

The founder of Sandy girls softball is moving

by SCOTT NEWTON

Marie Rudisill, the founder of girls softball in Sandy, is going to be leaving the area in the near future.

"We don't know where we're going or what we're going to do," Rudisill said. She's just sure they're going to be moving.

"We're not going to raise the mink anymore," Rudisill said. "You can't get good hired help. And if you can get 'em, they want \$10, \$12 an hour."

"He (Jim, her husband) works seven

days a week, and it's no fun anymore. Seven days a week just doesn't cut it anymore."

They are looking at other farm management opportunities, she said.

Ironically, she is coming off her best season since softball was started here in 1971.

Her 11- and 12-year-old group finished second in the state. "This little team was put together at the last minute this year," Rudisill said. "I wasn't going to coach, but there were kids that at the last minute decided to play. So I thought, by golly, if these kids want to play ball, I'm going to coach."

It was an inexperienced bunch, but "all of a sudden these little kids started clicking, and I mean they started playing ball like little pros."

"And people, they were really shocked."

"So we patted those kids on the back and pushed 'em, and they did just great."

Apparently, only one thing kept it from being a perfect season.

"We did have parent problems," Rudisill said, "because there are some kids that aren't athletes and won't ever be athletes, and it's too bad that parents can't see that."

"What I've found is that the parents, that's your problem. That's the problem you've always had."

"Down there at state we camped out and everything. We had a good time. But some of the kids, either the inexperienced or the younger (ones), didn't get to play as much."

"And so then the parents started knarling a little bit. Then it affects the kids, and I could see it in the last game that we played."

"We should have had first, if the parents would have just cooperated and stood behind the kids and the coaches."

One factor that led to the problem is that when a team goes to state, it's allowed to take two players from other teams in the league.

"And so that meant a couple of the regular kids had to sit on the bench more," Rudisill said. "Sure they helped get us there, but you must realize that all the other teams down there had borrowed two players too. When you get that far you go to win."

"I always tell the kids on the bench, 'You're on the bench but you're in the game.'"

Anyway, she contends, a little bench warming won't hurt an 11-year-old.

"I understand. I really think they do. And, I've benched my own kids lots of times."

Despite the parent problems, Rudisill has good memories of the season. "I just thought that was one heck of a little team," she said.

Rudisill, who is serving a one-year term on the Oregon State Softball Association commission, figures she'll stay involved in softball. When she told Noni Bryant, Oregon's national representative, that she might be moving to Washington, "She said, 'Oh, that's great because Washington needs a lot of help. We'll put you to work up there, Marie.'"

"And I said, 'Now wait a minute ...'"

When softball began in Sandy, in the summer of 1971, \$3 covered the cost of a t-shirt, equipment and insurance.

Having four daughters had a lot to do with her involvement. About the start of the Sandy program, Rudisill said, "I just got 'em together, and said, 'Let's play ball,' and we've been playing ever since."

For a couple seasons she coached two teams, an older one and the younger group.

It was her second trip to state with the younger group, and she's been to state with the older girls three times.

"I was just too easy going on the big kids," she said, explaining that they are harder to handle.

"So, I got a couple of coaches, mean coaches, and turned the older girls over to them."

Since Rudisill coached Cindy, now 19,

and Debbie, now 18, she said that if a coaching job is open wherever they move, that she'll probably take it. Since she coached Cindy and Debbie, Candi, 12, and Angie, 10, think their mother should coach them too.

"I get reminded of that all the time," Rudisill said. "They say, 'You coached them mom, you can coach us too.'"

For now, Rudisill is keeping involved with the OSSA. She feels that a lot of the new people that have been voted in recently at the state level are going to make things good for the kids.

"My statement is, 'I don't care about you coaches. I care about the kids.'"

She also feels good about things locally. She thinks the program is in good hands with Rex Brittle and Cheryl Schwartz.

She said, "I'm sure they're going to make sure things go well."



Marie Rudisill

SUHS Pioneers keep playoff hopes alive

The Indians may have had a homecoming float featuring a smoking "Mt. Molalla," but it was the Pioneers that erupted last week.

