

Sandy sports summary

Friday matchup a key game in league race

by SCOTT NEWTON

The season has just begun, and already the Pioneers have a key game coming up.

Before the season started Coach Greg O'Meara said that Oregon City, West Linn and Sweet Home would be the teams to beat to be competitive in Timber Valley League play. And, the top three teams in the league qualify for the state playoffs.

Well, tomorrow Sandy will travel to Sweet Home. "It's a key game," O'Meara said. A win would "make our work easier" down the line.

Both teams are 2-0, with Sandy having won 26-0 over Jefferson last week.

Sweet Home downed Grants Pass 20-7, and then downed Mountain View 18-6.

Coach Rod Rumney, who is in his eighth season at Sweet Home, said in a telephone interview earlier this week that they are "real fortunate" to be 2-0. Apparently they've been on the receiving end of some good breaks. For example, Toby Volz, a 6-3 and 195-pound senior defensive end, "got things turned around" last week when he picked up a fumble and ran it 85 yards for a touchdown midway through the first quarter.

The score allowed Sweet Home to gain a 7-6 lead, and they went on to score two more times in the second quarter.

SHHS also had to come

from-behind to beat Grants Pass.

Their running attack is led by Rod Andrews, a 5-5 and 140-pound junior tailback.

"He's just a tough little kid," Rumney said. "He amazes us every game. He makes a great effort."

He's gained 108 yards, and then 112, in their two games.

At quarterback for Sweet Home is Scott Evinson, a 6-2 and 190-pound senior.

The second-year starter has had some problems early, Rumney said, but he expects him to start showing some improvement.

He completed four of 13 passes for 75 yards with two interceptions last week.

O'Meara said that he can be an accurate passer. His favorite target, most likely, will be returning all-TVL receiver Harmon Costa, a 165-pound junior slotback.

"He does a heck of a job receiving the football," O'Meara said.

O'Meara, who scouted Sweet Home Saturday night at Bend, was also impressed with the blocking of Tom Steinbacher, a 6-3 and 195-pound junior fullback.

Rumney, who saw the Sandy-Jefferson game, said that the Pioneers are "one of the surprise teams of the TVL. They're very impressive, very big."

Rumney said that he expects a competitive, hard hit-

ting football game.

About Sweet Home, O'Meara said, "They're not real big on the line, but they're fairly quick."

About the possibility that SHHS might pass more this week, with Costa and all, O'Meara said, "I think we've handled the pass fairly well the past couple weeks."

"We knocked that long pass right down there at the end (of the Jefferson game). That pass was almost zero right on the guy, Russell Fork did a tremendous job."

Also, Dan Martin made an interception.

O'Meara may also be more confident of the Pioneers' passing attack since the Jefferson game. Senior quarterback Mitch Paola completed seven of 12 for 159 yards, with one interception.

Junior Todd Byron caught three of those passes, two for touchdowns. One was a 62 yarder on the first play of the second half. The other was a 20 yarder made with 5:48 left in the game.

His second catch, of which he probably ran half of the 47 yards he gain, was a tricky one. "He did a tremendous job getting that one he bobbed," O'Meara said.

About the game overall, O'Meara said, "The kids had a good game. They had some mental breakdowns at first when we got to the goal line area, but they overcame that and we came back, I think, with a pretty good win."

Jefferson, plagued with penalties, also had a hard time getting the ball past the goal-line a couple of times when they were within scoring range.

Senior Michael Hornbuckle generated a lot of their offense with runs of 47 and 64 yards.

For Sandy, ball control was again the key. In two games they've run 118 plays, and have gained 587 yards, close to five a play.

Things looked good for Sandy right from the start Friday night. Senior Tim Sytsma got a solo quarterback sack on Jefferson's first possession.

When Sandy got the ball, junior Chuck Kearney ran 35 yards, to the 15-yard line. A short time later he carried it in from three yards out. He finished the evening with 146 yards on 26 carries.

Sytsma picked up a fumble with a second left on the clock in the first half, and Sandy senior Byron Noe attempted a 25 yarder, which was just a little wide.

A fumble recovery by junior Mike Marleau on the three-yard line in the third quarter allowed the Pioneers to keep the shutout going.

With 25 seconds left on the clock Kearney ran the ball in from six yards out, and with Noe's kick, that put the score at 26-0.

