

# Girls first, boys fourth in ski season opener

"What can you say about the girls team," asks Robert Karsten, SUHS ski coach.

With Anne Sarich finishing first, Sue Sarich second, Ulla Pearson third, Charr Bridge fourth and Marcy Huff seventh, the results pretty much tell the story.

The Pioneers, last year's state

champions, won a ski meet at Timberline Saturday by 12 seconds.

Although the girls skied well, Karsten said that they know what they did wrong, and that there is room for improvement.

"We will improve," he said.

The boys finished fourth, but were only one and one-tenth of a second out

of first. That gives you an idea how close the competition is, Karsten said.

"They wore their turtle-necks too tight and choked," Karsten said about the boys.

It was a fair performance, he said, adding that they won't make it to state making the kinds of errors they

made.

Freshman Steve Sarich finished third.

"He's a very talented skier," Karsten said. "I expect a lot out of him."

"It's nice to see him ski and know he's going to be on my team for a few more years."

Robert Spradling finished 10th. Karsten said that he's a "good, dependable finisher."

With a few corrections in technique he'll be finishing in the top three, Karsten said.

Karsten said that Brian Silvey's 14th-place finish was "a real nice surprise."

Two varsity skiers fell, hurting the boys chances.

"We have the ability to win," Karsten said. A couple of errors kept the results from being more favorable.

The ski team will be back in action Saturday, skiing at Mt. Hood Meadows.

Individual results

For the girls: Anne Sarich, 1st, 38.45; Sue Sarich, 2nd, 39.1; Ulla Pearson, 3rd, 39.15; Charr Bridge, 4th, 40.0; Marcy Huff, 7th, 41.4; Kris VanSteenis, 20th, 52.9.

For the boys: Steve Sarich, 3rd, 36.6; Robert Spradling, 10th, 38.6; Brian Silvey, 14th, 39.2; Erik Marter, 17th, 40.0.



Sandy freshman Steve Sarich completes a turn in a ski meet at Timberline. Sarich finished third in the giant slalom Saturday.

Photo by Scott Newton

## Pioneer boys downed by Sweet Home

Sweet Home knotted up the TVL race Tuesday night, handing the Sandy boys a 63-53 loss.

Sandy, Sweet Home, Oregon City and Canby all have 3-1 records in league play. That will change Friday, when the Pioneers host Oregon City in what could be a key matchup.

Coach Dan Brisbin said that the key to that game will be to deny the ball inside, while at the same time controlling Paul Poetsch, Oregon City's outside shooter.

Sandy stayed in the game Tuesday with Sweet Home for three quarters, but went cold for a spell in the fourth quarter, going from one down to seven down.

Steve Palmer was the leading scorer for Sandy with 14.

Although Sandy never got its fast break going, Brisbin didn't feel like they played poorly. They had three- and four-point leads in the fourth quarter, but could never pull away.

Sweet Home always seemed able to get a bucket from Alan Vasey, a 6-1 senior guard. Vasey scored 27.

# Pressure: Chuck Kearney oblivious to it

by SCOTT NEWTON

Fans at the finals of the North Bend Invitational were gearing up for a big match between hometown standout Dave Harless and Sandy's Chuck Kearney.

The home crowd was disappointed, however, as it wasn't even close. Kearney won 24-6.

Coach Ron Calhoun started to say that Kearney turned him every which way but loose, but then realized that wasn't appropriate. Kearney turned him loose six times, only to take him down six times, a number of times putting Harless on his back on the way down.

The SUHS junior, who was second in state last year at Parkrose, now has a 15-0 record. The 178 pounder was voted Most Outstanding Wrestler by visiting coaches at the Carey Larson Memorial, and received the same honor at the Cardinal Classic in Tacoma, again by a vote of the coaches.

"From what I've seen, he appears to be heads and tails above the rest," Calhoun said. "Anybody that he's met so far he's just dominated."

About his wrestling, Kearney said recently, "I've been around it all my life, but I didn't start seriously till I was nine."

