

Photo by Scott Newton

Cheri Schuller makes the catch at second base for the Sandy Blues during a win in the district tournament over Lynch.

Coach confident of Blues' chances at state

The Sandy Blues, with one of the youngest teams in the state, finished second this weekend at the district tournament in Lynch.

They'll begin play in the 13-15 girls state tournament Friday at St. Helens.

The Blues were unable to upset Boyd's Coffee of Rockwood for the district title, falling 9-5 and 15-13 in extra innings.

Though Boyd's Coffee has played together several seasons and is comprised primarily of 15 year olds, Coach Marie Rudisill is confident the Blues can beat them should the teams meet again.

"I know we'll beat 'em," she said. "They'll beat themselves."

The difference, apparently, is mental. Blues players will set down, but they'll pull themselves back up," Rudisill said.

Cottrell had the Blues down 9-1 once, but won 11-9. "They just came back," Rudisill said.

Against Rockwood Sunday the Blue were down seven runs in the first inning, but battled back, finally losing 15-13.

"We've got a good attitude," Rudisill said. "We know how to lose." They

also know how to win. The Blues were 10-0 in Tri-County League play.

Rudisill feels they have a good chance to win the state tournament, despite the fact that most of the girls are 13, and one is 12 (Tami Tinjum).

The state tournament at St. Helens is "B" level. Should this group of girls stay together a few seasons, Rudisill said they should be able to play with any "A" team.

In fact, one "A" coach told her after a practice game she had the only groups of girls able to compete against his team.

Pitching has a lot to do with that success. Candi Rudisill and Judi Duff are both very capable, according to Coach Rudisill. "Having two pitchers is real nice," she said.

Duff can also contribute home runs, as can Brenda Waits.

The Blues have two "super" catchers in Brenda Martin and Cheri Schuller. Ironically, they

have to trade off as both suffer knee injuries.

Rudisill does more than just change pitchers and catchers around. "Any of the kids could be switched around and be able to handle the position," she said. "That will help (this weekend)."

Candi Rudisill and Tami Tinjum, if not power hitters are reportedly always good for singles and doubles, and Laura Williamson also is a "good hitter."

Williamson and Waits were depended upon in the field this weekend. Boyd Coffee's 15-year-old hitters were getting the ball out there. Rudisill said Williamson and Waits can both not only make the plays, but can also make the throw to home plate.

Rudisill said she's received a lot of help from Gary Curtis, Sandy Union High School softball coach. He's "taken his own time" to help the girls, which includes setting up the pitching machine. After some time in front of the pitching

machine one learns how to deal with a good, fast pitcher, the Blues coach said.

"We really appreciate his help," she added. The parents and spectators have also been "really great." Blues players have made friends with the girls from Lynch, with Lynch cheering the Blues on Sunday against Boyd's Coffee.

The Sandy girls downed Lynch 15-6 in the first round of the district tournament. Waits hit a home run

and a triple, stealing home after the three-bagger.

The girls started slow, but had no problems in the stretch.

In the second game the Blues fell 9-5 to Rockwood. It was the third inning before Sandy scored, with Martin and Candi Rudisill hitting singles, and Schuller hitting a triple and again stealing home.

Aggressive base running is the only way, Coach Rudisill said.

Tinjum hit her first home run ever in an 11-10 win over Lynch. In the fourth inning Sandy scored four runs, with Duff and Williamson contributing doubles.

Lynch rallied in the seventh, but the Blues defense held.

Sandy then faced Boyd's Coffee of Rockwood again, losing by two runs. Schuller tied the game at 13-13 in the seventh with a homer, but Rockwood scored two runs in the eighth.

Sandy Truck Lines drops 4

Sandy Truck Lines dropped a Midget American League game to Rockwood "B," and dropped three games in the Aloha Invitational this weekend.

Since they were guaranteed third place in the upcoming district playoffs, they used pitchers they hadn't used for awhile against Rockwood.

Brian Cox started and

pitched one inning, and was relieved by Justin Rusan, who pitched two innings. This was Rusan's first outing since he broke his arm.

Sandy pitchers only gave up two hits, but issued 19 walks. Rockwood won the game 17-10.

Kent Taylor led Sandy's offense, going three-for-three with two RBIs. Rusan was two-for-two with one RBI.

At the Aloha Invitational Sandy dropped a 15-7 decision to Rockwood, a 12-1 decision to Aloha and an 8-7 decision to Aloha No. 2.

