



Darby Binder, SUHS senior, leads the pack going into the first hill of the Oregon State Cross Country Meet Saturday in Eugene.

Photos by Scott Newton



Sam Romey



Sharon Jensen

## SUHS sophomores place well

Sandy Union High School sophomore Sam Romey finished 29th at the state cross country meet at Lane Community College in Eugene Saturday, and sophomore Sharon Jensen finished 16th.

Romey, the District 9 champion, was the district's top finisher with a time of 17:08 on the 5,000-meter course.

Jensen, who finished second in district competition, was the second-fastest runner from District 9 in state competition. She ran the 3,000-meter course in 11:30.2.

Coach Scott McMullen said that the course was wet and muddy, which is why the times were slow.

Senior Darby Binder started out fast, but fell later in the race, and didn't recover. She finished 119th with a time of 12:10.1.

Binder told McMullen after the race, in explaining her fast start, that she felt good. Other runners fell going down the same hill that Binder fell on.

"I'm really pleased with all of them," McMullen said.

# SUHS water polo team refused to let its season fall apart

by SCOTT NEWTON

The regular season wasn't too outstanding (3-6) for the SUHS girls water polo team, but the Pioneers got it together at the end of the season and became the first Sandy girls water polo team to make it to the state tournament.

"Everyone on the girls team was really dedicated to what they were doing," senior Bonita Connelly said last week.

"We really wanted to win," added senior Teresa Lamer.

The Pioneers fell in the first round of the tournament, losing to the eventual state champions, Cottage Grove.

"They're all together," Connelly said about Cottage Grove, explaining that they have a fast team and good shooters.

Another team that had it all together was the state runners-up, Gresham. Gresham won the district meet handily. So, one might expect that the district tournament's Most Valuable Player would be from Gresham. Instead, the referees selected Connelly and Lamer as co-MVPs.

Connelly and Lamer were also first team Wilco all-stars.

They also have a few other things in common. Both are National Honor Society members, work at the Sandy

Swim Center, plan to study business in college, and hope to play water polo in college.

We're looking for somebody to put out the word that we're available, Lamer joked when asked if she wanted to continue playing water polo.

They've played in enough all-star games to have been noticed. They played in the Wilco-Metro all-star game. "It really went pretty well until the last quarter," Lamer said, ex-

## Hawkins advances to state

Sandy Union High School senior Janice Hawkins qualified for the state gymnastics meet by finishing in a tie for fifth place in the balance beam at the district meet last week in West Linn.

She turned in a "really nice routine" in the preliminaries at West Linn, according to Coach Molly Knudson.

Her 8.35 score placed her third. She fell once in the finals, while doing her mount, and received a score of 8.05, which gave her a combined score of 16.4.

The Oregon State Gymnastics Meet will be at Reynolds High School Saturday.

"We're real excited for her," Knudson said.

plaining that it was a close game until the fourth quarter. "They ended up in the last quarter just pumping 'em in," she said about the 8-3 loss.

Lamer and Connelly also participated in the North-South game, which the North lost 9-7.

Connelly, the team's leading scorer, scored a goal in each of the all-star games. Lamer, Sandy's standout defensive player, probably turned in the best defensive performance of the night during the Wilco-Metro all-star game, according to Coach Carl Neuenfeldt.

Neuenfeldt has pointed out in the past that they can both play either offense or defense well.

Connelly, in explaining why Lamer is primarily a defensive player, said, "You need a person on the outside that can bring the ball down. She can handle the ball really well against pressure."

And, being that she was back, she was usually the first person down on defense.

A couple of things make it hard for SUHS water polo teams to compete. While a number of Wilco and Metro League schools play water polo in the summer, Sandy has no AAU-sanctioned program.

Also, Neuenfeldt is not in the high school building to recruit players or talk to team members. He teaches at Cedar Ridge.

"We have to be the people to support it, and do all the things at the school," Connelly said.

Asked if it's discouraging losing by a lopsided score, to a team like Gresham, for example, Lamer said, "We just give it all we have. It might be discouraging, but not really."

Connelly said, "Afterwards we don't feel sorry for ourselves because

we lost. We just walk into the locker room and go, 'Hey, we played a good game,' if we thought we did."

Connelly added, "The team this year was young, and we lost two of our good players (for disciplinary reasons)."

"They (the team) came back and worked just really hard. I think we were pretty successful."

Neuenfeldt said that he agrees with that observation. "They really played well considering we lost a lot of team speed," he said. "They made up for it with good, aggressive play."

Both said that they enjoyed playing under Neuenfeldt.

Likewise, Neuenfeldt said that he enjoyed coaching Connelly and Lamer.

"They know I'm really involved in it and they are receptive to what I have to say," Neuenfeldt said.

Right now the swim team is on the minds of all three of them.

Neuenfeldt is the assistant coach. Lamer finished second in the 500-yard freestyle in district competition last year, which earned her a berth in the state meet.

Connelly has been to state in the 200-yard freestyle for the past three years.

And what are the prospects for the swim team this winter?

"Oh, number one in districts," Connelly said.

Lamer agrees. "We plan on taking first in districts, and going on to state."



Teresa Lamer and Bonita Connelly

Staff photo



Castile Construction won the Sandy Recreation Department's "A" division volleyball league title last week. Castile Construction had to get past Mountain Realty to take possession of the trophy, and edged them 15-13 in the third game. Pictured on the back row, from left to right, is Tom Well, Randy Castile and Ric Castile. On the front row, from left to right, is Penny Matros, Colene McDonald and Karla Estes.

Staff photo

## Volleyball team falls in playoffs

The Sandy Union High School girls volleyball team fell to South Albany Saturday 15-7, 4-15 and 9-15 in the first round of the state playoffs.

Coach Ron Grantz said he is disappointed about losing the game, and added that he thinks the girls are too.

We realize we didn't play that well, Grantz said.

The game was played at Albany in front of a good-sized crowd.

About the season, Grantz said, "Anytime you advance to the state playoffs, it's a pretty successful season."

The Pioneers were one of 20 teams in the playoffs. Eight teams played last weekend for four berths in the state tournament, which will be held this weekend.



Senior Julie Coleman hits one for Sandy during last weekend's playoff game.

Photo by Scott Newton