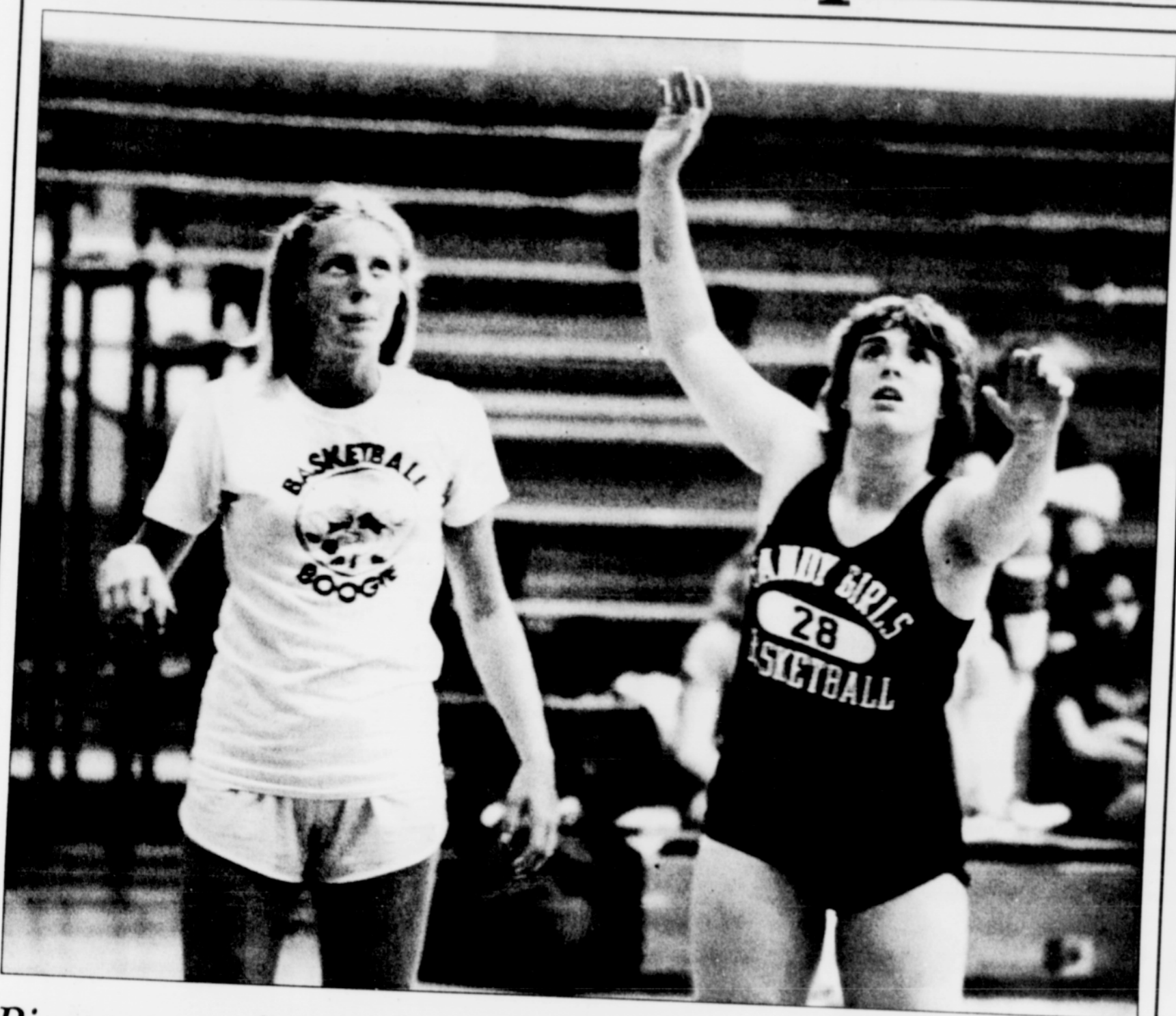


The Sandy Post Sports and Recreation



Pioneers eye improvement

Basketball moves to summer

by MARK FLOYD

The idea of summer basketball is to move around a bit, keep in touch with the old instincts and get used to playing with new teammates.

Summer ball is more important to some teams than others. Sandy High girls coach John Smith feels it is crucial for upgrading the Pioneer program and, so far, he has been pleased with the results.

"It's a voluntary thing, but one sure way to improve the program is through summer ball," Smith said. "We've got 15 or 16 out this summer, compared with eight or nine last year. We have a much better turnout from the girls who will make up this year's jayvees and that will help that program."