Noe made two PAT kicks, and missed one.

"I felt we eliminated a lot of the mistakes we'd made from the week before," O'Meara said, "but we've still got a long way to go. I was proud of the kids. They played real well as a team."

O'Meara, in an interview earlier this week, did not seem surprised that they are 2-0.

When the players that are now seniors were sophomores, they reportedly had a good year. "They're competitors. They believe in themselves."

Runners here on Friday

Persons interested in seeing the cross country team in action at home will get one of two chances Friday at 4 p.m.

Hillsboro and Lincoln will be competing against Sandy, with events scheduled to start and finish at the stadium.

The soccer team is also opening its fall season Friday at 4, with a game against Barlow on the field south of the school. Scott McMullen, cross country coach, said that people watching the soccer game will get to see a good part of the races due to the way the course is set up.

McMullen has several new runners out, and said, "It's never too late to come out for cross country."

Some of those that have just gone out, however, will not be competing Friday.

Top runners on the boys

team include Sam Romey, a sophomore who was recently timed in 17.22 for the 5,000-meter (about 3.1 miles) course.

That was "with no competition, no other runners around him."

Other runners expected to score points Friday include Phil Burk and Brian Buhler.

The top girls include Donna Nelson, Gayle Roth, Sharon Jensen and Susan Krick.

The girls run a 3,000-meter (1.8 mile) course.

Water polo team busy

The Sandy Union High School water polo teams have already got three games behind them.

The boys opened their season with a 10-5 win over Aloha Sept. 8. Coach Carl Neuenfeldt said that they didn't play that well, but did take advantage of their speed. Shawn Burns scored three goals in that game.

Neuenfeldt was pleased with freshman goalies Richard Rolf and Jamie Tuttle. "I thought they did a pretty good job for their first game at that position," he said.

The women fell 9-7 in overtime to Aloha, with Bonita Connelly scoring four goals.

Last Thursday the Pioneer teams took on David Douglas, a water polo powerhouse. The girls lost 9-5. "I thought our girls did a really outstanding job," Neuenfeldt said. Connelly scored four of their five goals.

Shauna Thorenson "showed some promise" on defense, Neuenfeldt said.

The boys fell 17-0. "We couldn't stay up with them at all," Neuenfeldt said, explaining that David Douglas had a taller, heavier team.

The bright spot, Neuenfeldt said, was Tuttle's performance in the second half at goal.

Tuesday the girls got their first win, beating Sunset 10-8.

Connelly and Becky Rodrigues each had four goals.

Everybody got to play in that game. Burns scored eight goals for the boys, but the Pioneers fell 13-9.

"Overall, he did a real fine job for us," Neuenfeldt said about Burns' performance.

Herb Hazlett scored the other goal. Neuenfeldt said that the game was pretty even first half.

This afternoon the Pioneers will take on Beaverton at the Sandy Swim Center. The girls will play at 4 p.m., with the boys playing the second game.

Tournament competitive

To Ron Grantz, SUHS volleyball coach, it doesn't matter that they went 1-3 in a tournament at Barlow last weekend.

"We came away feeling very good, even at one and three," he said.

Out of the eight teams there, five or six "will probably be in the state tournament."

Grantz said, "I think the team from Barlow is going to be one of the best in the state." They beat Sandy, but the third game was close. St. Mary's ended up winning the tournament (with a win in the finals over Thurston), and Sandy lost that third game 15-13.

So again, it could have gone either way.

Grantz said that the coaches there were playing a lot of people, making mistakes but learning.

"I think we improved a lot as the day went on," Grantz said, adding that the people new to the varsity came to realize the caliber of volleyball that they'll need to play.

"We came away knowing

that on any given day we can play with any of the teams that were there."

Grantz said that the Timber Valley League could be one of the strongest in the state this year, which is just about the opposite of the way things were four years ago.

Sandy, Sweet Home, Oregon City and Estacada are all expected to be "real tough" this season.

Silverton, Canby and West Linn also appear to be on the way up.

Grantz said that some of the good teams played

through the winter. So, the Pioneers' skill levels are down a little right now. However, Grantz expects that to balance out about mid-season.

Senior Dawn New's performance Saturday was a pleasant surprise to Grantz. He used to take her out when she went to the back row, but not Saturday. "We left her in and she did a nice job all the way around," Grantz said.

