

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation

Pioneer football team makes state playoffs



Pioneer senior Tim Sytsma is muddy but happy after their 7-6 win over West Linn.

by SCOTT NEWTON

Sandy senior Dan Martin intercepted a tipped pass in the end zone to end West Linn's chance of getting a come-from-behind win in the Pioneers' final regular season game Friday.

The interception, made on a West Linn first down, finally put a stop to a second-half aerial display put on by sophomore Mike Martus.

The sophomore quarterback completed 13 of 25 for 116 yards, including one pass good for six points with 7:22 left in the game.

West Linn, behind by a point, elected to kick, and missed the mark.

They had the ball twice after that. Sandy junior Mike Marleau made a long, diving catch to end the first drive, and then Martin ended the second one in the final minute of the game.

Martin also intercepted a pass in the second quarter, and Marleau had stolen one midway through the third quarter.

It was Bryan "The Rhino" Noe that scored Sandy's lone touchdown, which came on a two-yard run with 58

seconds left in the first half.

Junior Steve Contreras made the kick, which of course turned out to be decisive.

The win put Sandy in a three-way tie for third in the Timber Valley League. That tie was settled by a principals' vote, with the nod to the state playoffs going to the Pioneers. They'll play undefeated Reynolds at 8 p.m. at Mt. Hood Community College Friday.

The Pioneers had one touchdown called back. Junior Chuck Kearney ran over 20 yards the long way, finally working himself into the end zone, only to have the play called back because of a clipping penalty. Coach Greg O'Meara felt the Sandy player had thrown a clean block, but more than anything was disappointed because Kearney "deserved" the touchdown.

After Sandy's first touchdown junior T.J. Lenchitsky picked up a fumble. Mitch Paola connected with Todd Byron for 13 yards as the Pioneers fought a losing battle to score in those final seconds in the first half.

O'Meara was quite pleased with the defense second half. "They really pulled together and did the job," he said. "They really wanted it."

He said senior Scott Skipper played outstanding defense, and added that his punting was also a key factor.

"Bryan Noe did an excellent job of running," O'Meara said. "He had some good blocking at key times."

Noe carried the ball 22 times for 117

yards. He's gained a total of 500 yards on 97 carries this season, an average of just slightly more than five yards per carry.

Kearney has carried the ball 710 yards on 176 carries, or a little over four yards per carry.

The Pioneers, of course, have their work cut out Friday. Reynolds led the Wilco League in scoring this season with 228 points. They had the second-string defense, having given up only 73 points all season.

They average 5.8 yards every play, and have held opponents to 2.8 yards per snap on the ground. Overall, they've allowed 3.8 yards per play.

Dane Gjesdal is Reynolds' leading rusher. He's gained 710 yards on 131 carries for a 5.4 yard average.

Melvin Renfro Jr. has a 6.6-yard-per-carry average, having run 520 yards on 79 carries.

Quarterback Jack Stanley, a 6-3 senior, has completed 63 of 129 passes for 1,226 yards and 16 touchdowns. He's thrown 11 interceptions.

Tony Dominique, a 6-5 and 200-pound junior, has caught 27 of those passes for 525 yards and nine touchdowns. He is also a first-team tight end and defensive lineman on the recently-announced all-Wilco team.

O'Meara has a lot of respect for Reynolds, but said that they can beat them.

"We got voted into it," he said. "Now we've got a job to do. We've got to show people we deserve it."

New league plan is still tentative

by SCOTT NEWTON

A new nine-district AAA plan is being considered by the Oregon School Activities Association, and Sandy Union High School Athletic Director Mike Kostrba feels it's a good system.

"It's a good league to be in," said Kostrba, who has been athletic director at SUHS since 1973.

Sandy would be back in what will probably be called the Wilco League, which would also include Barlow, Gresham, Centennial, Reynolds, Columbia, David Douglas, Parkrose and The Dalles.

Less traveling is one of the main advantages. "Just the cost of doing business would be less," Kostrba said.

He pointed out that less traveling translates into less school time being missed.

"Plus," he said, "these are good rivalries. Some of these schools are schools we used to compete with."

There have been some appeals made, which "makes this not real well established," Kostrba said.

Central Catholic has made an appeal to be transferred from District 2

(Aloha, Beaverton, Sunset, Hillsboro, Glencoe, Jesuit-Saint Mary's, and Tigard) to District 3, or the Wilco League.

Catholic Central is an east-side school in a west-side district. But, that's where they've been playing for some time.

Tigard has requested being transferred to District 9 (Putnam, Milwaukie, Clackamas, Lake Oswego, Lakeridge, Oregon City and West Linn).

That would put eight teams in District 9, but if Tigard and Central Catholic are both transferred out of District 2, only six teams would remain.

Canby has requested going from District 4 (Newberg, McMinnville, Forest Grove, Silverton, Molalla and Dallas) to District 9.

The Board of Control will meet in closed session this Monday, Nov. 9, and will make a final decision on Dec. 1.