Smith said the goal he has for summer ball is simply to get the girls with a basketball in their hand as much as possible. After watching the Pioneers for two weeks, Smith feels that next year's varsity team will have much better speed than this year and that can be a key ingredient in high school ball.

But he has seen a few bad things, too.

"One negative aspect of our team, which summer ball has reinforced, is bad shooting," Smith said. "We're like a bunch of unionized bricklayers out there."

One way to get around bad shooting is to pass the ball inside and Smith has been pleased with the summer development of two point guards, senior Nancy Rohweder and junior Paige Daugherty.

"Our offense will be successful or unsuccessful based on the play of

our point guards," Smith admitted. "They're both doing a really good job right now. There are some little things that they need to work on, but both have the overall skills to help us next year."

Undoubtedly, the guards will be passing inside a lot, because a majority of the Sandy offense is centered in the post play of seniors Dawn New and Cindy McCoy. As a junior, the 6-foot New was second team All-Timber Valley League and McCoy was one of the most improved players on the team. At 5-foot-11, she can sub for New or play strong forward, giving the Pioneers an imposing front line.

Cindi Rasmussen and Denise Proctor have also been playing summer ball and should be greatly improved on the JV team next season.

"The way I look at it, summer ball is like putting money in the bank," Smith said. "It's going to pay off for those two in a year or so when their skills improve."

Smith is generally happy with his post play, although he said that both New and McCoy need to be more aggressive on the boards.

Smith said that the Pioneers will also be much stronger in the wing positions, thanks to summer ball. Linda Mosbrucker, who will be a junior, is playing with more authority this year, and Sandy also has a letterman in Becky Rodrigues.

Two others on the summer team who will be "fighting for varsity positions," are sophomore Sharon Jensen and junior Amy Aschoff. "Both are pleasant surprises whose strongest trait is coachability and

good attitude," Smith said.

Wings on the summer team who may see JV action are junior Shelby Dries and sophomores Jill Ingram and Crystal Calkins.

"Jill could be now, and will be in a year, our best man-to-man defensive player," Smith said. "She has quick reactions and plays good fundamental defense. Crystal is the fastest person on the team and that really helps the program. This is Shelby's first time out, but she has a lot of energy and a good attitude, and with a year of experience, she may help us out."

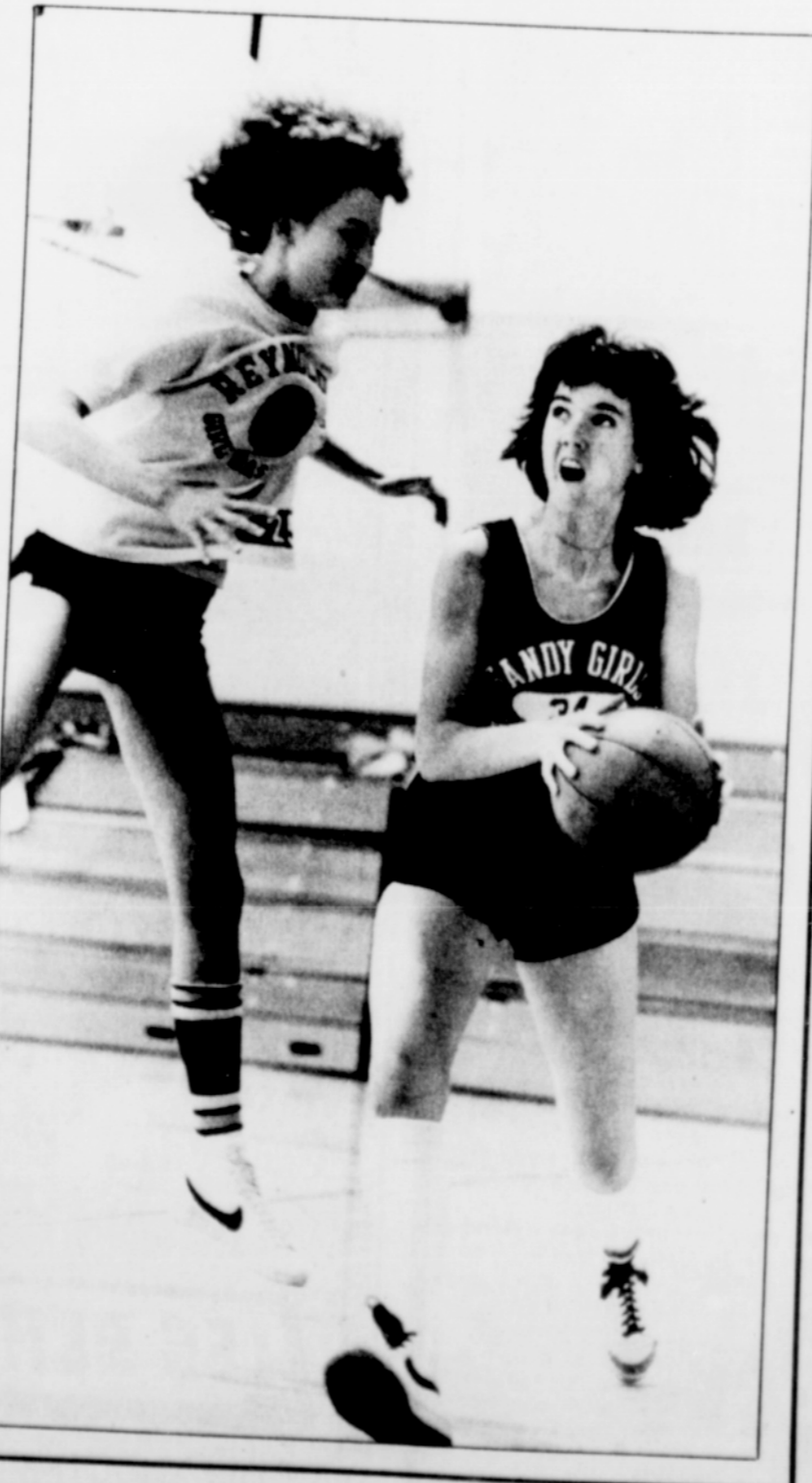
So far, the Pioneers haven't set the East County League on fire, but they've been competitive. The

