

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation

4 champions, 6 others advance to state

by SCOTT NEWTON

Barlow's depth proved too much for Sandy at the Mt. Hood Conference District Wrestling Meet, with the team scores remaining predictably constant throughout the tournament.

Barlow took first with 330.5 points, and Sandy second with 281. There wasn't much chance Sandy was going to unseat Barlow, and there wasn't much chance anyone was going to knock the Pioneers out of second place.

Sandy and Barlow each crowned four champions, while 10 Sandy wrestlers and nine Bruins will advance to the state tournament.

The difference was in the Bruins' second varsity. "Barlow's second varsity is as strong as most teams' first varsity," Coach Ron Calhoun said.

"I feel that where they had a better district team, I think we probably have a better state team. But, the seeding that takes place can make a good team bad or a fair team good."

Larry Toppliff and Chuck Kearney were seeded first at a meeting Monday night, but Calhoun was not optimistic about the outlook for other Sandy wrestlers at the state meet.

At the district meet the most points were scored in the 157-pound weight division. Junior Frank McKinnis pinned three opponents on the way to the finals. McKinnis was wrestling a

close match in the semifinals when he got a takedown and a pin "in one motion."

In the finals Saturday night McKinnis was tied 1-1 with Don Manary of David Douglas. He got an escape with 22 second left in the match for a 2-1 win and the district title.

"This was a very special win for Frank for a couple of reasons," Calhoun said. "One, he and Dan Manary, both of Redland, are very good friends.

"Secondly, Manary has beaten him twice this year."

Manary won 6-0 the first time and 6-3 the second time. Manary's only score in the finals was a penalty point awarded when McKinnis illegally locked his hands.

Aaron George, a freshman 157 pounder, was also a pleasant surprise. He fell to the number one seed first round, but then pinned two opponents before getting put out.

Also winning for Sandy was senior Chuck Kearney at 178. He pinned all four of his opponents for the district title, which included a quick first-period pin in the finals. The coaches voted Kearney the Outstanding Wrestler.

Kearney's opponent in the finals, Vince Romero of Centennial, has only lost three matches this season, two of them to Kearney.

Last year Kearney won the AAA state title, the state freestyle title and



Back row, from left to right: Loren Bateman, Scott Skipper, Hui Choi, Robert Paul, Larry Toppliff, John Cox and Randy Swanson. In front, from left to

right: Chuck Kearney, Mike Rohweder and Frank McKinnis.

the state Greco-Roman title, making him one of Oregon's few triple champions.

There were also no surprises in the 106-pound weight division, where senior Larry Toppliff took first with an 11-3 win over Ron Normand of Barlow, a former Wilco League district champion.

"I expected him to be a district champion and I expect him to be a

state champion," Calhoun said.

Like Kearney and Toppliff, senior Robert Paul, at 141, was never in trouble. "He handled himself well," said Calhoun.

Paul won 7-0 in the finals over Tony Tumbaga of Centennial.

Calhoun said Paul "ought to place very high at state."

At 98, senior John Cox beat Ty Allison of Gresham in the semifinals. "After Cox beat Allison I figured he'd probably beat (Kevin) Campbell from Barlow," Calhoun said.

But Campbell ended up with a 6-3 win in the finals. Cox "wrestled well," Calhoun said. "It was an exciting match, lots of action."

At 148, senior Mike Rohweder "looked great" in the earlier rounds, but was dominated by Joe Schmitt of Barlow in the finals. About his 10-2 loss for second, Calhoun said, "Mike just had one of those matches where he didn't wrestle well."

At 178, junior Loren Bateman was pinned in the finals.

"I have three days to completely change his style of wrestling," Calhoun joked. "He's not very good at defense, and if he doesn't attack, what's left?"

"Fortunately, he's quite good on the mat."

Hui Choi, a junior 123 pounder, lost 13-10 in the semifinals, and came back to beat Steve Wesley of Barlow for third and a trip to state.

