

OHSRA queen busy, will speak locally



Mollie Smith and Okie

It's been a busy week for Mollie Smith of Boring, the state of Oregon's representative to the National Finals Rodeo.

She went to the St. Paul Rodeo Saturday, was introduced at the Molalla Buckaroo Sunday and made a grand entry and rode in the parade at Condon on the Fourth.

She'll speak locally to two civic organizations this week, and she's also been busy taking care of details in preparation for the National Finals Rodeo, with the queen's contest to begin July 15.

The National Finals Rodeo in Douglas, Wyo., is expected to draw 2000 cowboys from 36 states and three provinces of Canada.

Smith will be one of only two queens to represent the Willamette Valley in 14

years, with the rest having been from central or eastern Oregon. "It's nice to take the crown away from 'em for a year," said Ernie Smith, Mollie's father and the Sandy Rodeo Club advisor.

People involved point out that no tax monies support high school rodeo, though Ernie is quick to praise some area businesses and organizations. First on his list is Tri-County Electric, which has provided "a tremendous amount of help."

The Sandy VFW Post has also provided support. Todd Kasch, a team roper from the area, and Sandy Mero of West Linn and a member of the Sandy club, will receive \$50 savings bonds from the VFW this week for being high point boy and girl in the club.

Bruce Cook Insurance, Sandy Arco and the Lions Club have also helped, Ernie said. "Without this support, these kids wouldn't be where they are today. It means a lot."

Four members of the Sandy club qualified for the State Finals Rodeo recently in Redmond. Mollie will be the only representative from Sandy at the National Finals Rodeo, where she'll participate in pole bending as well as the queen's contest. The format for the queen's contest will be similar to that of the state's

Persons who would like to contribute to help defray her expenses, or help support other Oregon High School Rodeo Association cowboys going to Nationals, may contact Ernie or Mollie at 663-5828.

About the state queen's

contest, Mollie said, "Going into it I had a good feeling. My horse wasn't messing up on his grand entries, so I knew something was going my way."

She said she had her doubts at times, but at the final ceremony that Sunday when she saw last year's queen with a blue and white banner that matched her suit, her spirits were boosted again.

One requirement in the queen's contest is a demonstration of good horsemanship. Last year Mollie won the Viola Cascade Riders all-around title, which included pole bending, barrel racing (her favorite event) and figure 8s.

She's also given pro rodeo a try, having competed earlier this year in the World's Toughest

Rodeo. Though she finished out of the money in the barrels, she was pleased in that she wasn't nervous for the competition despite a crowd of 9,000 at emorial Coliseum.

Mollie has a grade point average of 3.45, earned in part with final exams before and after a weekend at the Timber Valley Rodeo in Canby.

She trained her quarter

horse, Okie, and tries to ride him every day, though he gets the day off after rodeos "to show him he did good and I'm proud of him," Mollie said.

"I'm attached to him," she added. "I don't think I could give him up."

Mollie said that high school rodeoing does more than develop skills. "It helps keep kids in school," she said.

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Photo by Scott Newton

There were 140 runners in the Hoodland Volunteer Firefighters Association's July Fly run on the Fourth.

David Thomas (number 1266, top left) of Aloha again won the men's division, completing the 4.8-mile course in 24.52.

Karen Drake of Welches won the women's title with a 31.31.

Juniors get 14-8 win over Corbett

Sandy got its record to 5-6 (6-8 overall) with a 14-8 win over Corbett last week in Junior American league play.

They started out right, with a nine-run first inning. Jason Wittman led off with a single to right. Steve McMahon reached first with a hard grounder that was bobbled by the third baseman.

Justin Rusaw bunted Wittman home, and beat the throw to first. Adam Cannon kept the rally going with a two-RBI double to left.

The Corbett pitcher, a bit shaken, walked the next four batters, according to Coach Clyde Rusaw. Ryan Jones and Brian Evans followed with back-to-back doubles.

Cannon also knocked in a run in the second inning, reaching first on a fielder's choice. He was driven home on a double by Lance Conger.

Sandy scored two more runs in the third with Charlie Harris crossing the plate on a single by Jones and Evans scoring on another single by Wittman.

Harris also scored in the sixth, and Evans followed with a "nice double" to right.

Harris "did an excellent job on the mound," Rusaw said. He struck out seven and allowed only one hit in four innings.

In the fifth inning, McMahon relieved Harris and preserved the victory by striking out three batters in the remaining two innings.

Thriftway win gets record to 13-1-1

The Williams Thriftway Pioneers of the Junior National league got their record to 13-1-1 with a win over Reynolds East Three last week.

The Pioneers also recently won the Sunset Valley Tournament.

Against Reynolds East, Phil Haney hit home runs (with two RBI) in the top of the second and the top of the fourth to pace Sandy to a 16-5 win.

Haney, who pitched all four innings, struck out nine and walked five. He

has a 10-1 record.

Troy Damrill contributed two RBI with "a solid hit" to left center.

In the first game of the Sunset Valley Tournament (June 25-26), the Pioneers downed Dilley, Ore., 5-3. "The only thing I can say

about game one was that the guys did a heck of a job on defense and offense," said Coach Richard Griggs. "All the boys earned what they got. I'm really proud of them for everything."

Haney struck out eight in

four innings, and Doug Cassiady struck out three in two innings. Sandy outthrew Dilley 15 to nine, and had three errors, to five for the opponents.

The second game wasn't even close, with Sandy jumping to a 4-1 lead after an inning of play, and winning 12-2.

"By the bat and stealing of bases, the guys just keep getting better and better," said Griggs.

Griggs said the championship game was one of their best. "There were so many outstanding plays it's hard to remember which one was best," Griggs said.

No one stole home on catchers Damrill or David Izer, and the pitchers (Haney and Cassiady) "were outstanding." Home runs were hit by Damrill, who received three RBI, and Chris Stone, who received two.

"The guys broke it open in the top of the fifth (with six runs) to stop Dilley cold," Griggs said.



Sandy's Pigtail team, for 8 to 10 year olds, won the Mt. Hood Girls Softball Association's league title and district tournament this summer, earning a 16-0 record. Back row, from left to right: Coach Bill Riggs, Sherry Colby, Janine Williamson, Jennifer Boatright-Griswold, Star

Steenson and Farrell Black. Front row, from left to right: Sheri Brittle, Kristi Sullivan, Kim Riggs, Pam Nugent and Codie Bechthold. Not pictured: Jerry Prickett, assistant coach, and Kendra and Tami Prickett.

Hwy. 26, Sandy Phone 668-8058

PAOLA'S PIZZA BARN

Congratulations to: **Meleta Hooley**

Meleta Hooley, a Cedar Ridge graduate who will attend SUHS in the fall, is prep of the week. She received the highest score ever on a Sandy High challenge exam, having answered 96 percent of all questions right on an algebra I test. Way to go, Meleta!

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