league began with 10 teams, but Lutheran, Parkrose and Columbia dropped out. The remaining seven, however, have staged some pretty fierce games.

The class of the league may be Class A power Corbett. But perennial playoff team St. Mary's is in there as is Barlow and David Douglas. Sandy, Reynolds and Centennial are right behind.

Summer basketball is loose, with everyone out for a good time. But it is also a chance to learn a few things and a golden opportunity for the young Pioneers to boost their program.

The dividends will show this winter.



photos by Mark Floyd

Sandy's Paige Daugherty (top) will be one of the Pioneers' top hopes at point guard next year; Cindy McCoy (far right) fakes an opponent into the air, a trick coach John Smith hopes his 5-foot-11 senior will remember; Dawn New (right) will return after being named to the second team of the Timber Valley League All-Stars this year.

Advantage pulls off double whitewash

The youthful Sandy Paola's American Legion baseball team got a lesson Tuesday from its Gresham counterpart Advantage Paola.

Advantage swept a doubleheader 11-0, 12-0, at the Mt. Hood Community College field.

Advantage, comprised mainly of players from Gresham and Barlow High Schools, was simply too strong for Sandy, a team loaded with freshmen and sophomores.

Advantage pounded out 32 hits in the two games to just five for Sandy. That statistic told the whole story.

"We're lacking in pitching," Sandy coach Curtis Heath admitted. "John Martin started the first game and got a sore arm in the first inning. We had to take him out."

Freshman Jerry Bennett came on in relief and "did a pretty good job until the fifth," Heath noted. Then Advantage got to the young hurler and Kraig Gifford came in to mop up.

The second game was an instant replay. Advantage used 15 hits and held Sandy to just two, singles by Mitch Paola and Mo Contreras. Gordon Brinser started the game on the mound for Sandy, one of the few times he has ever pitched. Brinser lasted four-plus innings and did a creditable job, considering the circumstances. Gifford pitched the rest of the way.

Steve Weitzel pitched six innings for Advantage and held Sandy at bay, but when Guy Norman came on to pitch the seventh, all thoughts of a comeback went down the tubes. Norman, a junior

from Gresham, simply fired the ball past Sandy batters, striking out the side to end the game.

"That guy is the fastest pitcher I've ever seen in the Portland area," Heath marveled. "The kids never even saw the ball. He was really throwing BB's."

Sandy was hurt by the fact that a couple of its players had commitments to summer basketball.

Heath wasn't making excuses, but he felt that his team is just a bit overmatched in age and experience. He also feels that this will work to Sandy's advantage a year or two down the road.

"We're finding that our youth is catching up with us," he said. "A lot of our kids are playing against people three years older than them. We're taking our lumps right now, but we're not playing all that badly. Mitch Paola caught some shots at third base and Jerry Bennett looks really good at first."

"We're holding our own," Heath said. "Even though the scores may be a little lopsided."

Heath is using the summer Legion experience to prep his team for the school year. Most teams separate the two programs.

"We're taking our lumps," he repeated, "because we do it a little differently. But that is the reason we did so much better last year during school ball — the preparation from a summer ago. We have a lot of young kids, three freshmen, while some of the other teams have guys who are seniors or older."

