

# Chess team settles for TVL dual-meet title

by SCOTT NEWTON

The Pioneer chess team will have to settle for being Timber Valley League dual-meet champions for the second year in a row. Even though they had the

best record at the four-team TVL tournament, with 10 wins, three losses and two draws, they lost the round robin to Oregon City for the second consecutive year. Sandy junior Tim Zimmerman was first board

champion, winning a trophy Saturday at the meet, held at SUHS. Junior Pete Watkins, second board champion, was the only individual to win all three games.

"He played well," Coach Roger Ford said. "That's the best I've seen him play. He really squashed people."

Senior Chris Botcheos was 2-1-0, and tied with two others for the fourth board

title. Other Sandy players include senior Mike Niemeyer, third board, and junior Roman Scott, fifth board.

The Pioneers have earned a berth to the state

meet, which will be held Feb. 26 and 27 at Crescent Valley High School in Corvallis.

Last year Sandy was the surprise team at the 16-team state tournament, finishing sixth, the highest

finish of any school from the greater Portland area.

Out of five teams from the north, Sandy was probably number five, Ford said.

"We just went down there and played well."

Ford figured they'd win one game. Instead they won two and a half, and took home a trophy.

About 40 to 45 schools in Oregon have chess teams, Ford said.

Sandy will take a 4-4 dual meet record into the state meet.

They were 3-0 against TVL opponents (Oregon City, Silverton and Estacada).

This is the third year Sandy has fielded a chess team.

Zimmerman came on well in the second half of the season, Ford said.

He recently won the OMSI High School Regional meet, and will compete in the OMSI High School State meet in March.

Ford said that Zimmerman and Botcheos are aggressive players, attacking players.

Watkins, Niemeyer and Scott, on the other hand, wait for their opponents to make a mistake, and then capitalize on it.

Ford points out that chess is an inexpensive sport.

"We don't need much equipment," he said, adding that the sports wears on one's nerves more than on his tennis shoes.

Ford's hobby is chess. And he also participates in the "exciting, exhilarating, fast-paced sport of postal chess."

He has 21 games going, with players from all over the United States and Canada.

"It's kind of like, every time you get a card, you've got a puzzle to solve," Ford said.

He also competes in Northwest Chess, and considers himself an average player.

Ford said the younger players who really want to develop should start competing in Northwest Chess. He said when one "gets waxed in 15 moves" one discovers how much there is to learn.

Ford has been playing some Sunday nights with the Mr. Hood Chess Club, and said that it makes for an enjoyable evening.

"They're not so serious about their chess that they can't be friendly at the same time," he said.

He said in tournament chess there may be 100 people in attendance, "but you can hear a pin drop."

Which brings us back to the Sandy team. "They're probably the noisiest chess players I've ever had," Ford said. "They talk, they chatter. And chess is usually thought of as the other way."

But if they're energetic, they're not uncontrollable, Ford is quick to point out, adding that "brightness and competitiveness" are what a coach looks for in chess players.

Ford and Mike Kostrba, athletic director, have somewhat of a running battle going.

Ford jokingly wonders when they're going to get cheerleaders, and Kostrba ponders the question of how much to charge spectators.

"He refers to it as a game and not a sport," Ford said.

"And I say, 'We're real competitors, we just use more brain than brawn.'"

## Pioneer ski teams do well at weekend meet

Robert Karsten was surprised when the girls ski team blasted Valley League opponents by 25 seconds in a meet last week.

The girls did it again Saturday, only this time it was by 31 points.

Junior Anne Sarich was the top finisher.

"It was nice seeing her again," Karsten joked. Sarich has just finished a "relatively successful

tour," competing for the Pacific Northwest Ski Association (a division of the United States Ski Association) in Nor-Am competition in Colorado and Utah.

Karsten was also pleased with Sue Sarich, who finished fourth.

I can always depend on her to finish and finish well, Karsten said.

Karsten was also pleased with Ingrid Peterson and

Nicole Schouten.

Schouten has improved tremendously, he said.

The boys, paced by Steve Sarich with a first-place finish, took third.

"The boys did real well," Karsten said about the young team.

He attended a state coaches meeting Monday night, which prompted him to comment, "If we were in any other league, we'd be

going to state."

They still have a chance of making the state meet, but Lake Oswego would have to place fourth, and Wilson fifth, while the Pioneers would have to win, next weekend. Or, possibly it could be tied up, with the Mt. Hood Championships the weekend after next making the difference.

