

Wrestlers win, await awesome opponents

The Pioneer wrestlers, ranked fifth this week in the coach's poll in The Oregonian, got a Timber Valley League win over Molalla Thursday and won the Gresham Invitational by a single point.

More awesome opponents await them.

The wrestlers make that long trip to Sweet Home for a dual tonight. Sweet Home, ranked ninth, downed Canby (no. three) 26-24 recently.

The Pioneers, one may remember, fell 26-25 to Canby.

The Pioneers will have a week to rest before another challenging Thursday. On Feb. 4 the wrestlers will travel to Oregon City for a 2 p.m. makeup match, and then will return home to host Estacada in the evening.

Oregon City, ranked fourth in the state, crushed Sweet Home recently.

Coach Ron Calhoun admits they'll have a hard time in the coming weeks. He said that they're going into the final phases of training in preparation for the district meet.

He's said all along that they've got a better tournament team, as compared to a dual-meet team.

About the 33-26 win over Molalla, Calhoun said, "I've talked to a lot of coaches wanting to know what the deal is. 'Is Sandy really bad or is Molalla really good?'"

He said that three factors resulted in the close score. First of all, Molalla has a good team, he said.

There were also a lot of mismatches, he said, with Molalla's stronger wrestlers matched up against Sandy's weaker ones.

And finally, three starters were out. Mo Contreras and Doug

Zilkowski have been suffering from the flu, and of course Larry Topliff is hobbling round on crutches.

Calhoun, by the way, gives Topliff a better than 50-50 chance of being back in uniform by the time the district tournament rolls round.

Calhoun said that Mel Gedde, at 106, and Dan King, at 148, "showed a great deal of courage" against Molalla. Both lost, but Calhoun was pleased with the "heart and spirit" that was displayed.

Calhoun has also been pleased with senior Tim Sytsma. The Sandy heavyweight won his fifth tournament title Saturday, pinning all three of his opponents along the way.

The three victories got his record to 19-0.

"I was impressed by the caliber of wrestling that took place at that tournament," Calhoun said.

The Pioneers won by a single point. They won all three duals in the four-team tournament, but the scoring was based on individual finishes, not team scores.

David Douglas was second with 99 points, and Gresham wasn't far behind with 83.

John Cox, a 98 pounder, won three matches Saturday. "He had been struggling but he looked good at this tournament," Calhoun said.

Mike Rohweder, a 130 pounder, lost his first match, but then won two high-scoring battles.

"He's exciting," Calhoun said. "He's probably more of a natural athlete than anyone on the team."

Calhoun said a turning point in the tournament was freshman Brent Kearney's first-period pin against Gresham, the second dual wrestled. "That helped boost us a little bit

because there wasn't so much pressure on the big kids," Calhoun said about the 136 pounder's win.

He said that sometimes the lightweights struggle, which forces the wrestlers in the upper weights to go for falls. He said that it isn't that the lighter wrestlers aren't trying, it's just the way the season's been going.

Calhoun was also pleased with a number of second varsity wrestlers.

Frank McKinnis, a 178 pounder, is 19-0, and won his fifth tournament title Saturday. Brad Emerson, a 98 pounder, won his fourth title Saturday.

