

'Pride factor' gets Pioneers past Lancers

The Pioneer football team didn't have any particular reason to play well Friday night. Making the district playoffs was out of the question two weeks ago. A win wasn't going to spoil anyone's season.

Coach Greg O'Meara said the "pride factor" was responsible in their 29-12 win over Reynolds.

"When you lose your goals it's tough to keep working," O'Meara said. "But I enjoyed the kids. They worked hard. I'll miss 'em."

The Pioneers got on the board first with a five-yard run up the middle by Chuck Kearney, who gained 196 yards on 36 carries.

Kearney also ran in the two-point conversion, getting the Pioneers off to an 8-0 first-quarter lead.

Reynolds took advantage of an intercepted pass in Sandy territory for its first score. They ran six plays and gained 18 yards, and then Terry Unruh, a 5-9 and 165-pound senior, ran 15 yards for the touchdown. A pass for two was incomplete.

The Pioneers displayed more razzle-dazzle than they have in the past. A fake punt and a fake extra-point kick are two of the plays that didn't come off, but others did, especially on the last drive of the first half.

Brent Kearney ran 14 yards on a reverse, and Chuck Kearney com-

pleted two consecutive sweep passes for a 14-6 halftime lead.

Kearney completed the first one to Mark Tinjum, with the play covering 38 yards. The second one was a nine-yarder to Todd Byron, which was good for the touchdown.

In the third quarter Kearney ran up the middle for the score, and Gordon Brinser completed a pass to Mo Contreras for two.

Scott Skipper ran one yard up the middle for a fourth-quarter touchdown. Skipper gained 28 yards on 11 carries Friday.

The kick for one by Brent Kearney was good.

The Lancers added an inconsequential TD with 2:30 left.

Skipper again anchored the Sandy defense, this time with 17 tackles. Bob Wantowski had 15 tackles. Pat Baird had 11 and Frank McKinnis had 10.

He credited Skipper and Chuck Kearney with "outstanding games."

Brinser, Baird, Wantowski and Bill Bowman were also credited with having played well.

Joe Betschart, center, Mike Marleau, left guard, Terry Lind, left tackle, Baird, right guard, and Brian Zimmerman, right tackle, were also credited for playing well.

The Pioneers end the season with a 4-5 record overall, and a 3-5 league record.



Scott Skipper

Netters alive in playoff chase

The Pioneer volleyball team stayed in the district playoff race with a 15-11, 15-3 win over Centennial Tuesday.

"We're playing better, and you couldn't pick a better time to play well," said Coach Ron Grantz. "I hope we didn't wait too long."

The Pioneers and Columbia are both 8-7. Thursday Columbia plays The Dalles while Sandy travels to David Douglas.

The third-place Scots have lost only to Barlow and Gresham, the top MHC teams, but Grantz said, "If we play

the way we have been a win is well within our grasp."

If Sandy and Columbia both win, they'll play for the fourth position Friday at 4 p.m. on Barlow's floor. The winner will play again Saturday at Reynolds to determine who receives the league's second AAA entry.

Grantz said Paige Daugherty played "as good a match as she's played all season" against Centennial. Tamee Lindsay was also credited with playing well, as was Jill Ingram, who "did a nice job" on the back row. Setter Linda

Mosbrucker also played well, Grantz said. "The last three matches we've had a lot of good play from a lot of people."

Daugherty and Lindsay were also credited with playing well in the Pioneers' 15-13, 15-11 win over The Dalles last week.

Grantz changed the line-up and the offense about a week and a half ago, and since then mental errors have been kept to a minimum.

Grantz said he can live with a few physical errors. "Everybody makes those."

Harriers aiming for league title

The Pioneer boys fell 25-32 to Gresham last week while the girls won 18-42 in cross country action.

Though both teams have been edged out of dual-meet titles, Coach Scott McMullen said all that is moot once the race for the district championship is on.

About the boys, he said, "We're going to be the surprise team. I don't think they'll expect our end-of-the-season team strength."

About the girls, he said, "Donna Nelson's dedicated weekly miles will really pay off. She'll be ready."

About Sharon Jensen, he said, "I hope she goes out like a mad man at

district."

McMullen said she can do well if she'll turn in a quick first mile.

He expects strong finishes from Laura Stringham and Shelby Dries, and the said the fifth place finish will be important also.

He's looking for a strong fifth out of either Patty Groombridge, Lisa Hassett or Petra Beissman.

A district championship by junior Sam Romey (TVL champion last year) would be nice, and McMullen was especially pleased with Brian Reick's finish against Gresham. Reick finished the first mile at 5:11 with Romey, and finished only eight

seconds behind him.

Phil Burks, who has been injured, will join the team Saturday at Clackamas Community College.

Good finishes will also be needed from Audie Ellis, Bernie Romey, Tyson Cummins and Rick Frady.