The thing that worries Kostrba is the suggestion that Sandy should be moved from District 3 to District 9.

"Theoretically now," Kostrba said, "this is supposed to be set unless a school requests a change."

In other words, if Sandy doesn't request a change, no change will be made.

"But other people have suggested, 'Hey, Sandy, maybe they should be moved to District 9.'"

That would make District 3 and District 9 eight-team districts.

Kostrba said, "The rationale is, these are all Clackamas County schools."

However, Sandy, which is in the Mt. Hood Community College district and not the Clackamas Community College school district, is not in a good location for playing other Clackamas County schools.

When the so-called June 2 plan is finalized, it will go into effect for four years. The OSAA has been working on the redistricting concept for about two and a half years. The Metro Area Coordinating Committee, of which Kostrba is a member, has been working on the problem for much longer.

It is the Portland area, with the population shifts, and schools opening and closing, that has the problem, Kostrba pointed out.

Kostrba favors an eight-district plan, because it would simplify the playoff system. However, he thinks this plan is still a ways in the future.

About competing in the new league, Kostrba said, "Football is going to be tough. (But) we'll be able to compete in there. In all other sports we already meet these teams."

The Timber Valley League, in which Sandy has finished second and

third in all-sports voting, will go out of existence, unless Districts 4 or 9 decide to take the name.

District 2, in all probability, will remain the Metro League.

Superintendent Jack Peters praised Kostrba for getting Sandy into District 3 at a recent board meeting.

"Mike's the one that deserves the golden feather," Dr. Peters told The Post recently.

Volleyball team wins

The Sandy volleyball team downed Oregon City 15-5, 11-15 and 15-8 Tuesday night to get their record to 9-5.

It was their last regular season match. They finished third in the league and will begin district playoffs this weekend.

The Estacada school levy, which failed Tuesday, has complicated the playoff picture.

By press time the site or Sandy's opponent had not been announced.

Coach Ron Grantz reports that they've played a lot better their last three matches. I think we're getting used to each other, he said.

The junior varsity also won Tuesday. They end the season with a 9-5 record. The freshman won in two games, which gives them a 13-1 record.

Gymnasts defeat Silverton

The Pioneer gymnastics team got a 115.5 to 107.1 win over Silverton Thursday. They'll take a 4-3 dual record into sub-district Friday at Canby.

Sandy had a clean sweep in the vault, with Janice Hawkins taking first, Lori Bouck second and Kim Parmenter third.

Hawkins was first and Bouck was second in the bars. In balance beam Hawkins was second and Parmenter third.

In floor exercise the Pioneers were again dominant, with Parmenter taking first, Hawkins second and Bouck third.

"I was really pleased with for Kim," Coach Molly Knudson said. "She's been working hard all season long."

West Linn will most likely be their competition Friday, and Knudson is hoping they'll have a good day. "It's going to be tough," she said.



Sandy Sexton performs her floor routine during the Pioneers' dual win over Silverton last week.



The Pioneer boys water polo team during a timeout. Pictured, from left to right, is Kurt Herzog, Mark Gunderson, Matt Roth, Jamie Tuttle and Richard Rolph.

SUHS in state water polo tournament

The Sandy girls water polo team finished second in the four-team district tournament at Sam Barlow High School last weekend, which qualifies them for the state tournament.

Sandy seniors Bonita Connelly and Teresa Lamer were honored as the tournament's co-Most Valuable Players.

"They played real well," Coach Carl Neuenfeldt said earlier this

week.

The boys and girls water polo teams have had a hard go of it at times this season, but Neuenfeldt was really pleased with the performances turned in this weekend.

"The kids that I've got, from the beginning of the season, have really improved a lot," he said.

The boys lost out this weekend, but the girls will travel to Beaverton, where they'll play Friday afternoon

in the Tualatin Hills Recreation Center. The 4:10 p.m. game will be against Cottage Grove, one of the best teams in the state, according to Neuenfeldt.

Gresham has the top ranked team in the state. They beat Sandy 21-4 second round, and won again by the same score in the finals.

Sandy played Barlow first round, finally winning 11-10 in overtime. Then they played Gresham, and then Barlow again, as Barlow won its game with Centennial.

The Pioneers didn't have much trouble with SBHS the second time,

winning 11-5.

Then it was back to Gresham in the finals.

Gresham Coach Scott McKechnie reportedly complimented Connelly, saying that his team had a tough time guarding her.

Neuenfeldt said that Connelly is their offensive standout, while Lamer is their defensive standout.

However, he said, "They both do both well."

Connelly and Lamer will be playing in the Wilco League-Metro League All-Star game next Wednesday at Tigard.



The Pioneer girls water polo team during a timeout. Pictured, from left to right, is Bonita Connelly, Kendra Rowland, Dawn Miller, Teresa Lamer, Debbie Izer, Shauny Thoreson, Coach Carl Neuenfeldt and Becky Rodrigues.



Bonita Connelly takes a shot at the goal during a Pioneer girls water polo game last week.