It has primarily been a

building year for the boys, Karsten said.

He said that Saturday they ran an extremely long course for a high school race. The rain softened up the snow, making it easier to get an edge in, but it also made the visibility poor.

Karsten said that it rained most of the day.

Girls team standings: Sandy, 241.5; Lakeridge, 272.1; Wilson,

278.2; Lincoln, 280.4; Lake Oswego, 282.7; OES, no time.

Boys team standings: Lakeridge, 219.0; Wilson, 219.6; Sandy, 223.5; Lake Oswego, 232.9; Lincoln, 244.6; OES, 255.9.

Finishers for Sandy: Anne Sarich, 1st, 74.8; Sue Sarich, 4th, 80.3; Ingrid Peterson, 8th, 86.4; Nicole Schouten, 14th, 96.9.

Steve Sarich, 1st, 70.6; Chris Welch, 9th, 74.4; Robert Spradling, 17th, 78.4; Mike Wall, 18th, 79.4; Brian Silvey, 29th, 155.7.

Varsity Two: Rod Edwards, 5th, 85.5; Jack Harris, 15th, 113.0.

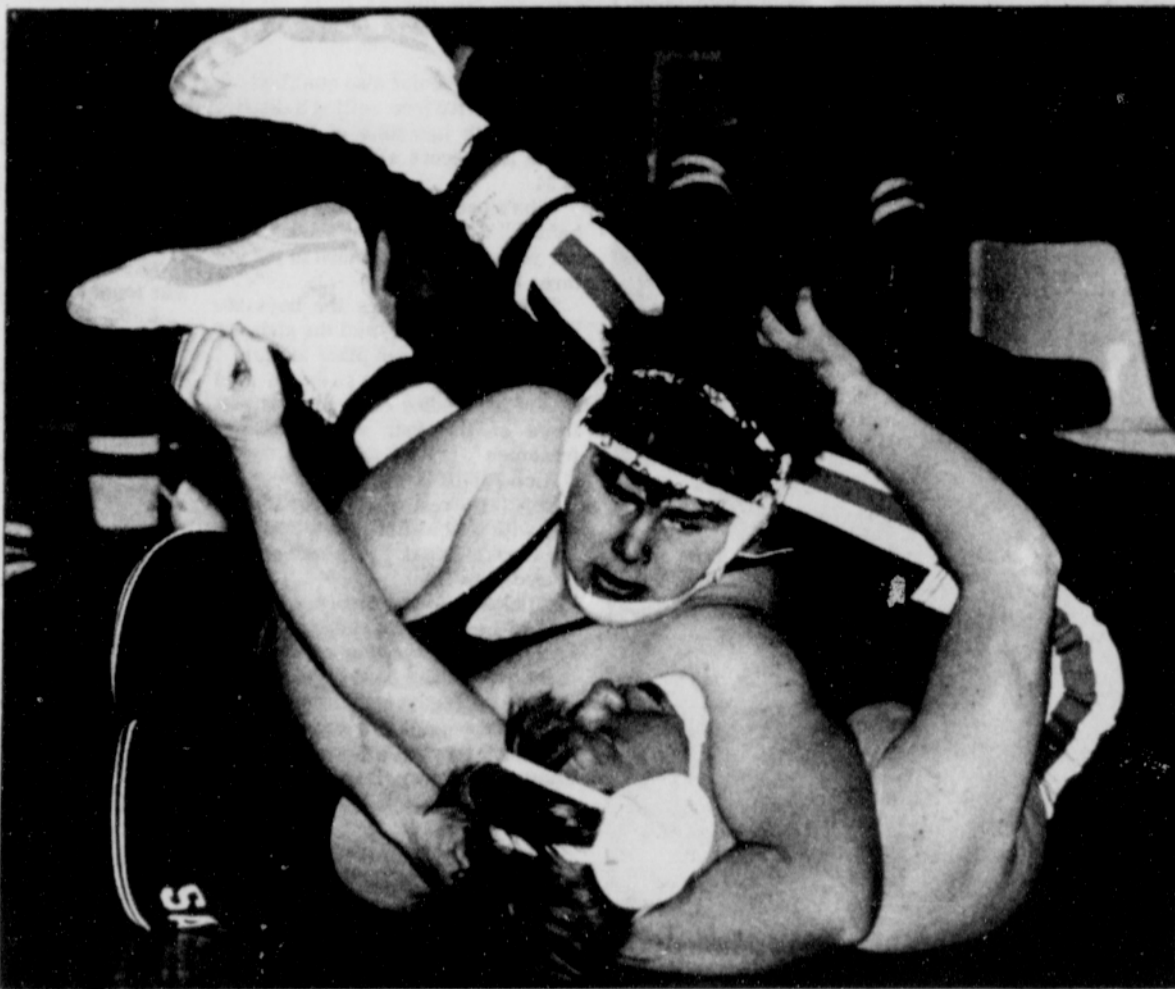


Photo by Scott Newton

Sandy senior Tim Sysma puts his opponent from Silverton on his back.

## Overtime

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Brisbin said that Palmer's outside shooting really helped them out in the second half of that game.

Sandy will host Silverton Friday night. The Pioneers won that match-up 53-51 the first time around.

TVL standings: Oregon City, 11-1; West Linn, 9-3; Sandy, 8-4; Canby, 8-4; Sweet Home, 6-6; Molalla, 3-9; Estacada, 2-10; Silverton, 1-11.

SUHS 14 31 39 50 52 56  
Sweet Home 12 26 40 50 51 55

For Sandy: Steve Palmer, 6-0-0-16; Troy Wolf, 4-1-3-9; Mitch Paola, 8-1-3-17; Steve Pettingill,

0-0-2-0; Bob Nippert, 5-0-4-10; Steve Brader, 0-0-1-0; Robert Brader, 2-0-2-4; Totals: 27-2-15-56.

For Sweet Home: Gillespie, 1-1-2-13; Vasey, 5-2-0-12; Voltz, 7-2-0-16; Redden, 3-0-2-4; Schermerhorn, 1-0-0-2; McCollum, 0-0-1-2; Evenson, 0-2-1-2; Metzger, 2-0-2-2; Totals: 24-7-8-55.

SUHS 9 18 28 34 38 42 44 47  