Randy Swanson, a senior 130 pounder, also earned a trip to state

with a third-place finish. "I was real pleased," Calhoun said, "especially after he'd lost in the semis, to come back and wrestle so well."

"Many times losers in the semifinals lose in the consolation (round) because they'd tried so hard that they're physically spent."

Senior heavyweight Scott Skipper, like Choi and Swanson, had to wrestle an extra match to get a shot at state. Skipper "wrestled very, very well all through the tournament," Calhoun said.

"His one loss came to Rich Haggerty of Gresham, who is considered to be one of the top heavyweights in the state."

Calhoun described the match as "very exciting, with Scott getting caught on his back while executing a very nice double-leg takedown."

"The bottom line is, when a 240-pound wrestler gets on top of anyone, it's going to be tough to get out."

"Scott's wrestling ability should get him a very high place at the state meet. Hopefully to meet Haggerty again for a place."

The first time the two met Skipper won 5-3 with a takedown at the end for the win.

Saturday in the semifinals Skipper got pinned in the second period by Haggerty. He won over Todd Kunzman of Barlow for third. He got elbowed in the eye in that match, and had six stitches in his eyelid Monday. Others who competed for Sandy in-

cluded Rod Smith at 98 pounds. It was a "nice surprise" having him win a couple of matches, Calhoun said.

At 115, senior Brad Emerson took fourth. "I'm real proud of him. He won some close matches, which is a plus for him."

Calhoun was also pleased with Wayne Reick, a sophomore 115 pounder. "I think if I had to pick the one kid on the team that competes the hardest it would have to be Wayne Reick."

"If over the summer Wayne can increase his strength, I think he'll go to state next year."

Calhoun was also pleased with Jeff Smith, a junior 123 pounder who won two matches.

Dan King, a junior 141 pounder, beat last year's fourth-place finisher, and then lost in overtime to number two seeded Darrin O'Rea of Parkrose.

Brent Kearney, a sophomore 148 pounder, "wrestled hard" but lost two matches.

The Pioneers remain the number one ranked team in the state. The state meet is Thursday through Saturday at David Douglas.

State qualifiers, district place and record: 98: John Cox, 2nd, 23-3-3; 106: Larry Toppliff, 1st, 29-0; 123: Hui Choi, 3rd, 22-8; 130: Larry Swanson, 3rd, 26-10; 141: Robert Paul, 1st, 27-1-1; 148: Mike Rohweder, 2nd, 23-6; 157: Frank McKinnis, 1st, 24-5; 168: Loren Bateman, 2nd, 26-3; 178: Chuck Kearney, 1st, 29-0; HWT: Scott Skipper, 3rd, 19-2-1.

5 swimmers advance to state

It wasn't until the last dual-meet of the season when sophomore Richard Rolph started achieving personal bests.

Then at the district meet Saturday he dropped a total of almost five seconds off his previous best times.

"It finally paid off, all the hard work," Rolph said earlier this week. "I was starting to get disappointed, but then it paid off and now I'm not disappointed anymore."

Rolph, one of the members of the 200 medley relay that will be participating at the state meet, was just one of many swimmers to achieve personal records.

In all, Sandy swimmers achieved personal records in 74 percent of their events, an achievement Coach Mark Smith called "outstanding."

Five swimmers qualified for the state meet, with the boys finishing second to David Douglas in the District 3 championships, which were held at Mt. Hood Community College.

The Scots scored 377 points, the Pioneers 154.

The Sandy girls finished seventh with 72 points.

Sophomore Matt Roth qualified in the 100 butterfly, finishing second with a state qualifying time of 54.64, and in the 100 backstroke, finishing third with a state qualifying time of

58.64.

In addition, Roth is a member of the medley relay team.

When asked about the season, he said, "I think things went in my favor. I'm way ahead of where I was last year, so I'm pleased with it."

About his goal for the state meet, he said, "I'm going to try to hit second in the fly, and I'm going to try to place in the backstroke. And, I want the relay to place in the top six."

