

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation

Riding bulls is 'a rush'

Louie Norton has tried football and wrestling, but neither has held his interest like riding bulls.

This is the first season he's rodeoed for some time, though he's been around it most of his life.

About his decision to ride bulls, he said, "It looked like fun, and it is."

"You get a rush as you're getting on. You get pumped up. It's just you and that animal."

"It's exciting."

Norton and his father raise horses about five miles southeast of Sandy, on Rude Road.

He's competed in pony express races in Molalla, St. Paul and Pendleton for several years.

He'll be competing at the State Finals Rodeo this weekend in Redmond. His season didn't go as well as he would have liked, he said.

He tied for sixth in Hermiston, and

was fifth at the Timber Valley Rodeo in Canby not long ago, winning \$43.

He rodeoed throughout the high school season. "I was pretty lucky," Norton said. "I had a sponsor, otherwise it wouldn't have happened."

He is sponsored by Silver West Saddlery of Sandy.

Though he goes in 16th out of 22 (out of about 55 bull riders statewide), he said, "I think I can do as good as any of them, except the guy sitting in first place."

His advisor told him if he could make two rides he'd have a good chance to qualify for the National High School Finals Rodeo.

He said part of the trick is a good draw. "There's just some bulls that can't be rode," he said. On the other hand, one doesn't want a bull that doesn't buck at all as that makes it hard to get good ratings out of the



Louie Norton

judges.

Norton, a 1983 SUHS graduate, is a member of the Timber Valley Rodeo Club of Estacada.

Two set for state rodeo

According to Todd Kasch, the horse is "about 95 percent" of team roping.

"I put the rope on," Kasch said. "He's got to do the rest."

The "he" in this case is JW. Kasch and JW will team with Paul Hulesbusch (and his horse), from "the other side of Scappoose," in the State Finals Rodeo in Redmond this weekend.

Also competing from the Sandy club will be Mollie Smith, a queen candidate and pole bender.

As for Kasch, he's only recently started rodeoing but already has won two belt buckles.

He earned four points in his first rodeo, which was in Albany earlier this year. At Klamath Falls he didn't do any good in the high school rodeo, but won the junior rodeo the next day.

He turned right around and won the rodeo at Ontario.

Having been a little excited about winning two in a row, Kasch said his luck ran out at the Timber Valley Rodeo in Canby. "I kind of wished my rope on and it didn't go," he said.

Though Kasch has only been competing for a few months, he's been working on team roping for about a year. Work this past winter at Canby with cowboys who have competed on the professional circuit helped considerably, Kasch said.

Kasch is a header. In team roping the header throws his rope first, then swings the steer around while the heeler throws his rope. Time is taken when the header and his horse are facing the steer, the ropes taut.

Kasch said just getting a time the first two go-rounds should get them

into the final go. He has set his goal high. He'd like to finish in the top four and earn a trip to the national finals in Douglas, Wyo., which is billed as the largest rodeo in the world.

Kasch, 17, will be a senior at SUHS next year. He lives with his parents, Marilyn and Tom, on Wildcat Mountain, where they raise cattle and horses.

Smith, one of nine queen candidates, has been under the spotlight since the high school season began.

Tonight she'll be participating in a banquet at York's Big O in Redmond. The winner will be announced Sunday.

Contestants are judged on horsemanship, personal interviews, a speech about their community, a personal interview that can cover topics as varied as current events, a test on the rules of high school rodeoing, and modeling.

Smith, who has three different suits, will also be judged on her grand entries each session of the rodeo.

The winner of the queen's contest will represent Oregon at the National Finals Rodeo.

"It's something not every girl will do," said Ernie Smith, Sandy Rodeo Club advisor and Mollie's father. "It takes a lot of work."

Mollie, who will be a senior at SUHS next year, participated in the queen's contest and barrel racing at the state level last year as well.

Ernie is optimistic about Mollie's chances as a queen candidate, but one gets the idea he'll be proud of her regardless.



Mollie Smith

He points out that Mollie has trained her own horse, Okie, a process that can take two or three seasons.

Mollie goes into the pole bending competition 17th. There were about 50 to 60 pole benders statewide this season.

She also competed in barrel racing and goat tying during the high school season, though she didn't qualify for state in those events.

Eight of 14 members of the Sandy club qualified for state. Locally, bareback rider Tim Callister didn't qualify.

Another who didn't qualify was from the Sandy club was Debra Moss of Oregon City (whose father works at Carlson's Chevrolet).



Doug Jensen scores to give Sandy a 7-6 advantage.