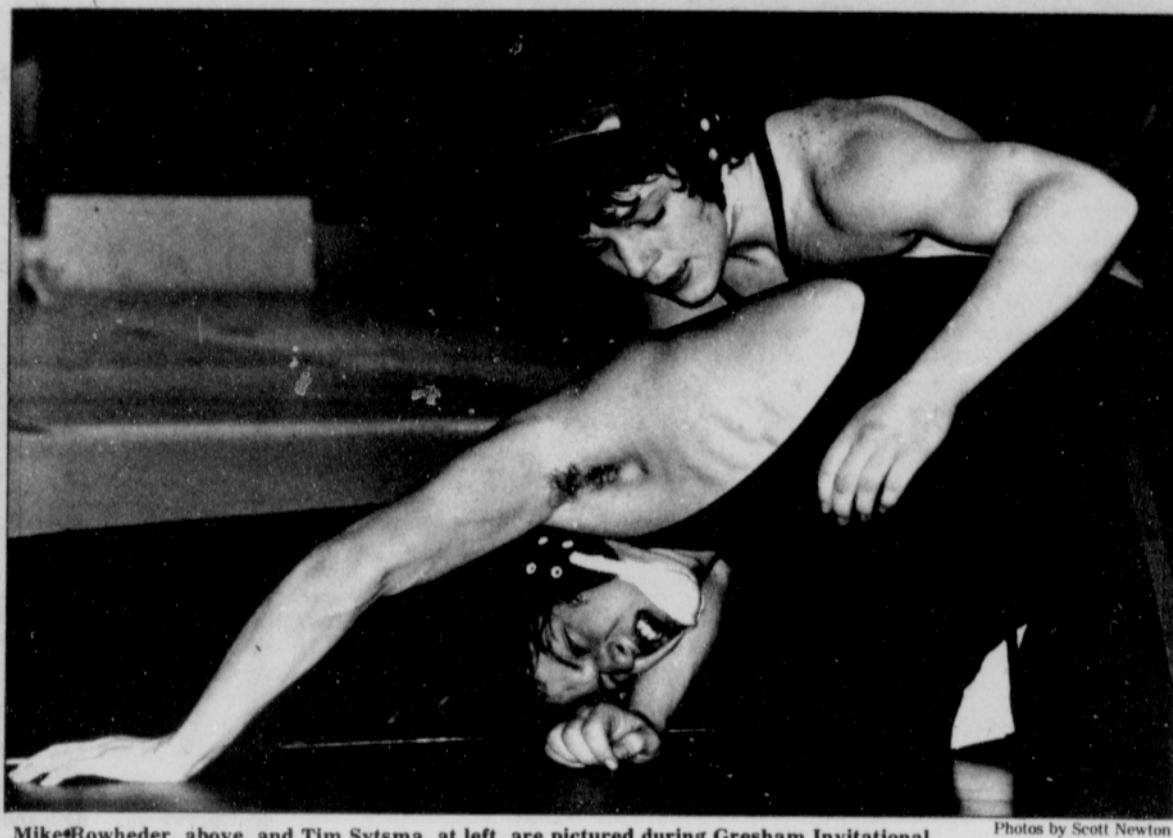
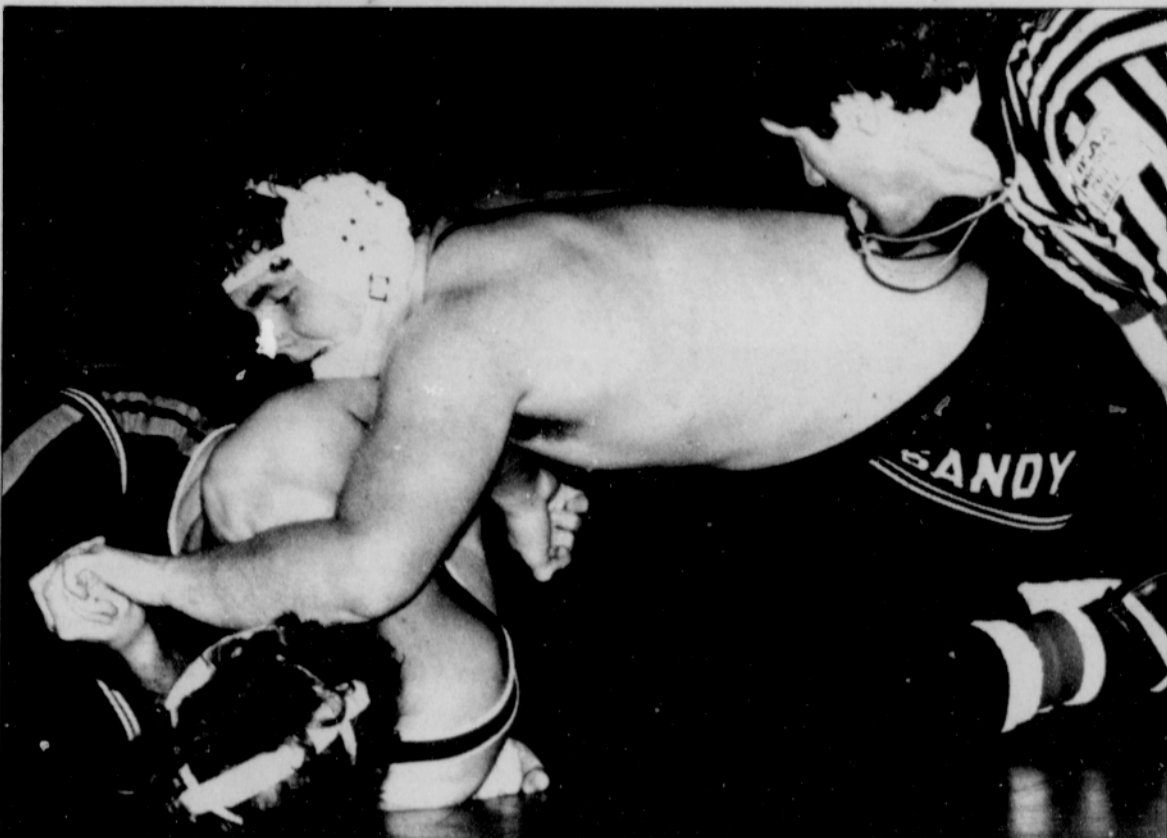
Loren Bateman and Bob Weyer were also credited with wrestling well.