O.C. 3 9 19 34 38 42 47 53

For Sandy: Steve Palmer, 4-0-3-8; Troy Wolf, 5-2-4-12; Mitch Paola, 2-7-2-11; Steve Pettingill, 1-0-3-2; Bob Nippert, 4-2-8-10; Robert Brader, 2-0-3-4; Totals: 18-11-19-47.

For Oregon City: Edwards, 2-2-4-6; Poetsch, 4-8-2-16; Perkins, 1-2-2-4; Fish, 5-2-2-12; Gaiser, 4-7-4-13; LeDoux, 1-0-1-2; Totals: 17-19-16-53.

TVL standings: Oregon City, 13-0; West Linn, 10-3; Silverton, 8-5; Sandy, 6-7; Molalla, 6-7; Sweet Home, 6-7; Canby, 2-11; Estacada, 1-12.

SUHS 12 16 26 42  
Oregon City 14 35 51 65

For Sandy: Dawn New, 9-2-3-20; Cindy McCoy, 4-0-3-8; Ami Ashoff, 1-0-2-2; Sharon Jensen, 2-0-2-4; Linda Mosbrucker, 2-2-3-6; Shelly Petrie, 1-0-0-2.

SUHS 6 17 25 34  
Silverton 12 23 33 33

For Sandy: New, 9-2-3-20; McCoy, 5-0-0-10; Ashoff, 0-0-4-0; Jensen, 1-0-1-2; Mosbrucker, 1-0-3-2.

## SUHS girls drop two

The Sandy girls dropped two games this week.

Last Thursday they fell to league-leading Oregon City 65-42, and Tuesday night they dropped an important TVL match-up against Silverton, 48-34.

Keeping in mind that Oregon City beat West Linn, the number two team in the league, 72-38, "I think we did a good job," Coach John Smith said about Thursday's game.

Going into the Silverton game Smith thought everything was going well. They'd had two good practices, and the team's attitude seemed good.

"It was one of those situations where maybe everyone wanted it too much," Smith said.

The win put Silverton in third place while dropping

the Pioneers to a tie for fourth. Thursday they'll travel to Canby for a last league game, and are in a must-win situation.

Smith said, "It is my contention we will win on Thursday. We've been playing too well to lose two games in a row."

For Oregon City: Edwards, 2-2-4-6; Poetsch, 4-8-2-16; Perkins, 1-2-2-4; Fish, 5-2-2-12; Gaiser, 4-7-4-13; LeDoux, 1-0-1-2; Totals: 17-19-16-53.