His father, Chuck Senior, was also a high school wrestler, and has been coaching since the mid-60s.

Kearney Junior was wrestling at Mark Spragg's U.S.A. Oregon when it was just three guys wrestling on a mat in the basement.

At 11 he quit U.S.A. Oregon, where burnout can be a problem, and started working out with his father's high school teams.

He can remember Kid Wrestling tournaments that started at 9 a.m. and lasted into the early hours of the morning.

As a freshman Kearney finished second in district competition, and won three but lost two at state, the best one can do and still not place.

About his loss at state last year to Steve Brilowski (now at the University of Oregon), Kearney said, "He was a better wrestler that night, but I shouldn't have lost."

"I got to the state meet and got tight. I got really nervous."

He lost by four or five points, but got his revenge two weeks later at the Oregon State Freestyle championships, winning 7-1 for the title.

Kearney was also second in the Oregon State Greco championships (In freestyle, wrestlers spend more time on their feet. In Greco-Roman, wrestlers also spend time on their feet, but may not use their legs, or attack an opponent's legs). He also won the Western Regional Freestyle competition.

Having won the Oregon State Freestyle title, Kearney wrestled the winner of the Cultural Exchanges Challenger's Tournament, and won, which earned him a spot on the Oregon Coaches Association's exchange team.

So Kearney, along with Chris Jones, traveled across Canada last summer, wrestling in duals and tour-

naments. They ended up at Iowa City, at the U.S. Wrestling Federation-sponsored Junior Nationals, where Kearney finished second.

Kearney, however, is not a one-sport athlete. He rushed for over 800 yards for the Pioneer football team, with Sandy qualifying for the state playoffs.

An injury, suffered about mid-season, slowed Kearney down somewhat at the start of wrestling season, but the long break at Christmas seems to have given his separated shoulder time to heal.

Although the accident that claimed the life of Carey Larson and has kept Chris Jones and Dean Fischer from participating this year has discouraged recent talk about a state championship, Kearney is still optimistic.

"I think if a few key people develop the way they should that we could still be state champions."

Kearney, whose father started teaching at SUHS last year, tried to transfer, and at one time had the approval of the OSAA. But later, the OSAA wasn't so sure it would be all right, so rather than take any chances Kearney stayed at Parkrose.

Had Kearney been at Sandy last year, the points he earned at the AAA state tournament would have made the Pioneers the state champions.

There's not much doubt that being at Sandy is good for him.

At Parkrose only his coach provid-

ed any real competition in practice. At Sandy, he has to contend with the likes of Cal McKinnis, Dan Martin and Scott Skipper.

One has to wonder if the 17 year old, who'd like to wrestle for Dan Gable at The University of Iowa, isn't affected by the pressure. He is, after all, always expected to win.

"I've felt that pressure since my freshman year because, being a successful Kid wrestler, everyone's anxious to see how you do in high school."

"With dad being a coach, and knowing everyone, I've felt it."

"If you live with it, you get used to it, and you couldn't see it any other way."



Chuck Kearney

## Bad luck was the only luck the Pioneer wrestlers had

"If it weren't for bad luck, we wouldn't have any luck at all."

Considering how things went for Ron Calhoun last week, it isn't surprising he feels that way.

First, the Pioneer wrestlers fell 26-25 in a dual at Canby.

Then, perhaps with a little bad luck in the draw, only six of 13 wrestlers won first round at the North Bend Invitational.

Four of those six earned championships, but as a team they didn't get enough wrestlers through to do any damage, and finished third.

Then, adding insult to injury... Maybe that's a bad way to put it. Anyway, Sandy may have lost junior Larry Topliff, a 106 pounder with a 14-1 record. Topliff, who hurt his knee at the North Bend Tournament, is a returning district champion, Oregon State Freestyle champion and a third-place finisher at last year's

AAA state tournament.

Topliff beat two outstanding wrestlers to win the North Bend title, according to Calhoun.