Tournament set

The senior tri-county district tournament, for boys 13 and 14, will be held this weekend at Welches.

The top four teams in the Tri-County League will play for the title, with the top two teams advancing to the state tournament.

Corbett, Sandy "A," Rockwood "A" and Welches will be competing.

All games will be played on the Salmon River Road field.

Rockwood will play Corbett at 10 a.m. Saturday. Sandy will play Welches at 1 p.m. The losers will play at 4 p.m. that day.

Sunday the two winners will play at noon, with the game for second at 3 p.m.

Enforcement effort set

by JIM GLADSON
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

The largest fisheries law enforcement effort in the history of the Columbia River began July 15 with a multi-agency effort to "stop any substantial theft of salmon through illegal fishing methods," according to Oregon State Police Lieutenant Robert Lane.

State, federal and local enforcement, and natural resource agencies will pool their efforts to halt illegal catching and selling of salmon and steelhead "from the sea to the spawning beds," Lane said.

The operation is expected to last until October 15, by which time most migratory fish will have reached the upper Columbia and Snake River systems, or returned to hatcheries.

Enforcement activities will follow fish runs upstream well into Idaho.

Participants in this land, water and air operation include the Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fisheries, Washington Department of Game, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Coast Guard, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, local sheriff's offices and city police, sportsmen's club, and citizens who can provide information.

Phase one of the program began with the arrival of the US Coast Guard cutter "Venturous" at the mouth of the Columbia near Astoria.

The cutter will join Coast Guard helicopters, state patrol boats, and officers on the docks to enforce the current commercial salmon fishing closure between Cape Falcon in Oregon and Leadbetter Point in Washington.

Phase two will have enforcement efforts moving into the estuary then up river with the fish.

In addition to patrolling boats and dock sites, officers will also be checking restaurants and fish dealers, Lane said.

Up to 35 to 40 agents and officers will be assigned to the special operation during peak periods, Lane added.

While the state agencies will have primary responsibility for the action, federal agents will also be brought in as needed, according to Wayne Lewis of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Salmon poaching has been a traditional problem on the Columbia, but the scope of the illegal fishing was brought into focus recently through a NMFS undercover operation.

A NMFS agent, posing as an illegal fish buyer, was

able to purchase over 53 tons of illegally-caught salmon and steelhead in the lower and upper Columbia.

As a result of this 18-month undercover effort, federal and state indictments are being sought against 75 people. Many of the indictments carry felony charges, Lewis says.

While this recent investigation was a dramatic illustration of the poaching problem, it was not the inspiration for the current crackdown. Lewis noted that new effort has been in planning for almost two years.

Over the past 20 yrs, salmon runs on the Columbia have been declining. While dams are still considered a major reason for

fish losses, intensive illegal fishing is also taking a toll.

Biologists estimate that up to 40,000 salmon are lost between Bonneville and McNary dams each year. An increasing portion of those losses may be attributable to illegal fishing, Lewis said.

"Salmon poaching has always been a problem on the Columbia River. But the efficiency of these activities has gone up considerably in recent years," Lewis said.

"We are dealing with professional, well-organized business people who quite frequently handle thousands of dollars a day in illegal fish. The market for these fish is worldwide," he said.



Photo by Scott Newton

Fran Hail slips past the catcher to score a run for Brian's Sports, one of the teams in the Sandy Area Softball Association League. The picture was taken at a tournament at Wood Village.

Tell Us How to Get Oregon Working Again. We're Listening.

Businesses, large and small, all over Oregon have joined in a partnership to help get Oregon working again. This partnership has resulted in the Oregon Economic Action Fund, whose very existence says a lot about how Oregonians feel about their state, their home. Now it's time to take action - together.

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knows better how to get Oregon back on track than Oregonians whose lives are affected by these times. So tell us how to get Oregon back on track through projects which can be developed to achieve the highest positive effect at the lowest cost under the following categories:

- Promote travel and tourism to stimulate existing Oregon businesses.
- Attract new industries to Oregon.
- Help Oregon workers who have lost their jobs develop new job skills through retraining and education.

Proposals should include project descriptions, potential results and estimated cost. Every Oregonian is invited to share their ideas.

Send them to the Oregon Economic Action Council, P.O. Box 4889, Portland, OR 97208.



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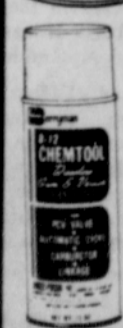
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