the race with a 10:53.4 time.

The Pioneers' other distance runners also fared well. Laura Stringham was second in the 1,500 meters with a season best time of 5:00.3 and teammate Renee Hess was right behind in fourth; Gayle Roth was third in the 800 meters with a 2:28.4 time; and Shelby Dries was fifth in the 800 with a 2:34.0.

On the boys' side, Sandy's Steve Metelak was fourth in the 800 meters with a time of 2:03.2, just ahead of teammate Steve Swanson, fifth in a personal best 2:05.0.

The throwing events were also a Sandy strong point. In addition to her winning javelin throw, Hagstrom scored personal bests in the shot put and discus. Her throw of 109-7 was good for fifth place in the disc. Teammate Paige Daugherty was fourth in the shot put

with a 33-7 toss. She also placed fifth in the javelin.

Scott Skipper took second for Sandy in the javelin, despite an injury. Skipper took one throw, which went 183-3, then sat out the rest of the competition with a slight arm strain. The throw held up for second behind Ken Warner of Barlow's 192-9. Skipper also took fourth in the shot with a 45-9 put.

Mike Marleau set a personal record in the discus with a 133-3, good enough for fifth place.

In other field events, Bob Nippert was fourth in the boys high jump with a 5-11 effort. He also recorded a personal best of 39-9 in the triple jump, but did not place.

Lori Shelton set a sophomore school record in the girl's triple jump with a 31-0 mark.

Freshman Sharon Jensen placed sixth in the long jump with a leap of 15-11½ and ran on the Sandy mile relay team which took fourth in a season best time of 4:14.0.

In the boys long jump, Rob Edwards was fifth with a personal best of 19-6.

Roth, in addition to her 800 effort, was a surprising fifth in the 100-meter hurdles. Her time was a season best 17.4.

BOYS TEAM SCORES - Beaverton 149, Oregon City 121, Gresham 118, Barlow 91, Fort Vancouver 41, David Douglas 33, Sandy 24, Franklin 17.

GIRLS TEAM SCORES - Barlow 134, Beaverton 90, Oregon City 78, Sandy 56, David Douglas 54, Gresham 51, Franklin 29, Fort Vancouver 0.

Sandy claims 4-3 net win

Sandy came from behind in the last match to defeat Oregon City 4-3 in girls tennis and finish the season with a 6-8 Timber Valley League record.

The Pioneers also suffered a 4-3 loss to West Linn last week.

The Oregon City match was tied 3-3 going into the fourth doubles contest. Alice Schoppert and Denise Shockey outlasted Oregon City's Kim Kylie and Diane Gerkman to give the Pioneers a win. They took the No. 4 doubles match 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Sandy Yantes got the Pioneers off to a good start, taking the No. 1 singles match 6-0, 7-6. She won the second set in a tiebreaker, 7-4.

At No. 2 singles it was Sandy's Tami Shafer over Lisa Hiesch by a 6-1, 6-1 score. Oregon City's Julie Gesley claimed the No. 3 singles match 6-1, 6-0 over Jody Robbins.

Julie Coleman and Sandy Shreeve of Sandy won the No. 1 doubles match, topping Kim Singleterry and Dana Buttolph 7-5, 6-4. Pat Wesselink and Becky Rodrigues suffered a 7-5, 6-2 loss at No. 2 doubles to Eileen Dietz and Molly McKnight of Oregon City. Sandy's Zina Seal and Tracy Tool dropped the No. 3 doubles match to Kim Pottratz and Karen Casebeer, 6-2, 6-0.

Sandy won two marathon doubles matches against West Linn, but the Lions held on to defeat the Pioneers 4-3.

Defending district champion Jane Paulson came from behind to edge Yantes 4-6, 6-2, 6-2. Shafer claimed a 6-1, 7-6 win over Desi Holt at No. 2 singles. She won the tiebreaker by a 7-5 score.

In the final singles match, West Linn's Colleen Ogburn beat Robbins 6-2, 6-3.

The Lions' Janet Holland and Kris Wehler handed Coleman and Shreeve a 6-4, 6-4 setback at No. 1 doubles. Rodrigues and Wesselink rebounded to hand Angie Cloud and Vickie Rakel a 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 loss at No. 2 doubles.

Seal and Tool came from behind in the No. 3 doubles match and beat Brenda Book and Brook Craig 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. In the final match, Suzy Rice and Heidi Geldaker of West Linn scored a 6-3, 6-4 win over Schoppert and Shockey.