SUHS 33, Molalla 26
Jan. 21

- 96. John Cox fell 7-6 to Swartout
- 106. Mel Gedde fell 16-3 to Barth
- 113. Randy Swanson fell 8-4 to Mendez
- 123. Bill Mathews pinned Heddon, 2nd, 3:05
- 130. Mike Rohweder won 9-3 over Morris
- 136. Brent Kearney was pinned by Arice, 1st, 3:2
- 141. Paul Gagner was pinned by Brewer, 1st, 5:9
- 148. Dan King fell 20-13 to Fox
- 157. Dan Martin won by forfeit
- 168. Cal McKinnis won by forfeit
- 178. Chuck Kearney pinned Marshall, 1st, 1:05
- 191. Randy Carmony won 11-9 over LaTose
- HWT. Tim Sytsma won 13-8 over Roth

Invitational

- Team scores: Sandy, 100; David Douglas, 99; Gresham, 83; N. Salem, 69.
- 98. John Cox, 3-0, 1st, 1:06; Mel Gedde, 0-3, 4th
 - 115. Randy Swanson, 1-2, 3rd; 123. Bill Mathews, 0-2-1, tied for 3rd; 130. Mike Rohweder, 2-1, 2nd
 - 136. Brent Kearney, 1-2, 3rd; 141. Paul Gagner, 0-3, 4th; 148. Dan King, 0-3, 4th; 157. Dan Martin, 3-0, 1st; 168. Cal McKinnis, 3-0, 1st; 178. Chuck Kearney, 3-0, 1st; 191. Randy Carmony, 2-1, 2nd
 - HWT: Tim Sytsma, 3-0, 1st.



Mike Rohweder, above, and Tim Sytsma, at left, are pictured during Gresham Invitational.

Photos by Scott Newton

Roth waiting for the times to get better

by SCOTT NEWTON

Gayle Roth is also waiting for her times to start dropping.

That is in addition to wanting the times to get better.

Roth, the Sandy Union High School senior class president and a regular feature at AAA state track and swim meets, has had a lot on her mind recently.

There is a name taped to her kick board, and that's who has been on her mind.

When Chris Jones, Roth's on-again, off-again boyfriend for 13 months, was in a traffic accident this fall, it pretty much changed any chance either of them had for a normal, memorable senior year.

"It really took a lot out of me," Roth said, "but it helped me push myself sometimes too."

Roth said that Jones was very dedicated, and also concerned about her progress as an athlete.

Although she didn't swim for a week after the accident, she finally got started again, and decided to dedicate the season to him.

"I was going out there swimming for him, and right after swim practice I'd go see him at the hospital. It was taking so much out of me, physically and mentally. After awhile it was so hard."

All along Roth has had to deal with the skeptics.

"I think I had a lot more faith than a lot of other people did," she said Saturday at Gresham, where Roth and Jones and others watched the Pioneer wrestlers win the Gresham Invitational.