Photos by Scott Newton

Paola's keeps battling, gets win

Paola's Pizza-Sandy jumped to 6-2 lead against Somers Grove (West Linn) Monday night, and then scored the additional runs needed to win it in the bottom of the sixth.

By the end of four Sandy had jumped to a 6-2 lead, but Somers Grove tied it up in the top of the sixth.

In the bottom of the sixth Sandy got an additional two runs and held that advantage in the seventh with Doug Jensen turning a "terrific" double play, having fielded the ball, stepped on third and beaten the runner with his throw to first by a comfortable margin for the third out.

The Contreras brothers also added a touch of excitement in the bottom of the sixth with a double steal.

Moe was on first, while Scott Contreras, who'll be a sophomore next year, was on third. Moe made a play for second, but then beat it back to first. While the first and second basemen were chasing Moe, Scott stole home.

To end Somers Grove's bat in the sixth, Scott Contreras made a running catch of a fly ball in left field.

Key men with the bat included Moe, who was two for three with one RBI, Jerry Bennett, with a double and an RBI, and Brad Pearson, who was two for three with an RBI.

Coach John Rohr said Pearson "threw real well. He just got tired at the end."

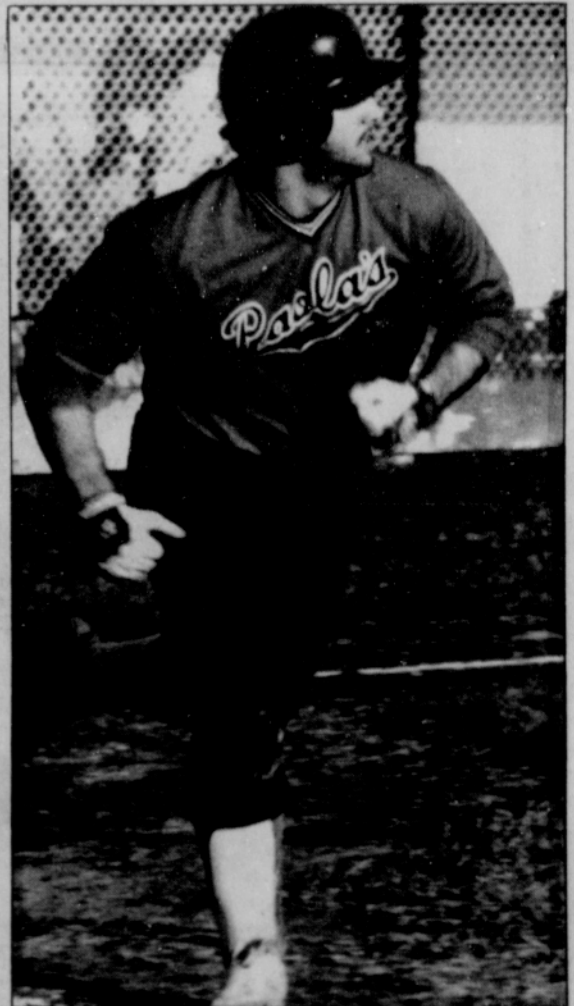
Mike Lund also was credited with pitching well in relief, and takes the win.

The win gave Paola's Pizza-Sandy a 4-3 record. Rohr said they've been playing competitively against teams associated with only one school.