Gresham dual

Donna Nelson, 1st, 11:19; Sharon Jensen, 2nd, 12:04; Laura Stringham, 4th, 12:15; Shelby Dries, 5th, 12:22; Patty Groombridge, 6th, 12:25; Petra Beissman, 8th, 12:35; Lisa Hassett, 10th, 13:03; Sam Romey, 1st, 16:40; Brian Reick, 2nd, 16:46; Audie Ellis, 8th, 18:50; Tyson Cummins, 10th, 19:01; Bernie Romey, 11th, 19:03.

Track conditions: wet, slow.

The status of soccer in Sandy

Boys face uphill climb

With a 1-8-1 record, Lon Welsh, "obviously," was disappointed with the outcome of the Pioneer boys soccer season.

"I knew the league we were going into would be tough, but I was surprised at how tough," he said earlier this week.

Highlights of the season included a 4-3 win over David Douglas and a 1-1 tie with Columbia, the top team in the Mt. Hood Conference.

Senior Kevin Fabryski ended the season with four goals and two assists, and junior Tim Pullen ended up with three goals and one assist to his credit.

Though Pullen will return, the Pioneers will miss Fabryski, who has started for Welsh the last four falls.

About Fabryski, Welsh said, "He has an awareness of the game that he shares. That was an asset to me as a coach."

"Also, you couldn't find a better guy."

Seven starters will graduate. "That will hurt quite a bit," Welsh said. "Next year we will be categorized as young and inexperienced. In this league that's a less than optimistic viewpoint."

Furthermore, due to the failure of the "B" ballot in the September election, junior varsity boys soccer was eliminated.

Welsh sees evidence that Sandy is on its way up, but he thinks it'll take a couple of seasons playing against the higher caliber of competition before success, via a win-loss record, is achieved.

The team members showed "great morale and a desire to play," which is good "considering the circumstances," Welsh said.

Welsh said the comment he heard most from opposing coaches was, "The kids don't give up."

Players who will graduate include Tim Zimmerman, a defender. His consistency and skill levels "made him an extremely valuable asset."

Welsh said, "I could put him out there and forget about him."



Earl Pierson

Nothing gets by him."

Senior midfielder Pete Schmutz was described as "positive, hard working."

Schmutz has the kind of attitude coaches are looking for, according to Welsh.

Victor Martinez, a Spanish exchange student, had the best soccer skills on the team, "a definite asset," Welsh said.

Other graduating seniors include Javier Herrero, a forward and another Spanish exchange student, goalie Earl Pierson, Pete Watkins, a defender, and Jeff Hartung, a defender and forward.

Returning players will include Pullen, who with a little more speed and an improvement in skill levels, could be a player to contend with next year, and junior Hui Choi, who has "great potential."

Choi, at the end of the season, was changed from a forward to a defender. As it turned out, "he was a great defender. He'd go stuff those wingers as they'd try to go around the corner," Welsh said.

Junior midfielder Joel Dose is expected to contribute next season, as is "cannon foot" Matt Kubitz, a junior who could be "the pillar of defense next year."

Sophomore Jason fern started out riding the bench, but by the end of the season had earned a starting position. Welsh said he has good speed and is an aggressive player.

Welsh just completed his eighth season, and he admits to being sensitive to criticism.

He said it is sometimes "frustrating, depressing." He added, "I like to think I come from a winning tradition."

With the prospects for the immediate future a little slim, one might wonder why he sticks with it.

"I don't think you'll find anyone who cares more about the kids," he said. He added that he's in the business of education, and that the learning goes on on the field as well as in the English classroom.

"I'm learning more," he added. He can't help but imagine the future holds some good things in store for Sandy soccer.

"Fall is a good time to be outdoors, competing," he said. "Being active and having a good time, that's fulfilling to me."

"So, I'll coach till I'm givin' my pink slip."

Robert Karsten, SUHS girls soccer coach, considers the past season a success, despite the fact the Pioneers won only one league game.

Karsten loses seven seniors off this team, including striker Anne Sarich, goalie Margaret Blackburn, fullback Lisa Sheppard, halfback Patty Meeker, sweeper Jennifer Kelter, halfback Shelli Barton and fullback Pernilla Fack, an exchange student from Sweden.

An especially strong sophomore class improves the outlook for Sandy next fall.

Highlights of the first year of Sandy girls soccer include Sarich's three goals, a hat trick, in a 3-2 win over David Douglas.

All along, according to Karsten, Sarich has been a steady player for the Pioneers.

She generates a lot of spirit, he said. "It's fun watching her. She thinks quick."

He told about a time against Parkrose, when a penalty was called. Sarich grabbed the ball from the goalie and "booted it in" before anyone else even knew a penalty kick was being awarded.

Another highlight was the Pioneers' 4-4 tie with Central Catholic, with Amy Lynch, Sarich, and Kendra Rowland giving Sandy a 3-0 lead. Linda Knofezynski scored the tying goal with about seven minutes left in the game.