Local fun runs spice July sports calendar

A pair of local fun runs have been scheduled during the early days of July.

The July Fly will be held as part of the sixth annual July Fourth celebration sponsored by the Hoodland Chamber of Commerce. The 10-kilometer run is sponsored by the Hoodland Volunteer Firefighter Association.

Registration will be \$6.50 prior to July 4 and \$7.50 the day of the race. The race will begin at 1 p.m. on Salmon River Road.

The annual Sandy Mountain Festival Almost 10-Kilometer Run is scheduled

this year for July 11 at 9 a.m.

Sponsored by Camera Connection, the annual race will be approximately 4.7 miles over a hilly course that begins on Pioneer Boulevard. The course then runs to Langensand Road, Trubel, Bornstedt, Highway 211, Meinig, Barker, Gary, back to Langensand, McCormick to Wolf and back to the finish line at Camera Connection.

Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place finishers for men, women and participants under 14.

Entry fee is tentatively set at \$3 for the race.

Dairy Queen sweeps Junior National games

Although the calendar was dominated by rainouts, the first week of summer turned out to be a good one for a couple of Sandy baseball teams.

Dairy Queen won a pair of Junior National League games this week to even its record at 3-3.

Sandy beat Lynch 9-6 Wednesday behind the solid pitching of James Hopkins and Dale Boyd. Most of the runs Dairy Queen gave up were unearned and the Sandy team stiffened after a four-run first inning.

DQ also played Lynch Monday night, scoring a 12-4 win over the host team. This time Boyd got the win on the mound and Jeff Lewis got the save. Lynch pitchers gave up 20 walks in the game and hit two batters to give Sandy all the help it needed. Chris Robins had a triple and a single for Dairy Queen and Doug Simonson had a double and a single.

In Midget League play, Sandy II picked up two wins against one loss and improved its record to 6-2 on the season.

Sandy opened with a 13-11 loss to Reynolds East II last week. Trailing by five, Sandy went into the last inning and started a rally. But the three runs it scored came up two short and host Reynolds won. Sandy had five runners put out because of "mental errors," according to coach Glenn Abbott, which made the difference in the ball game. Doug Hodge was three-for-three with a double for Sandy, Aaron Knotts was two-for-three and Kent Taylor and

Adam Cannon went two-for-two.

Sandy got back on the winning track, however, with a 17-9 win over Reynolds East IV. Kent Taylor went the distance for Sandy and recorded the win in his first ever pitching performance. Jacob Iverson turned in an unassisted double play, the first of the season for Sandy. Corey Grant led the batting attack, slashing an RBI double.

Sandy really unloaded Monday night, using a no-hitter by Jacob Iverson to score a 21-1 win over Orient II. Iverson struck out 12 and gave up six base on balls in his five inning gem. He struck out the side in the first and second innings.

Doug Hodge had the only extra base hit of the night for Sandy, a double to lead off the third inning.

In Midget American League play, Sandy Truck Line split a pair of games last week to go 4-2.

Reynolds East scored a 12-8 win over Sandy, which couldn't get the key hits, according to coach Bob Gedde. Sandy was led by Tony Skadstad, who went two-for-three, including a triple.

The Truck Liners came back Friday night to score a 12-9 win over Troutdale. Sandy trailed 6-1 at one point, but rallied to pull it out. Lance Conger came on in relief of Rick Wheeler and pitched exceptionally well until he was hit by a pitch while batting in the fourth inning. Conger was taken to the hospital, but was released and is expected to rejoin the team this week.

Slow pitch tournament set at Boring School

The fourth annual Sandy Invitational fast pitch softball tournament will get underway this Friday, June 26, at 6:45 p.m.

Lance's Ladies will host the 12-team tourney, which will continue through Sunday at Boring Grade School.

Lance's is coming off a sixth place finish in the 16-team Portland Metro League tournament last weekend.

Included in this weekend's field are Lance's, three teams from Eugene, one from Aloha, Gladstone, Portland, Vancouver, Wash., Putnam High, Milwaukie High, Canby and Lake Oswego.

First round games will be played Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Lance's will open Friday at 6:45 p.m. against Gladstone on one field, while Milwaukie and Canby will tangle on another.

Saturday's first round games, which will begin at 8:45 a.m., will pit Marv's Chevron of Portland against Aloha and Putnam against Lake Oswego.

If there is a favorite in the tournament, it would have to be Lake Oswego. The Lakers have the services of Lisa Veneeri on the mound, a standout for the Portland State University women's softball team.

Admission to the tournament is free and there will be a concession stand open to spectators.