Roth had held out for some time, waiting for Jones to come out of his coma, not knowing if he'd even remember her.

And now, even if progress is slow, Roth is optimistic about a full recovery.

Jones has been surprising people so far. She doesn't see any reason for it to stop now.

And, Roth might have a few surprises of her own up her sleeve.

She's been to three state track meets, finishing sixth in the 800-meter run last year. Last summer she won the Oregon Junior Olympic Heptathlon, which is a combination of seven events, including the 100-meter hurdles, the 200-meter run, the 800-meter run, the high jump, the long jump, the javelin throw and the shot put.

Versatility may be her strong point, she said.

Roth also finished second in Northwestern Regional competition.

Although Roth comes from a swimming family, she said that track is probably her favorite sport, and the one she would like to participate in at the college level.

Her father, Nick, a former high school swimmer himself, now keeps involved as a stroke and turn judge.

Her oldest brother, Steve, is a swim coach for the Eastmont swim club in Gresham. Chris is at the University of Washington, and has already qualified for the NCAA nationals.

Her youngest brother (she has four brothers and an older sister), Matt, broke Chris's school record in the 100 back.

He could turn out to be the best swimmer in the family, Roth said. "He's really dedicated."

She added, "My mom started tak-



Gayle Roth

ing lessons a few years ago, and so she finally got in the swing of things and started swimming too."

As for Gayle, she owns the school's 200 IM record, and has the best time of any swimmer in the district in the 200 IM, the 50 free, the 100 free and the 100 back.

She has the second-best time in the 100 fly.

As a freshman she finished fourth in the 50 free at the state meet. As a sophomore she again finished fourth in the 50 free, and also finished sixth in the 100 free.

Last year she was third in the 50 free and sixth in the 100 free.

She said that she has good starts and can make a good turn, which probably makes her a better sprinter than anything else.

Eventually, Roth would like to be an accountant, as math is one of her best subjects. Journalism is also a possibility though, she said.

For the immediate future, the goal is a district championship.

Roth, who said that she is continually pushed in practice by teammates Teresa Lamer and Bonita Connelly, pointed out that they've lost out

in the district race the last two years.

"It's just not as fun losing as it is winning," Roth said with a laugh.

"I could tell every year how coaches sit up all night long trying to figure out plan A, plan B, plan C and all the different lineups," Roth said.

"They put so much time into that district meet you have to do your best, whatever event you're in."

Roth admits she's not the easiest person to coach, but she likes Mark Smith. For one thing, he pushes her, she said.

"I think he's one of the best

coaches around," she said.

Roth said that even though they lost in a dual against Gresham, that they could still beat them out for the district title.

A lack of depth hurt them in the dual, where she thinks their strong swimmers could pull them through at the district meet.

Roth said that she feels strong, but not fast, and so she was anxious to begin speed workouts this week.

She's ready for her times to start dropping, and for the times to get better.

Girls win dual with Centennial; boys fall but effort is praised

When the Sandy girls downed Centennial 89-67 Thursday, it was the first time since Mark Smith has been coaching at Sandy that a girls team has been victorious over the Eagles.

However, it was also the first time he's had a boys team lose to Centennial.

They fell 82-74.

Still, Smith, who has been coaching here since 1974, was not displeased with the efforts put forth by the Pioneer boys.

"It was a superb job for the second week in a row for the boys," Smith said. "I have to say that I'm very impressed."

Eight members of the boys team set personal records, with many of

them doing it in more than one event.

"I think in some cases some of the swimmers are beginning to surprise themselves," Smith said.

The boys finished first in six of the ten events, but again depth hurt them. Also, Rick Topliff, the team's 50 and 100 free sprinter, was out with the flu.

"That could've made the difference," Smith said. The meet was close until the end, with Centennial winning the 400 free relay and clinching the win.

The girls took first in seven out of 10 events.

Shelly Erickson turned in an "outstanding" performance, dropping a minute and 20 seconds off her 500 free time.

"She certainly felt it after the event," Smith said of the senior, who is new to the swim team this year. "She enjoys that event, by the way. She's really working hard."

Smith also praised sophomore Brenda DuBois, who qualified for district competition in the 100 back.

"I was very pleased with the fact she was able to perform that well," Smith said.