Soccer signup set in May

Registration for the Sandy Cascade Soccer Club will take place this month for youngsters in the Sandy and Hoodland areas.

Registration for the Sandy area will be held Saturday, May 9, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Wednesday, May 20, from 6 to 9 a.m.; and Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All signups will be at Griff's Longburger.

Registration for the Welches area will be at Welches School Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Wednesday, May 27, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The league is for boys and girls ages five to 13. Birth certificates must be shown at registration.

Cost will be \$12.50 a player with a maximum charge of \$25 a family. Persons must register even if they have already completed questionnaire forms distributed earlier this year.

Bumper crop of freshmen hold Sandy's future hopes

by MARK FLOYD

Baseball has been kind of a forgotten sport at Sandy High School the last few years.

The Pioneers have compiled losing records for several seasons and baseball has taken a backseat to more successful programs. But all of that may change a year or two down the road because SUHS has a freshmen baseball team that is something special.

The Pioneer freshmen are winning.

In fact, the Sandy frosh are winning big. Going into last weekend, the Pioneers had compiled a 10-1 record. Included were impressive wins over Timber Valley League rivals — 15-4 over West Linn, 21-1 over Estacada and a pair of 7-2 wins over a strong Canby team.

This bumper crop of Sandy freshmen is one that comes along about once a decade, if that, according to frosh coach Joe Kniser.

"We've got about nine or 10 kids who should go on to play varsity," Kniser said. "Probably about four of them next year. We've got some exceptionally kids, good athletes who are the same ones who played freshmen football and basketball. A lot of them played all three sports, but we're fortunate that baseball is their favorite."

Why are the Pioneers suddenly so tough? For one, it is a truly gifted group of athletes. But an important factor is the patience of varsity coach Curtis Heath, who elected at the beginning of the season to keep the Pioneer frosh together as a team, rather than elevating them to

junior varsity or varsity. And both teams could have used some help this season.

Staying together has helped develop a strong, and positive spirit on the ball club and that is sometimes difficult when you have 15 or 16 players fighting for playing time.

"The hardest thing is getting all the kids in the ball game," admitted Kniser. "We've got some good kids on the bench who would be starting any other year."

They are forced to the bench because some freshmen just can't be kept out of the lineup. Jerry Bennett is a good example. The big first baseman is batting .526, leads the team in RBIs with 19, has a 2-0 record on the mound and hasn't committed an error all season. Bennett also became the first freshman to knock a home run over Sandy's fence this year.

There are others. Dan Paola is batting .444 and has 14 RBIs; leadoff hitter Doug Jensen is batting .382 and is a magician with the bat; Troy Wolf has the lowest average of all the starters, .272, but is a demon on the basepaths and leads the team in runs scored with 21.

Sandy's team batting average, in fact, is a robust .335. The starters go that one better, averaging about .360.

There's a good reason for their hitting success. Kniser pitches to them like a deranged machine, standing 45 feet away and throwing 20 to 30 pitches to each batter.

"When I throw to them from 45 feet, I can usually get up to about 90 miles an hour," he said. "I throw

them knucklers, curves and change-ups, too. There are some guys I just can't get out."

Kniser, who used to play for the University of Oregon, figures his sore arm is worth it. He'd sacrifice his arm for 500 pitches a day to get a .335 team batting average any time.

What has the Pioneer coaches drooling is the pitching, a traditional Sandy weakness. Bennett has the 2-0 record and both wins were shutouts. Tony Kaufman was 5-0 after the first 11 games and Jerry Byers was 3-1. All of them can throw the ball and have good command of their pitches.

Kaufman is the workhorse, but Bennett may be the pitcher of the future. Both players have good size and should get even better as they mature.

"It's hard to single out one or two players, though," Kniser said. "They all pull their weight out there. Our defense is good overall, our pitching is good overall and our hitting is VERY good overall. These kids just do things you don't see many freshmen doing."

Kniser can't really pick out a weakness on the team. Pressed, he said that throwing from the catching position had been a problem in the early season, but it had improved significantly over the past few games.

"Most of these players have the little things that it takes to win," Kniser said. "They play good, heads-up baseball and make the right plays on defense. Some of the teams they've beaten badly were not bad teams."