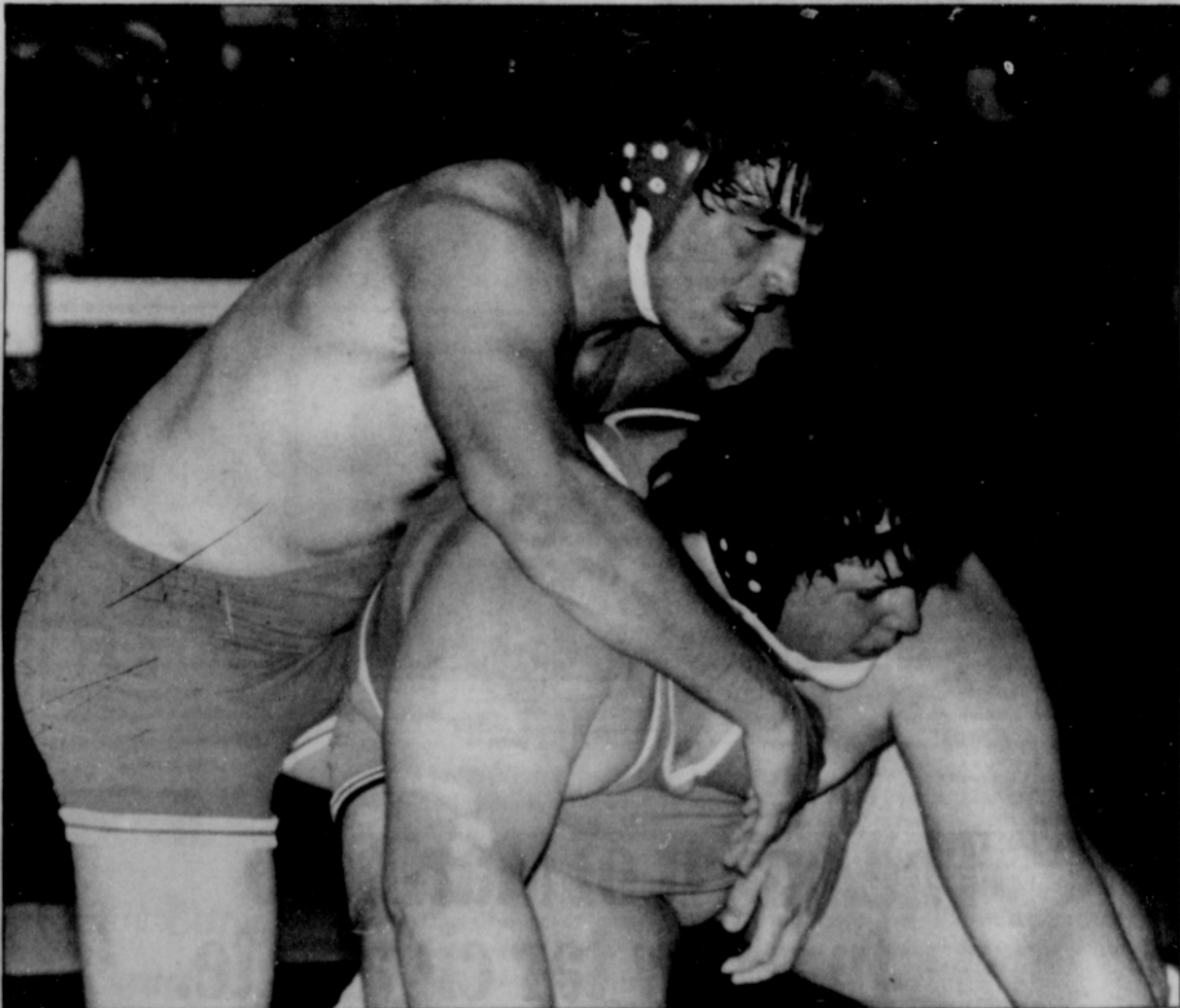
Reynolds, Parkrose and Columbia have a combination team, as does Barlow, Gresham and Centennial. Rohr said they've also played those teams competitively, but that that makes it a tough situation.



Left: Brad Pearson was credited with pitching well.



Right: Jerry Bennett watches his double land near the center-field fence.



Scott Skipper works to break down state runner-up Scott Shannon of Springfield.

Photo by Scott Newton

Three compete in All Star dual

Sandy wrestlers got things started and finished things up at the 1983 Metro-State All Star wrestling dual at Gresham High School last week.

John Cox, Mt. Hood Conference runner-up, was pinned in the second period by Ed Roark of Roseburg, the Southern Conference district champion, in the 106-pound division.

At heavyweight, after two spirited rounds, Scott Skipper was pinned in the third period by Scott Shannon of Springfield.

Shannon reportedly weighs in at close to 300 pounds, which would

have given him nearly a hundred-pound advantage over Skipper.

Skipper finished fourth in the 1983 AAA state meet. Shannon lost a close bout in the finals at state and finished second.

A third Sandy wrestler, Robert Paul, a district champion and state freestyle runner-up, held an advantage over Paul Hughes of Pendleton (AAA fourth place) during the early going, but the two ended up tied at 4-4. Paul was the only Sandy wrestler to win a couple of weeks ago in the Metro-Exchange team dual, with the

Exchange team winning 7-3.

The Metro team also ran into tough going against State, losing 38-13.

In other matches, John Wachsmuth of Madison, '82 and '83 Greco-Roman champion, downed district champion Mickey Neyman of Hermiston in the 123-pound division.

Reagan Ross (136) of David Douglas, Mt. Hood Conference champion, won a fast-paced match 9-6 over Todd Nicholson of Tillamook, a National High School all-American and a state AA champion.

Please turn to Page 10.

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