

Sandy sport summary

SUHS Pioneers take on veteran Jackson squad

by SCOTT NEWTON

The Pioneer football team starts their season tonight against a team that Jackson coach Jerry Lyons thinks may be one of his best.

"We're really pleased with our team," he said after watching the Pioneers intrasquad scrimmage Friday. "I think it could be one of our best teams."

"We think we've improved over last year. We lost some awful good players, but we've got some kids that have really developed."

"The thing is, I think Sandy looks better than they did last year, too. They've got a couple of new backs in there that may add a lot of

power."

Lyons has 22 seniors out. Eighteen of them are lettermen. And, when he says this may be one of his best teams, one has to consider that his teams have been in the state playoffs the last five years.

One of Jackson High School's most visible players is Steve Jackson, a 5-10 and 170-pound senior, who is "probably as fast as anyone in the state." He's gained close to 1,000 yards a season for the past two seasons.

"This is the biggest team I've ever had in my life," said Lyons, who has been the head coach at Jackson for

eight seasons.

"We've got some big linemen, and we've got some speed in the backfield."

He has lost an option quarterback, a "good" center, and two linebackers that started for three years and "were generally considered two of the best in the state."

Lyons said that he thinks they'll be ready for the season opener, which will be at 6:30 tonight at Civic Stadium.

"I think they'll be ready," he said. "They're a good, experienced group."

Sandy coach Greg O'Meara also scouted the Jackson scrimmage Friday, and then talked with The Post about their own scrimmage.

He felt there were some bright spots, but that they were still making more mistakes than he would like

to see.

One bright spot was the way the offensive line held out the defense on passes.

And then there was the running game. "There were times out there that every one of those running backs looked good," O'Meara said, meaning Scott Skipper, Chuck Kearney, Bryan Noe and Bill Bowman. "Even the sophomore running backs looked good," he added.

"We weren't holding back on defense," he said. "We had some pretty good people against them."

O'Meara said that they've been having good practices. "The kids are enthusiastic," he said.

O'Meara said the key to stopping Jackson will be to contain Steve Jackson and Blake Smith, a 6-2 and 180-pound quarterback who "looked good" in last week's scrimmage.

SCOTT McMULLEN, Sandy High School's new cross country coach, has been working with his team since Aug. 24.

Six of the top seven girls from last year's team, which finished sixth in the state, are returning. They include junior Donna Nelson, senior Gayle Roth, junior Laura Stringham, sophomore Sharon Jensen, senior Darby Binder and junior Shelby Dries.

Five of the top boys are also back, including sophomore Sam Romey, senior Steve Metelak, junior Phil Burk, junior Brian Buhler and junior Brian Reick.

"There are some others that are really going to surprise us," McMullen added.

He has 18 out, but hopes to gain a few more in the near future, when everyone returns from vacation.

McMullen said that he's got some "super people out" and urged anyone interested in getting involved to contact him.

McMullen will teach unified (freshman) science and biology. He was head track coach at Illinois Valley High School in Cave Junction for three years, and has taken three girls teams to AA state meets.

He trains with his teams, and in fact credits his runners last spring with helping "push" him (in his training) to a 2:57 marathon at the Avenue of Giants Marathon in the redwoods in May.

IN WATER POLO six out of seven of the top girls return from last year's team.

They include Bonita Connelly, Teresa and Heidi Lamer, Becky Rodriguez, Jean Crane, and Lisa Izer, if other commitments don't

keep her from participating. The one player Coach Carl Neuenfeldt did lose was Nadine Rowland, who tied with Connelly last year for leading scorer honors.



Scott McMullen

The girls were 3-6 overall last year, 2-1 in league play. No one from the league went to state. "This year I'm expecting that to change, though," Neuenfeldt said. "I'm really optimistic about the girls."

While there are 10 girls out, Neuenfeldt only has seven boys out so far.

Returning starters include senior Rich Tophill and junior Shawn Burns. Junior Herb Hazelett started part time.

Others out include Mark Gunderson, Matt Roth, Richard Rolph and Chris Haney.

The boys were 3-6 last year, 3-1 in the league. They also earned a trip to the state playoffs.

Their first match will be Sept. 8 at the Sandy Swim Center. The girls will play at 4 p.m. with the boys' game after that.

Local runners to pace Oregon State

An excellent recruiting year and three solid returning veterans should make the 1981 Oregon State University women's team a strong one.

Will Stephens, OSU coach, feels that three seniors—Joanne Lahti, Luanne Park and Connie Case (of Boring)—will be the nucleus of the Beaver team.

"They should be the heavies, the leaders of the team," Stephens said.

"We've also got some good freshmen and transfers. If they come to practice prepared and in shape, they could be near or with the seniors."

Case finished fourth in the regional meet last year after transferring from Mt. Hood Community College. She went on to place 75th at nationals.

Lahti was sixth at regionals and 97th at nationals.

A transfer student expected to do well is Leann Madison, a junior from Mt. Hood Community College

who attended Sandy High School.

Oregon State will open the season with an intrasquad beach run on Sept. 19, which will be followed by one of its toughest schedules.

Their first meet will be the Carrie Franklin Memorial at Lane Community College in Eugene.

They will compete in the Cal-Nike Invitational Oct. 3 in Berkeley, Calif.

The competition there will include defending national champions North Carolina State, as well as powerhouses Cal-Poly, Florida State and California.

The Beavers will be competing in the NCAA this year rather than the AIAW, which means qualifying for regionals will be much tougher.

Regionals will include the entire West Coast, Stephens said, which means OSU will have to butt heads with all the Pac-10 teams as well as some other California powerhouses.

For information on Hoodland events, see *Hoodland Happenings* every week in The Post.

Prep of the Week:



ANGIE CONBEAR

Angie Conbear, freshman this fall at SUHS, recently won her second consecutive grand championship in style review at the Clackamas County Fair at Canby. The 4-H member entered her sundress. Congratulations, Angie!



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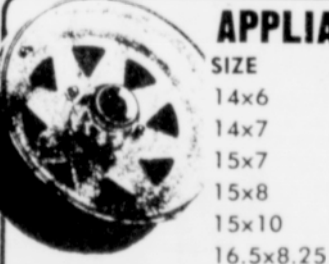
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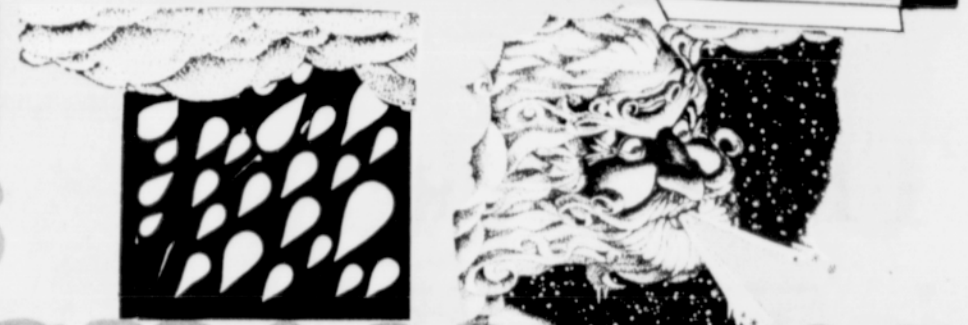
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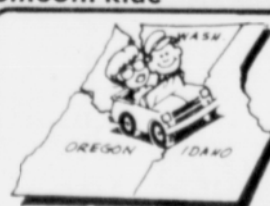
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