

Hunters' luck varied but buck count down

by SCOTT NEWTON

Virgil "Buster" Hunter hasn't missed a season for 40 years, and he's never seen the deer so spooky. Upon arrival at a small town east of Prineville he reports being told, "I don't think the hunting'll be much good. Nobody's workin' around here."

But out of four hunters, which included his wife, Fern, they got two deer (Buster got one of them), and one hunter got three shots.

However, a group of 12 to 15 camped nearby got only two. "It's hard to get 'em driving up and down the road in your new pickup," Hunter said.

"You had to work for 'em." Hunter, who was not too far from Spanish Peak, said the deer were not only scared, but fat as well. "I've never seen 'em so fat," he said.

He figures they've been eating the mushrooms, which reportedly have come up early due to the early rains.

Earl Spink, owner of the Sports Barn, got a three-pointer on opening morning at Walker Rim, between Bend and Chemult.

"It has been a good season, from what I've heard," Spink said.

Well, he may need to qualify that a little. His hunting partner "Bob," not to be confused with his business partner, Byron Barr, "knocked over a big buck." When he went to dress it, it jumped up and took off. So, he shot it again. He then kicked it to see if it was dead, and it jumped up and took off again.

"When we caught up with him four other hunters were dressing him out," Spink said. "Being we are good hunters, and since there were four of them and only two of us, we let them have him."

Spink's said business has been

pretty good at the Sports Barn. He feels he may be able to draw some people in off the highway (he's located on the south side of Heritage Square), but said most of his customers are local people.

"I've heard good and bad," he said about the season, which opened Oct. 2. "The hunters I know are getting them."

The deer have been in the thickets, not out in the open, he said.

The unsuccessful hunters may want to stop in to the Sports Barn for some "trained bullets." The bullets "sniff 'em down," Spink said, keeping somewhat of a straight face.

"We have a new batch training right now for elk season," Spink joked.

He did add, seriously, that hunters shouldn't wait until the last moment to get their guns cleaned or repairs made.

Tom Karlen, owner of the Mt. Hood Refuse Removal Inc., saw one buck opening weekend, and didn't get a shot at it.

He and his wife, Cheryl, went hunting east of Paulina. "There were a lot of hunters out, more than I've ever seen in that area," he said.

"I haven't missed a year in I don't know how long," Karlen said. With the buck population like it is, "I'm getting discouraged." He feels the winter kill people have been talking about is a reality, and he added that he favors limiting the number of tags given out until the population is replenished.

Fred Punzel, Sandy chief of police, got a deer on opening day, but said this couldn't have been a good season for many hunters.

He said he's never seen the skeletons of so many dead animals. "It looked like a graveyard—excuse

the expression."

He added, "It was just unreal." He said they kept seeing, he believes, the same eight to 10 deer over and over. "The only one with horns was the one I got," Punzel said.

Punzel, who was on the south fork of the John Day River, knows a game biologist in the area. Reportedly there was a foot of snow on the ground in March. It melted, and along came heavy rains. A freeze then covered everything with ice, keeping the deer from browsing.

When the ice melted they supposedly got scours from eating only green grass.

"I've hunted all my life," Punzel said. "We normally see a lot more deer. There was definitely a drop in the area I hunted."

Punzel's experience matches information provided by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, which reports the percentage of hunters bagging a deer was down 25 to 50 percent from last year's opening weekend.

According to rough estimates by field biologists, less than 3 percent of the hunters in Western Oregon bagged a deer opening weekend.

Though success is traditionally better on the east side, the overall success rate was 12 percent, compared to almost 21 percent last year.

Some local hunters, though not successful, just enjoyed getting out. And it could be better next year. According to John Thiebes, wildlife biologist with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the wet summer kept forage and water conditions in excellent shape for the deer, and they are nearing the winter season with plenty of fat reserves, a key to surviving in the winter when food is scarce.



Paige Daugherty prepares to place a shot against Barlow. Tamee Lindsay is also pictured. See related story on page 12.

Good second half gets Sandy past Columbia

After a scary first quarter the Pioneer football team got untracked and took a 21-18 win from Columbia.

A Sandy fumble on the Pioneer 20 with six minutes left in the first quarter left Columbia sitting pretty, but SUHS junior Mark Shelton recovered a Charger fumble on the next play.

Three minutes later Gordon Brinser was sacked on the Sandy one. Scott Skipper punted the ball out of the end zone on the next play, but it took a Charger bounce, rolling back to the 15.

Shelton, playing safety for injured senior Russell Fork, was on time again, intercepting a pass on the next play.

Events refused to turn in Sandy's favor. With 23 seconds left in the quarter Brinser was sacked on the Pioneer 15, and stripped of the ball.

On the first play of the second quarter Chuck Kearney, playing linebacker, stole a Columbia pass and ran 88 yards for the first score. Brent Kearney's kick made it 7-0.

Columbia responded with a 60-yard drive, capped by a three-yard run up the middle by Carey Guess. The kick was blocked.

A minute into the third quarter Kearney, running off left tackle, broke a 61-yard run, and scored from four yards out shortly after that. Brother Brent's boot made it 14-6.

On the ensuing kickoff Columbia's Mark Scharpen ran 84 yards for a touchdown. The Chargers' pass for

two failed, with Sandy keeping the lead at 14-12.

With three minutes left in the third quarter SUHS senior Jim Morgan helped slow a Charger drive by dropping the running back on a first down for a three-yard loss. On fourth-and-six on the Pioneer 13, a Columbia pass was ruled incomplete, though Chuck Kearney could conceivably have been credited with a quarter-back sack.

The Pioneers fell behind for the first time as the quarter came to a close. Jim Chianello intercepted a Brinser pass and ran it 22 yards for six points. Another pass attempt for two failed, with Columbia taking an 18-14 lead.