They got their record to 5-3 with a 43-6 win, and kept their hopes alive for a playoff spot.

In order to make the state playoffs they'll need to win at West Linn Friday, and Sweet Home will have to down Canby.

That would put Canby, West Linn and Sandy in a three-way tie for third in the Timber Valley League. Oregon City and Sweet Home have first and second, respectively, pretty much wrapped up.

If there is a three-way tie for third, the league principals will vote on who gets the playoff spot.

The Pioneers fell to Canby 13-12 the last Friday of September, though they gained 248 yards to 117 for Cougars.

"We're looking at 6 and 3 and trying to squeeze into those playoffs," said Coach Greg O'Meara earlier this week. "I think the kids are all pumped up. It's a playoff game for us, a really impor-

tant one."

O'Meara said that West Linn has a big-play offense, that they'll put the ball in the air.

O'Meara was pleased with last week's "total team effort."

"We had excellent line blocking," he said.

Bryan Noe, who gained 100 yards on 13 carries, scored first for Sandy on a one-yard dive in the first quarter. Steve Contreras made the PAT kick for a 7-0 lead.

Chuck Kearney, who gained 116 yards on 15 carries, scored next on a 26-yard run.

Noe scored again in the second quarter on a 12-yard run, with Mitch Paola connecting with Kearney for the PAT. Chris Crabtree scored on a seven-yard run, with Contreras kicking, to give Sandy a 28-0 halftime lead.

Scott Skipper added six points with a two-yard run in the third quarter, with Contreras adding the one.

Defensive tackle Bob Weyer got the last touchdown for the Pioneers, picking up a fumble and running it 38 yards.

Paola completed a pass to Todd Byron for the PAT.

Stu Hoffman intercepted two passes for the Pioneers.



Todd Byron catches a PAT throw from Mitch Paola during the Pioneers' 43-6 win over Molalla.



Staff photo

Sophomore quarterback Troy Wolf rolls out during the Pioneer junior varsity's 12-6 win over Molalla. The victory put their record at 3-5 overall.



Bob Weyer

Photo by Scott Newton

Gymnasts down St. Helens

The SUHS gymnastics team evened its dual meet record at 3-3 last week with a 106.5 to 99.3 win over St. Helens in an away meet.

The Pioneers placed people in the top three of each category. Junior Kathy George and senior Janice Hawkins did a good portion of the scoring.

George finished first in the vault, first in the bars, second in floor exercise and third on the balance beam.

Hawkins finished first in the balance beam, first in floor exercise, second in the vault and third on the bars.

Kim Parmenter finished third in the floor exercise.

Coach Molly Knudson said that scoring was low, which is something that

happens sometimes when a team travels out of its area.

The gymnasts take on Silverton tonight at 7 p.m. at home. Sub-district follows that on Nov. 6 at West Linn. The top six people in each event from sub-district go to district, as well as the first-place team.

Knudson said earlier this week that she doesn't think they've started to peak yet.

"I don't think they've reached the potential they have," she said.

"We've yet to have a good night on the balance beam, with very few falls, and we've yet to have a good night on the bars."

"I believe those two events will determine how we do at the sub-district."

Volleyball team wins in two

The Pioneer volleyball team got a 15-4, 15-9 win over West Linn Tuesday in an away game and Coach Ron Grantz said that it was their first "real good team effort in a week and a half."

He added, "Dawn New played very well."

He said that it's a good time for them to start playing well. They've got two

more matches left this season, and have a good chance of qualifying for the district playoffs.

The freshmen also won Tuesday, getting their record to 11-1. The junior varsity won also, which puts their record at 8-4.

A week ago the varsity fell 15-12, 15-12 in a match at Molalla.

Soccer action



Photos by Scott Newton

Above, sophomore Joel Dose, 11, positions himself in the Pioneers' game last week against Tigard, which they lost 3-0. Pictured at left is sophomore Tim Pullen, 6. At right is senior Craig Watts, 5.