All 11 players for Sandy saw action Saturday. Grantz said that they all had spurts of good and bad.

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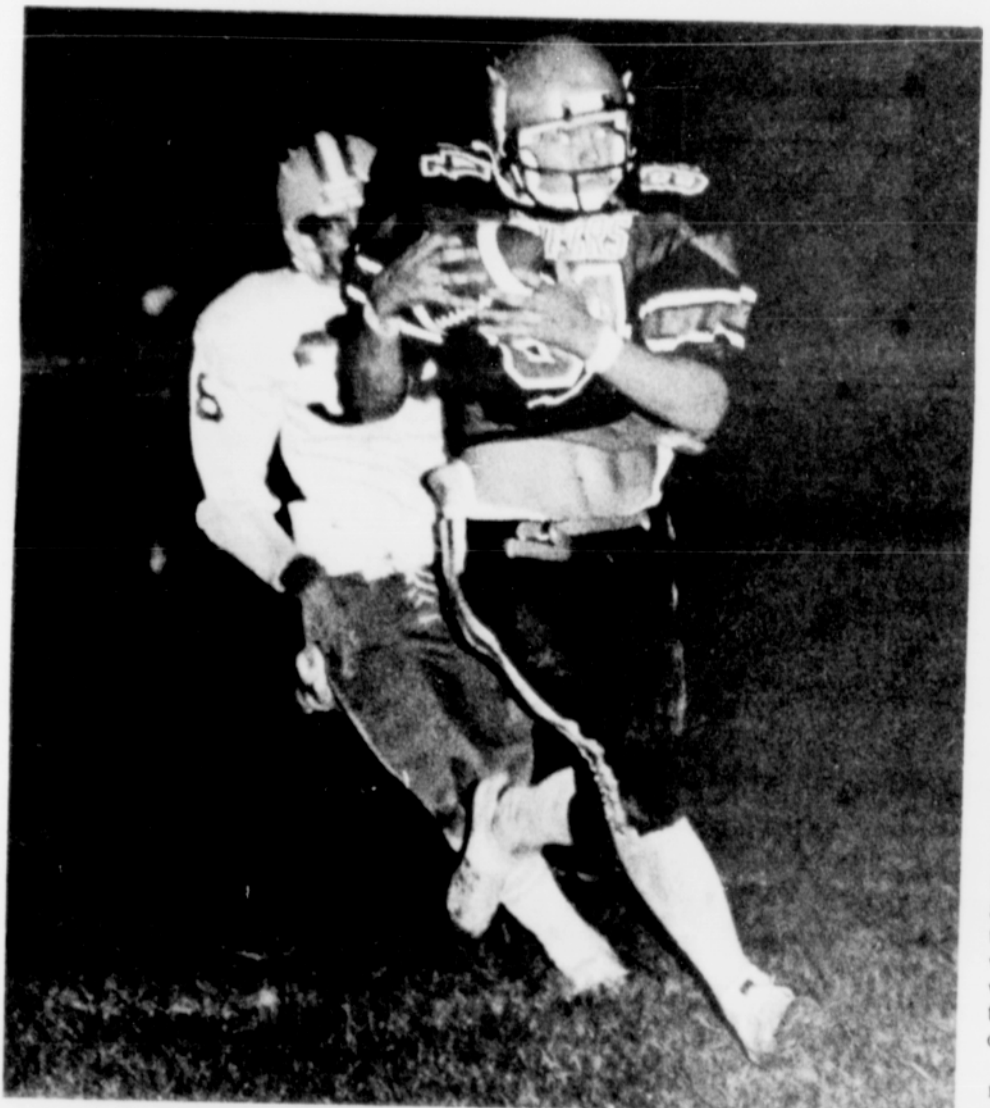
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Todd Byron

Sandy High junior Todd Byron caught touchdown passes of 62 and 60 yards during the Pioneers' 26-0 rout of Jefferson last Friday. He also caught a pass of 27 yards, giving him a total of three receptions for 109 yards.

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Todd Byron heads for the goal-line with a pass reception during the fourth quarter of the Pioneers' 26-0 win over Jefferson Friday night.

Hunter's safety offered

A hunter's safety class is being offered at Cedar Ridge Grade School from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 22-25. Those between the ages of 12 and 17

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