The relay team is currently ranked ninth, with the state meet Friday and Saturday at MHCC.

Roth would like to win a state championship, hopefully as soon as next season.

His chances of winning the 100 fly at this state meet are slim, he feels, as senior Tyler Jourdonnais of David Douglas beat him by three seconds Saturday.

Sophomore Jamie Tuttle, the third leg of the relay who took his split down to a personal best of 29.3 for his part as the breast stroker, said that another goal is to get the school record of 1:46.3, set in 1977.

They swam a state qualifying 1:46.6 for third Saturday.

Tuttle also turned in a personal best 1:05.32 in the finals of the 100 breast stroke, finishing sixth. "I

thought it might get me to state, but it didn't," he said. He was only about a second off, though.

Tuttle also got a two-second drop in the 100 freestyle, finishing sixth with a 53.68.

Senior Kirk Benson swims the fourth leg (freestyle) of the relay. "It's a team effort," he said. "We've just got to work together. We want to get up in that top six."

Another swimmer who qualified for the state meet is senior Shawn Burns, team captain.

The trip to state will cap a four-year high school career for Burns. His senior year hasn't always gone as he would have liked. For example, he missed two weeks earlier this season when he slipped a vertebra in his back.

The season "went quicker this year, a lot quicker than it went last year," he said. He's pleased to be making the trip to state, having qualified with a personal best 5:08.13.

Still, he would have liked to have had a chance at winning the district title.

Said Smith, "I hate to say it's what we hoped for, because we want to say we're going for the district championship, but we did very well considering the stiff competition."

Sarich, Sarich pace ski teams

by SCOTT NEWTON

The Pioneer girls took first and the boys second in a Mt. Hood Conference giant slalom on Dog Leg at Ski Bowl this weekend.

Both teams remain in first place in the conference standings.

Steve Sarich was first by a second and a half, with Chris Welch taking fourth.

Jeff Day "crashed," and Erik Marter missed a gate.

"So, it was up to Peter (Valian) to pull us through," Karsten said.

Valian was "skiing real well," Karsten said, explaining that he could only see the top seven or eight gates. Karsten thought he might do well enough for a first-place team finish, "but he made a mistake later on down the course" and finished 20th.

Day lost a ski, and attempted to complete the course on one ski when he crashed. Karsten said the SUHS skiers can all ski on one ski, but doing it at racing speed while going

through the bamboo is another matter.

"We have a video of it," Karsten said Monday morning. "I'm going to watch it this afternoon and giggle."

Marter missed a gate near the top, realized his mistake, and had to hike back up and ski through it.

"Oops, and all that," Karsten said. "I can take one mistake in a day, but two gives me ulcers." Fortunately, we have the depth to absorb these kinds of problems, Karsten said.

Pete Kallen, the sixth varsity skier, was doing a "good quality body pack."

And what is a good quality body pack?

"In other words," said Karsten, "he was falling a lot in the soft snow."

For the girls, Sue Sarich again proved dependable, taking first by one-tenth of a second.

Charr Bridge tied for second with a Barlow skier (the Barlow girls, by the way, finally beat Hood River and took second), and Pernilla Fack was

the third scoring skier, taking 14th.

For Fack, a senior exchange student from Sweden and the team's sixth skier, to finish in the money is "an achievement," said Karsten.

That states the depth of our team, Karsten added. "It gives you a nice, safe feeling about going to state."

Karsten has said in the past that Fack is a hard worker. "That," Karsten said Monday, "and she's just funny as heck."

About Sarich, he said, "She only made some small mistakes and we got that straightened out."

He added, "Charr skied real well, too. There's some good competition between the two."

Marcy Huff "pulled a nose plow," Karsten said.

He said that Huff, who is the fifth skier for Sandy, would be the top skier on most teams they compete against.

Karsten said that sophomore Sylvia Hertrich, who finished 20th, also "skied well."



Shawn Burns, Richard Rolph, Jamie Tuttle and Matt Roth.

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