Calhoun said that if damage was done only to the cartilage, Topliff could be back in a week or two as that is not as serious of an injury anymore. If he has ligament damage, which x-rays seem to have ruled out, he would be out for considerably longer.

The outlook has not been all dismal for the wrestling team.

Tim Systma, for example, has a 15-0 record. The Sandy heavyweight provided Pioneer fans with an outlet in the occasionally-frustrating dual against Canby. He pinned his opponent 34 seconds into the match.

"He's wrestling well, and moving well," said Calhoun.

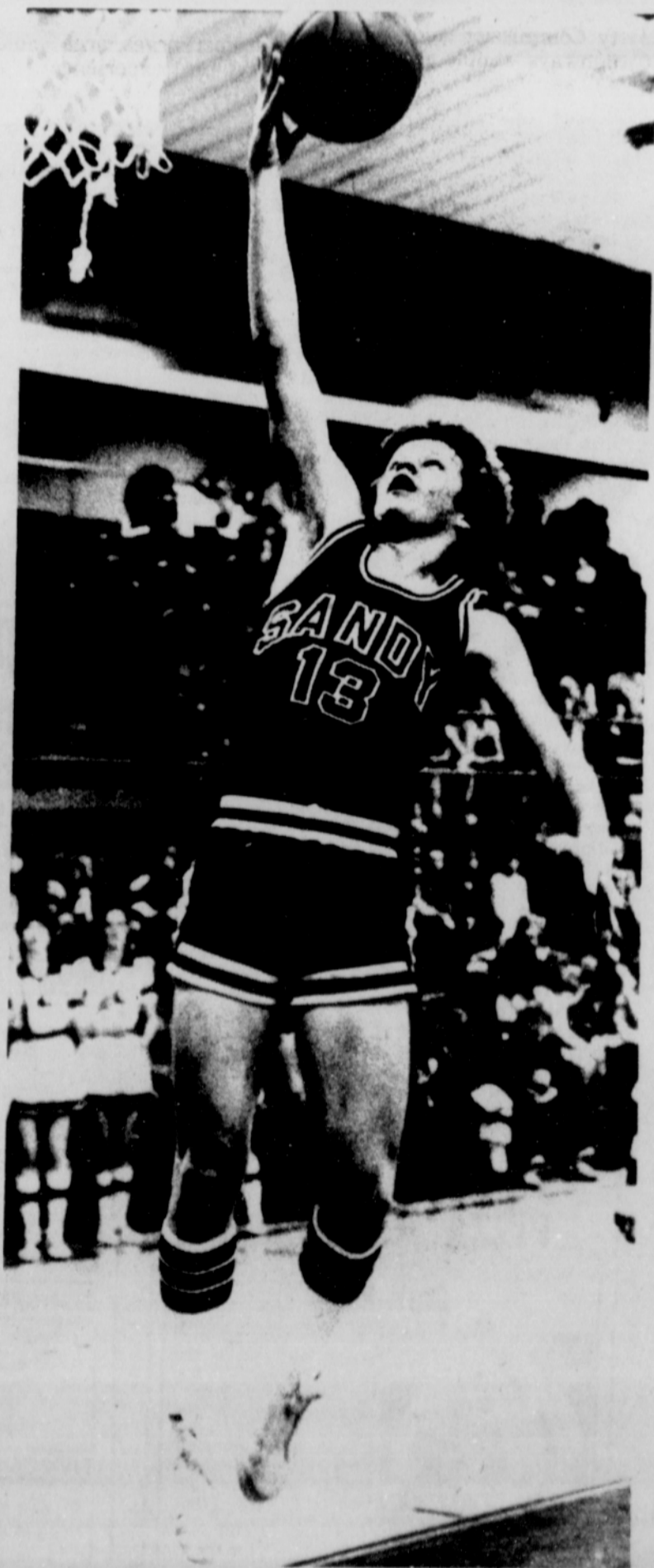


Photo by Scott Newton

Sandy junior Mike Lund lays up a shot during the Pioneers win over Estacada Friday.



Kearney en route to a 13-3 win over his opponent from Canby.

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