"But those scores aren't by accident," Kniser added quickly. "We



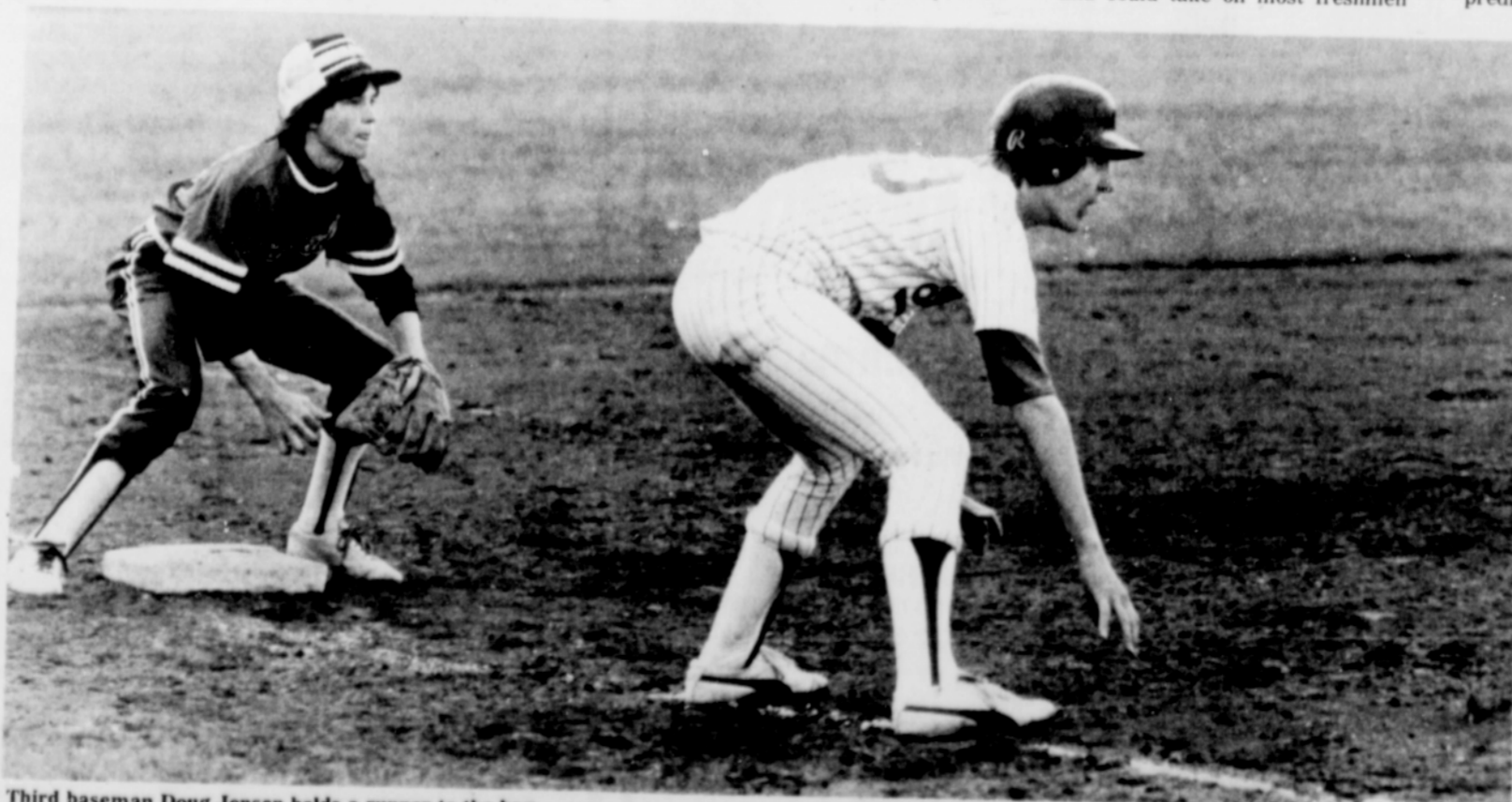
Freshman first baseman Jerry Bennett

practice all the time — in the pouring rain — when the varsity and junior varsity wouldn't think of practicing. The kids are ready to play no matter what the condition.

The Pioneer frosh are as good as any freshmen team in the league and could take on most freshmen

squads in the state. All of which makes the future of baseball at Sandy High a bright prospect, indeed.

"If these kids stay together and improve, they'll be a very strong team in a couple of years," Kniser predicted.



Third baseman Doug Jensen holds a runner to the bag.

photos by Mark Floyd