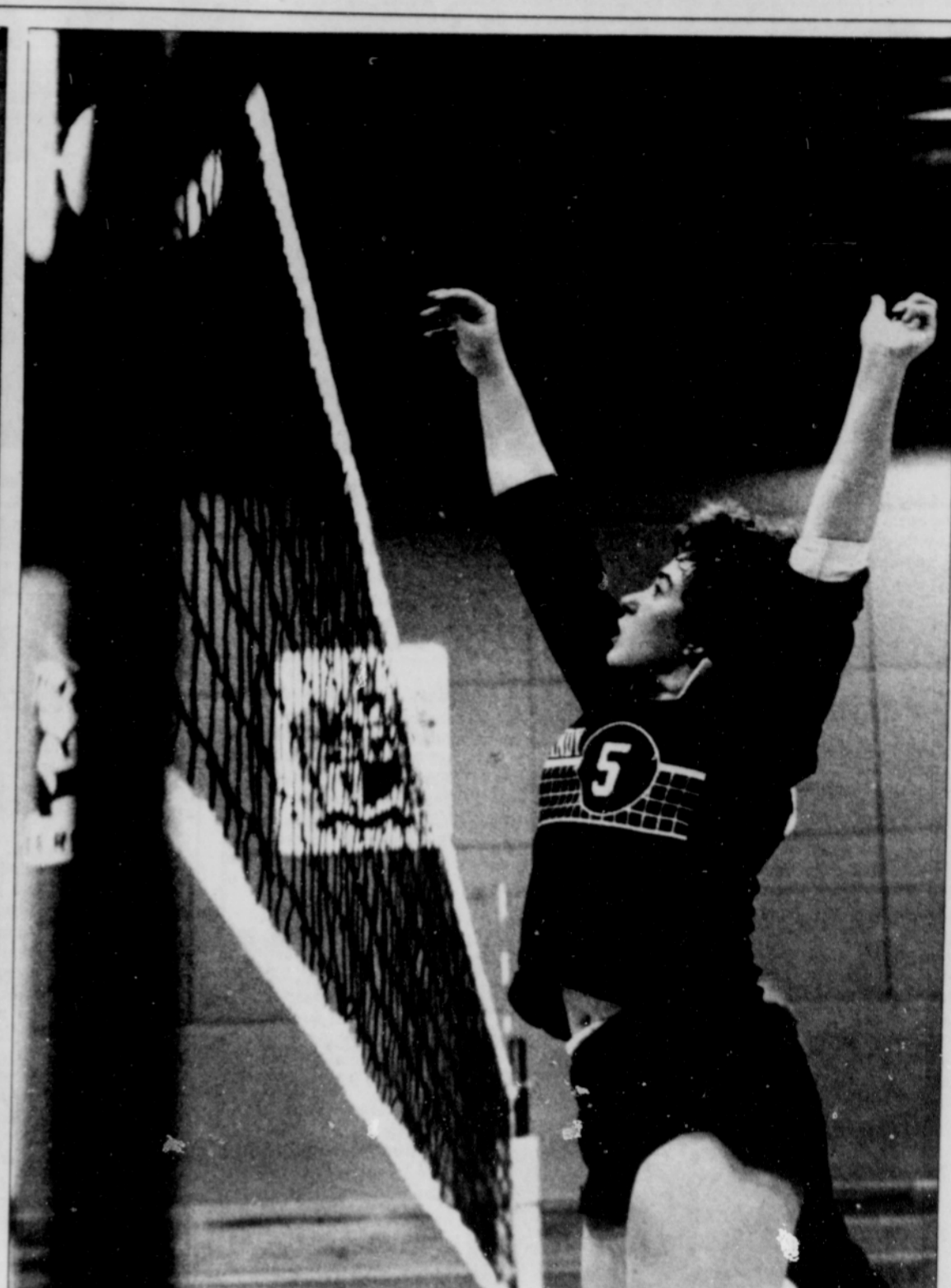




Linda Mosbrucker



Tamee Lindsay



Paige Daugherty

Photos by Scott Newton

Behind every good hitter is a setter

by SCOTT NEWTON

The score is 14-12 in favor of the Sandy Pioneers. A win over David

Douglas in this third game will give the volleyball team a chance to participate in the district playoffs.

Senior Linda Mosbrucker gets under the ball, but instead of setting it for a hitter, she "dumps" it, catching the Scots off guard and cinching the win.

As it turned out, the 15-12, 4-15 and 15-12 win last Thursday gave Sandy an undisputed fourth in the Mt. Hood Conference and a berth in the district playoffs.

The Pioneers fell 15-10, 14-16 and 15-7 Saturday to the Scots in the playoffs. "I think they felt lucky to get out alive," Coach Ron Grantz said.

Barlow went on the win the top berth in the conference, with David Douglas surprising Gresham and taking the second spot.

For the Pioneers, finishing fourth was an accomplishment, according to Mosbrucker.

"I felt better when we won against David Douglas (Thursday)," she said. "When we knew we had to do it, we did it."

Mosbrucker wanted to go to state, but with a young team, was willing to settle for a strong finish.

She said, "It took longer than we expected, I guess."

Mosbrucker was a first-team all-league selection. Though it's the hitters that draw people's awe, it's the setter who must consistently handle the ball, getting it into position.

Behind every good hitter is a setter.

Mosbrucker's ability to dump the ball also added a dimension to the Pioneer offense. Grantz said dumping, where the setter quickly sends the ball over, usually on the second hit, is a skill only a few setters in the state have mastered.