The girls have a 3-1 dual record. The boys have a 2-2 record.

The swim team will be hosted by Barlow High School in a dual this afternoon.

SUHS 89, Centennial 67
Jan. 21

- 200 Medley Relay: Gayle Roth, Heidi Lamer, Bonita Connelly and Teresa Lamer, 1st, 2:05.37; Kelly Russell, Julie Dasher, Shauny Thoreson and Shelly Erickson, 4th, 2:34.71.
- 300 Free: T. Lamer, 2nd, 2:19.98; H. Lamer, 4th, 2:25.80; Russell, 6th, 3:14.64.
- 200 IM: Roth, 1st, 2:24.17; Nici DuBois, 3rd,

- 2:58.19; Lisa Izer, 5th, 3:05.82
- 50 Free: Connelly, 1st, 27.92; Thoreson, 2nd, 30.76; Dawn Miller, 3rd, 30.88
- 100 Fly: Connelly, 1st, 1:09.78; N. DuBois, 3rd, 1:30.05; Brenda DuBois, 5th, 1:47.46
- 100 Free: T. Lamer, 1st, 1:03.42; Donna Nelson, 3rd, 1:06.58; Miller, 4th, 1:12.01
- 500 Free: Izer, 2nd, 6:57.28; Erickson, 5th, 8:06.08
- 100 Back: Roth, 1st, 1:08.12; Nelson, 3rd, 1:20.40; B. DuBois, 5th, 1:28.42
- 100 Breast: H. Lamer, 2nd, 1:21.25; Dasher, 3rd, 1:26.97; Thoreson, 5th, 1:30.67
- 400 Free Relay: Nelson, N. DuBois, Izer and Miller, 1st, 4:55.90

SUHS boys 71, Centennial 82

- 200 Medley Relay: Richard Rolph, Jamie Tuttle, Matt Roth, Kurt Herzog, 1st, 1:51.27
- 200 Free: Shawn Burns, 2nd, 1:58.80; Mark Gunderson, 3rd, 2:09.24; Steve Clark, 4th, 2:31.62
- 200 IM: Roth, 1st, 2:09.21; Tuttle, 3rd, 2:26.90
- 50 Free: Herzog, 1st, 24.90; Clark, 4th, 29.12
- 100 Fly: Roth, 1st, 56.73; Herzog, 3rd, 1:07.15
- 100 Free: Rolph, 2nd, 55.93; Brian Stamm, 4th, 1:03.66; Darrin Britton, 5th, 1:04.49
- 500 Free: Burns, 1st, 5:14.87; Gunderson, 4th, 5:58.19
- 100 Back: Rolph, 1st, 1:04.79; Stamm, 3rd, 1:24.50
- 100 Breast: Tuttle, 2nd, 1:09.22; Britton, 5th, 1:21.29
- 400 Free Relay: Burns, Gunderson, Britton and Stamm, 2nd, 4:12.82

Personal records

- For the girls: Brenda DuBois, 100 fly, from 1:49.5 to 1:47.76, and 100 back, from 1:32.0 to 1:28.42; Donna Nelson, 100 free, from 1:08.2 to 1:06.58; Shelly Erickson, 500 free, from 9:27.3 to 8:06.08; Julie Dasher, 100 breast, from 1:27.1 to 1:26.97

- For the boys: Steve Clark, 200 free, from 2:32.74 to 2:31.62; Matt Roth, 200 IM, from 2:14.2 to 2:09.31; Kurt Herzog, 50 free, from 25.44 to 24.90; 100 fly, from 1:12.2 to 1:07.15; Brian Stamm, 100 free, from 1:11.5 to 1:03.66; 100 back, from 1:29.67 to 1:24.5; Darrin Britton, 100 free, from 1:08.54 to 1:04.49; 100 breast, from 1:23.0 to 1:21.29; Shawn Burns, 500 free, from 5:14.9 to 5:14.87; 100 free, from 56.9 to 56.8; Richard Rolph, 100 back, from 1:05.49 to 1:04.79; Jamie Tuttle, 100 breast, 1:09.64 to 1:09.22



Brenda DuBois is pictured during the girls' win over Centennial Thursday.

Photo by Scott Newton