SUHS senior Dave Lund returned the kick 14 yards, and two and a half minutes later Kearney capped a 59-yard drive with a 19-yard run. The kick was good for a 21-18 lead.

The Pioneers kept running the ball in the fourth quarter, using up time and grinding out yards. A 32-yard field goal attempt by Brent Kearney hit the goal post with 3:24 left in the game.

Shelton doused Columbia fans' hopes with an interception with 1:27 left in the game.

Coach Greg O'Meara felt they played a pretty good second half, although he admits they started slow.

"I feel Columbia has a pretty good ball team. They had some physical kids and they'd come out after you," O'Meara said that he's pleased

with the way this team can respond quickly, "and play tough when the chips are down."

He cited quick scores against The Dalles, and also their comeback against West Linn.

Shelton was credited with moving well. Pat Baird, an offensive and defensive tackle, and Scott Skipper were credited with playing well. Skipper blocks for Kearney on "blasts," where the fullback leads the tailback, a popular play for Sandy.

In fact, Brinser only threw two passes, one of which was a 14 yarder to Mark Tinjum.

O'Meara, who was pleased with the blocking in the line, said, "They did a good job packing the ball. There's no need to change when your bread and butter's working."

He said, however, that he has confidence in their passing game, and that he'll go to it when the occasion calls for it.

Todd Byron, a defensive end, was credited with playing well.

The Pioneers will take on state-ranked Gresham Friday night. O'Meara apparently can't find many faults with Gresham's "fine football program," saying they're physical, with good size, speed and depth.

Kearney gained 230 yards on 32 carries. Columbia had 167 yards total offense, 31 of which was gained in the air.

The Pioneers have a 3-3 record. Gresham is 5-1.

About \$2,000 has been donated

Swim committee sets fund raisers

As a result of the vote on the SUHS "B" ballot recently, the swimming pool fund was eliminated.

In order to keep Sandy's successful swim program going a group of students, parents and interested citizens have formed a committee for the purpose of reinstating the swim team.

This group, sponsored by the Sandy Kiwanis Club, needs to raise \$5,175.20 by Nov. 3 so that Mt. Hood Conference coaches can plan their schedules.

According to Olin Bignall, between \$2,000 to \$2,500 has been raised. He said Wednesday morning they expect to be to the halfway mark by the weekend.

He said they have received several \$100 and \$200 donations, which shows

these individuals "feel strongly about the program."

The group began by selling pepperoni sticks. Next, plans were drawn up to continue a variety of fund raisers within the community. In addition, service organizations and businesses are being contacted for donations.

On Oct. 15 the committee is sponsoring a dance at the high school after the Pioneers' game with Gresham.

The loft at Paola's Pizza will be the scene of a fund raiser Oct. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. Italian spaghetti salad, bread and a beverage will be served by members of the swim teams.

A member of the committee who is a professional chef will prepare chili

for a feed Oct. 22. Swimmers and their families will be serving the chili and crackers at the east end of the grandstand before and during the homecoming football game with Centennial.

Those interested in making tax deductible contributions should make their checks payable to the Sandy Kiwanis Club for the Reinstatement of the Sandy Swim Team. Mail to: Swim Team, Sandy Kiwanis Club, 38462 Hood Street, Sandy, Ore., 97055.

Anyone with questions may contact Nick or Shirley Roth at 668-6225, Roxie Burns at 668-6341, Marcus Smith at 668-6049, or Olin or Joyce Bignall at 668-6134.

Girls soccer team gets 1st win

The Sandy girls soccer team got its first victory of the season Tuesday. Anne Sarich's hat trick got the Pioneers past David Douglas, 3-2.

Coach Robert Karsten said both teams were ready to play. Being that this is the first year for girls soccer at Sandy, David Douglas was counting

on getting a win. The Sandy girls, on the other hand, knew this would be a game they could win.

It was a physical game, Karsten said, with Sarich "getting really beat up. There was some pretty heavy tripping and stuff going on." David Douglas jumped to a 2-0

lead, but it was 2-1 by halftime. About midway through the second (40 minute) half it was 2-2.

About seven minutes later the Scots' goalie dropped the ball and Sarich was "right there" to "walk it in."

Karsten said Amy Lynch, Caryn Fuller and Keri Garlock did a good job of backing Sarich up offensively.

Crystal Calkins and Kendra Rowland contributed good support also, including some "beautiful passes."

Backing up Rowland was Carla Heckel. "They play well together" on their side of the field, Karsten said.

Defensive people who played well included Dina Betschart, Pernilla Fack and Charisse Flatt.

Perhaps goalie Christa Searls had a little easier time of it Tuesday. She made 10 saves, and David Douglas only took 12 shots. The Pioneers, on the other hand, got off 25 shots.

The win was just gravy for Karsten. "They're having a great time, which is the most important thing."

"To be honest, they haven't paid the dues other clubs have. They've just worked hard."

While there have been junior programs in the David Douglas area "for years," Karsten figures the hard work has just paid off.

He was pleased that the girls weren't bullied by the larger David Douglas team. "They didn't back off. They were aggressive and they wanted the ball. They just wouldn't let anybody run 'em off."

It was a good lesson, he said. He saw the mood go back and forth. He paraphrased the players: "We can beat 'em. No we can't."

"Then they decided they could do it and they went for it," he said.

He said after the third goal it was a little tough to get them settled down and back in the game.

"They started playing really defensively. That scared me. You can't win playing defense. The we got fired up and got some real good shots at the goal."

The Pioneers are 1-6-1 overall, 1-3 in the league.



SUHS freshman Cindy Parmenter works a move on the uneven bars. Also pictured is Sandy Moore. See related story on page 12.