Earning first-team honors didn't surprise Mosbrucker. "At the beginning of the season he (Grantz) said, 'You have a real good chance of making it so be sure you do good this year.'"

Junior Tamee Lindsay made the Mt. Hood Conference second team, as did senior Paige Daugherty. Junior Cindy Rasmussen was honorable mention.

"I thought we were a way better

team than our record showed," Mosbrucker said. "Toward the end of the season we got together and did well."

Mosbrucker, like Daugherty, has been on the varsity since her sophomore year. She started some that year.

Mosbrucker said she has enjoyed playing with Daugherty. Daugherty "knows volleyball really well."

Some players blame the coach when the season doesn't go like it should, but not Mosbrucker. "I think they're (Grantz and Roger Ford) excellent coaches," she said.

"I didn't know how they were going to handle it, you know, when we were playing bad and should have played better. They did it right. They made us work."

"That's what kind of changed us. We needed to practice harder."

Mosbrucker would like to play volleyball in college, and plans to major in business.

She's been on the varsity in basketball since her freshman

year, so that will keep her busy this winter. She's also involved with student government, works at McDonald's, and likes to ride horses in her spare time.

Grantz, like Mosbrucker, was pleased with the good finish. "We were a different team the last three weeks," he said.

At the district playoffs he felt the officials called the games a little tight. "That wasn't the cause of our loss," he said. "I know it hurt us. Neither team got into an offensive pattern."

He said Daugherty played a good, all-round game, and Lindsay served, and returned serves, well.

"We had David Douglas and couldn't quite get it," he said about their third game Saturday. Midway through that game the Pioneers and the Scots were tied, but David Douglas got the momentum and kept it.

The Pioneers ended up with a 9-7 league record.



Cindy Rasmussen

Dance studio keeps local woman busy despite economy

by SCOTT NEWTON

Despite the current economic climate, the dance instruction business isn't doing badly.

At least for Anna Geyer of Sandy, it's going "amazingly well."

She said, "When things started getting bad for everybody and the lumber mills started closing and Reynolds started laying people off, I figured, 'Well, there goes about half my students.'"

"But it didn't work that way. Somehow they've managed to come up with the money for dance lessons."

"So I figure that's apparently very important to most of my students. I have lost a few terminally-financial people."

She paused, and asked, should that be "financially-terminal people?"

Geyer started dancing when she was 7 years old, which is appropriate for someone with a dance studio in their home.

A seven-year resident of Sandy, Geyer also teaches in Gresham and Estacada.

Her dancers finished first in precision marching in the Sandy Mountain Days parade last summer, a goal they'd been aiming at for a couple of years.

Geyer's School of Dance also took first in the Timber Festival parade in Estacada this year.

"Anytime somebody needs dancers for a program or anything, I try to provide someone who needs the experience," she said.

Different people of a variety of ages get different things out of dance lessons. Geyer speaks fondly of a student with a birth defect, which made it difficult for her to even walk. She called the girl's improvement "amazing."

"When you get somebody like that, you know it's worth it," she said.

For those with lofty ambitions, ballet is available at the Geyer School of Dance. "Ballet has always been in. That has been the classy thing to do," she said.

"Tap is my specialty," she continued. "Ballet was kind of forced on me because it was good for me."

Geyer said tap dancing was "out" in the '60s and '70s. "And that's when I was having the most fun with it," she said.

But now one sees more of it in high school musicals and on television. In fact, after the movie "Annie" came out her students "practiced night and day" for weeks.

Geyer said she uses everything, from Hawaiian to the Charleston, baton and swing. She's also taught aerobic dancing.

She added, "I'm looking for a dancing partner."

Recently Pat Romero joined

Geyer, and will contribute her "extensive" experience in jazz.

Geyer said, "Before it was mostly tap and ballet, with a little jazz. Now we have the opportunity for a lot of jazz."

For those who aren't aiming for Broadway shows, Geyer feels dance can provide other benefits, including improved coordination, poise and confidence.

And she feels it is a good activity for boys as well as girls. She feels people may be getting away from the negative connotations associated with boys who dance.

"I haven't heard, in the last two years anyway, that anyone has been given a bad time at school because of their dancing."

"Some of the kids are beginning to say, 'Hey, it's neat you can dance. I wish I could do that.'"

Her son Erik, 8 (almost 9), dances, though Geyer said he's not excited about practice.

Erik once performed for his class at Sandy Elementary. "I was watching the reactions of the kids, and there was almost more interest from the boys in the class than there was from the girls."

Out of 35 to 40 students in Sandy, two are boys. She has a class with three boys in it at Gresham.

Anita, 12, is "addicted," like her mother.

About Anita, Geyer said, "She practices when she washes the dishes. She practices while she vacuums the floor."

"I think she probably practices in the shower, too, but I haven't checked her out on that one."

Geyer grew up in Salem, and was mainly influenced by Carol Rae, who once worked at Universal Studios.

She started instructing right out of high school, teaching part-time and performing while attending Oregon State University.

Geyer's students work toward a revue.

She said, "It's more along the lines of your professional Las Vegas stage presentation."

Flashy costumes, lively music and scenery are the norm.

Geyer said that someone with a minimum of athletic skills can become a proficient dancer.

"The way I look at it, anybody can learn to dance," she said.

"Anytime I hear the word can't, it bothers me. They don't say, 'I can't do that.' They do it."

"That's where the self-confidence comes from. I try to make them believe in themselves, to believe they are capable of doing anything they set their minds too."

"That's also my philosophy on life. If you want to, you can do it."



Anna Geyer