## Mt. Hood Carpet wins, ties for 3rd

Mt. Hood Carpet Care moved into a tie for third place with an important "B" division win over State Farm Insurance, 66-60.

Fouls hurt State Farm as Carpet Care players sunk 21 points from the line.

Brad Paluck let Mt. Hood with 19 points, while Dave Boslaugh scored 16 points for State Farm Insurance.

Obrist and Cunningham also pulled off an upset with an impressive 52-37 victory over S.T.C. Mike Strickler led the way for Obrist and Cunningham with 17 points. Lionel Martinez was again high-point man for S.T.C. with 13 points.

State Farm Insurance rebounded from Tuesday's loss to crunch A.D.P., 62-43. Gene Culley's 12 points sparked State Farm's victory.

Undeclared Don Carpenter Excavating had to scramble to overcome the Sandy Stingers, 67-59. Larry Darlans paced Don Carpenter with 23 points.

"B" Division Standings  
Don Carpenter 9 0  
State Farm Insurance 8 2  
Mt. Hood Carpet Care 5 5  
Sandy Stingers 2 2

S.T.C. 5 6  
Obrist & Cunningham 2 6  
A.D.P. 2 10

Schoppert's Loggers maintained its one-game, first-place lead as their opponent, Flavor Pac, failed to place five players by starting time.

Pleasant Home Mobil kept a ten point or greater margin throughout their game to win, 102-76, over Castile Construction. Craig Kominsky outscored all

others with 22 points.

"A" Division Standings  
Schoppert's Loggers 9 0  
Pleasant Home Mobil 8 1  
Castile Construction 5 6  
Flavor Pac 2 6  
Veley Restoration Country Store 2 6

Joe Kern's 15 points sparked "C" division's Ron's No Place to a smashing victory over the Sandy Adventists, 45-29. Mike Pomerence pumped in 10 for the Adventists.

T-Talk Presbyterians rebounded from two successive losses to beat Dr. Tim Ward's team, 76-43.

D. Boyd shot for 14 points for Dr. Ward. Joel McCowen of T-Talk led all scorers with 18 points.

J. Williams' 15 points paved the way for Williams Thriftway to keep hold of first place with an easy 53-35 win over P & C Construction. P & C's Larry Koester hit 10 points.

"C" Division Standings  
Williams Thriftway 7 1  
Ron's No Place 6 2  
Sandy Adventists 5 3  
T-Talk Presbyterians 4 4  
P & C Construction 1 7  
Dr. Tim Ward 0 8

## Blue Marlins do well

Three swimmers from Sandy finished well at the Forest Grove Pentathlon Sunday.

Damon Hodge took first in the overall scoring for the five events. He competes in the eight and under division.

Michelle Crane, competing in the nine- and 10-year-old girls division, finished third.

Ian Hodge, competing in the nine- and 10-year-old boys division, finished 10th.

Twelve Blue Marlin Aquatic Club members attended the meet, where each swimmer competed in five events.

Several BMAC swimmers brought home personal records, despite the five-event schedule.

One outstanding performance was turned in by Crane, who qualified for the Oregon Association Swim Championships with a 32.95 time in the 50 free. She's now qualified in four events.

Damon Hodge has qualified for nine events in the OASC, including all those he participated in Sunday.

Ian Hodge has qualified in four events.

Others that have qualified include Doug Crane, Terri Hanson, Jamie Tuttle and Richard Rolph.

The Oregon Association Swim Championships will be Feb. 27 and 28 in Corvallis.

## Bowling

Mt. Hooders  
Feb. 11

Williams Thriftway 11 4  
Sheppard's Construction 7.5 7.5  
Accent Hair 7.5 7.5  
Jennie Welch's Antiqua 7 8  
Michael's Pre-cast 7 8  
Pioneer Real Estate 7 8  
Town & Country 7 9  
Dirt & Aggregate 6 9

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Staff photo

Mike Niemeyer contemplates his next move during the TVL Chess Tournament.

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## PAOLA'S PIZZA BARN

Congratulations to Ulla Pearson

Ulla Pearson is prep of the week. The Sandy skier finished first last week in a race at Mt. Hood Meadows. It was her third Valley League win in four meets. Way to go, Ulla!

Enjoy great pizzas & good times at Paola's!