Sandy's 1-7 league record doesn't accurately measure the Pioneers' success, Karsten will tell you.

"It's fun," he said about playing soccer at SUHS, adding that the girls all seem to be friends with one another.

He said they put individual differences aside when they got on the field. "It's incredible. They wouldn't even miss a practice without a good reason. I couldn't figure it out."

Karsten said the soccer skills of the girls improved "tremendously" through the course of the season.

One important returning player will be Christa Searls, a sophomore goalie who learned under difficult circumstances.

Her progress has been nothing less than "excellent."

Searls, who is also a good halfback, has a lot of "intestinal fortitude," according to Karsten,

who said she has played injured more than once. In fact, in a 3-1 loss to The Dalles Searls reset a dislocated finger herself, and finished the game when Sheppard, a backup goalie and her replacement, was injured.

Blackburn, a senior goalie, was "a natural," Karsten said. She was injured the day before the first game and didn't play until the last game of the season.

Karsten described her 40 saves against state-ranked Centennial as "awesome."

Another key returning player will be sophomore striker Amy Lynch. She's "technically one of the better players on the team," Karsten said she's "extremely fast, and able to dribble." In addition, he said, "She probably has the greatest desire for the ball of anyone."

Junior Crystal Calkins, a track standout, is "really a beautiful runner," Karsten said. She's a wing, and is able to dribble around people.

Sophomore striker Rowland "is always there to assist with a goal. You can depend on her. It's really neat."

Knofezynski, a sophomore reserve wing, "plays her heart out."

Karsten said Knofezynski made a lot of progress through the course of the season.

Karsten is looking forward to utilizing sophomore halfback Carla Heckel, whose dribbling skills have improved, as well as sophomore Keri Garlock, who likes to cut off the passing lanes and intercept passes.

Junior Caryn Fuller covered the center part of the field "extremely well" this fall, Karsten said. She can reportedly hit good chip shots, and has improved her dribbling skills.

Returning on defense will be sophomore fullback Charisse Platt, one of the Pioneers' best defenders.

Also "very dependable" is sophomore Dina Betschart, a "good, fast runner who knows how to use the goalie."

Sophomore fullback Susan Meeker was almost cut from the squad at the beginning of the season, but ended up with a starting position. "She has done well," Karsten said.

provement."

A lot of the credit for that goes to Ann Close, assistant coach, according to Harding.

The soccer teams at Cedar Ridge are coed, and Harding said the girls "really stuck with it."

Girls on the "A" team included Heidi Dose, Jenny Dasher, Ronda Heckel and Julie Kappel.

Other top players included Bob Dougherty, Morgan Emrich, Stacey Pearson, Brad Searls, Randy Wheeler and Nick Phillips.

Some players competed for both Cedar Ridge and a Cascade Soccer Club team.

Harding said he's seen a lot of improvement in the skill level. Two years ago there was a noticeable change. "We had freshmen who couldn't play as well as the seventh graders," Harding said.

No sports were offered at Cedar Ridge last year. This is the fourth season for the soccer program. This is the second season (the first being two seasons ago) Harding has headed the program.

Sandy competed in the Barlow Trail League along with Corbett, Redland, Boring, Cottrell and Damascus.

Girls program to benefit from good sophomore class

Pernilla Fack, an exchange student from Sweden, was a fun person to have on the team, Karsten said. She was a "sparkplug" on the field.

Karsten said, "She was always good for a giggle. Yet, she always brought me back to earth when I started zoning out into the stratosphere."

She has a "strong foot" and was versatile.

Others who contributed include Sheppard, a senior, who was a reserve goalie and fullback who "didn't get the playing time she

deserved," and senior Patty Meeker and sophomore Debbie Izer, both fullbacks, reserve players who saw action in most games.

Senior Shelli Barton made good gains at the end of the season.

Without a junior varsity team, Karsten will be depending upon many of the younger players to contribute next year.

Again, winning will not be emphasized as much as improving as a team. And with Karsten, having fun is always important.



Pernilla Fack

Photos by Scott Newton



Goalie Quay Williams boots the ball during a Cascade Soccer Club game against Damascus. The Jaguars, coached by Bill Wardy, won. Over 400 youngsters played in the soccer league this fall.

Cedar Ridge coach sees improved skills

The Cedar Ridge Mountaineers finished the fall soccer season last week. The "A" and "B" teams had identical 4-3-1 records.

The season ended with the "A" team winning 2-1 over Cottrell, and the "B" team taking a 3-2 victory.

Coach Robb Harding said a lot of "football players," with no previous soccer experience, turned out this year. "We started out playing rugby," Harding joked, adding that they did have a physical team.

Cedar Ridge has not fielded a football team for two seasons.

Harding said the season went "pretty well. I saw a lot of im-