

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation



Pitcher Darin Pullen of BCI throws to Gerald Hale at first for an easy out.

Photo by Scott Newton

Welches nips Sandy in playoffs

Sandy gained a 26-2 record in Junior National (ages 11-12) play this season, but Coach Richard Griggs said the heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Welches in the western division championship game, which ended their season, doesn't bother him.

Both Griggs and Welches coach Cliff Walters described the play as good and the battle as well fought.

Griggs was impressed by the sportsmanship shown by Welches. "Jarrod (Burcio) came up to me after the game and said, 'We wanted to win, but we didn't want you all to lose,'" Griggs said.

The two teams "camped together and played together" at a tournament in Banks, Griggs said. "That was a lot of fun down there," Walters said. Both teams lost to Tillamook, with Welches losing first round and battling back for fourth while Sandy lost its game in the finals.

Williams Thriftway wasn't the only

team in the game with a good record. Welches "really built toward the end of the season," Walters said. The win over Sandy was their 11th straight. They ended up 17-4 in league, 20-5 overall.

Walters described the pitching as "fantastic" by both teams. "It's the best pitching I've seen all year," he said.

Burcio, with a good slider and curve, and Billy King, did the job for Mt. Hood Meadows. Walters said King, who's fairly new to the mound, is "a real natural baseball player, probably the most natural I've ever seen. It's just effortless."

Phil Haney and Robbie Barrett did the work for Sandy.

Griggs said there were a lot of pickoffs. He also enjoyed the first-inning double play that occurred when Sandy's Chris Stone in right field caught Jay Blessing's fly, and then threw to Tony Kohut on second.

The game remained scoreless until the fourth inning when Jason Gifford, who got on with a single, was singled in by Burcio.

In the bottom of the fifth Welches scored again when Troy Walters sacrificed Blessing in.

King struck out two Sandy batters in the sixth, but then Tony Kohut and Greg Salisbury were walked, and Jeff Roden hit a two-RBI standup single.

King struck out the next batter, leaving Sandy's winning run on third.

In the extra inning Steve Coon of Welches was walked, and then stole second. Burcio hit a long single to win the game.

Despite the low score, Walters said there was some good hitting going on, and it took good defensive play to stop Thriftway in the seventh.

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BCI wins senior tourney

Two Sandy teams survived tough district competition in the senior division (13-14 year olds) of Tri-County Junior baseball this weekend. Coach Tom Novotny's ballplayers grabbed the number one spot for sponsor Bruce Cook Insurance with three straight victories at the tournament.

Sandy's Dairy Queen Reds grabbed the second spot as a going-away present for coach Stu Simonson, who is moving from the Sandy area this year after six years of coaching.

The first game Friday pitted the two teams against each other, and BCI took a 9-2 victory with a fine defensive effort. Dale Boyd pitched the entire game for BCI, with 10 strikeouts and no walks.

Tony Hale tallied three RBI in the game, with a single and a triple. Gerald Hale was two for three at the plate to aid in the BCI cause.

Strong hitting by Sean Fenwick and Jeff Simons were not enough to pull it out for DQ.

DQ rebounded with a 6-4 win Saturday over Sandy VFW, the team coached by Loren Ginther that had won five of its last six regular season games to gain the second seed in the tourney.

Simons got the pitching win and Chris Robbins tallied three RBI for the Reds.

Also Saturday, BCI survived an extra-inning contest with Corbett, winning 6-5. Darren Pullen got the win, with Tony Hale receiving a save.

Both Nick Phillips and Hale smacked triples in the game, with Phillips resulting in three RBI.

Matt Novotny hit a solid single to

drive in Randy Lamm for the winning run.

DQ then had to face Corbett in another squeaker Saturday afternoon, barely escaping with a 2-1 win.

The game was scoreless for four innings until Joe Kohut singled and Fenwick drove him in. Corbett scored in the top of the sixth to tie the game.

Robbins smashed a single up the middle to score Doug Simonson for the winning run in the bottom of the last inning.

Simons and Fenwick again combined on the mound with the win going to Simons and the save to Fenwick.

In the championship game on Sunday, DQ was determined not to let BCI escape easily and jumped on them with two quick RBI by Robbins in the first inning.

BCI responded with five runs of their own in the first. BCI also tallied two runs in the third with triples by Tony and Gerald Hale.

BCI pitcher Novotny held the Reds scoreless until the fourth when they unleashed with four runs, speared by a bases-loaded double by Robbins and a two-RBI single by Scott Midlemis.

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Monster Lunker fourth in Oregon Parks tourney

Monster Lunker of Sandy finished fourth this weekend at the Oregon Parks Recreational District Tournament in Estacada.

As winners of the Sandy Area Softball Association's women's league, Monster Lunker received one of three berths in the 13-team tournament.

Ted's Brightwood Store won the consolation bracket, and Wholesale Auto also competed.

Saturday Monster Lunker was down 13-7 against Dots of Estacada, but won 22-16 with a 15-run seventh inning.

They won against the Slow-Ballers

of Estacada to cinch fourth Sunday, but then fell to Buche Logging of Molalla in a game for third.

Two members from each team were selected to the all-star squad. They included Jackie Roberts and Toby Zehrung of Monster Lunker, Marlene Peoples and Pam Barnett of Ted's and Drenda Leathers and Debi Little of Wholesale Auto.

Other team members of Monster Lunker are Angie Hoffman, Linda Snyder, Lori Kuzmesky, Paula Hoper, Carol Hilstad, Mary Valitski, Cindy Rudisill, Kim Jackson, Caryn Rohweder, Brenda Roberts and Lulani McMahon.

Perfect game gets Midgets title

Sandy's Midget Federal (ages 9-10) baseball team played a perfect game to win the district tournament this weekend at Wilkes School, which is in the Reynolds school district.

Sandy had to make a comeback to win the first game, and errors kept the second game close. "We really tightened up that last game and didn't commit one error," said Coach Steve Backus said of their 11-0 win over Rockwood.

At the plate in the championship game, Aaron Knotts was two for three, with a double and a single. Travis Hilstad was one for two with a double and a single, and Bill Backus, Joey Cejka, Mac Krick, Steven

Baker and Rusty Comer were one for two.

"We were hitting real well, hitting hard and creating errors," said Backus.

The game was called after four innings because of the 10-run rule. Bryan Britton pitched the first two innings, and didn't give up any runs or hits. Knotts pitched the final two innings, giving up one hit and no runs.

In the first game of the district tournament, Sandy was down 5-0 after three innings.

In the bottom of the fifth with the score tied and the bases loaded, Pete Wantowski "laid down a perfect

bunt" to score the winning run. "It couldn't have been any better," Backus said.

After the 6-5 win over Reynolds "B," Sandy downed Reynolds "A" 9-7.

They earned a 16-2 league record, and are 23-4 overall with two second-place tournament finishes to their credit.

The state tournament will be July 29-31 in Canby. Backus said they've faced a number of the teams that'll be at state. "If we can play the kind of ball we played yesterday, we'll be right in the thick of things," Backus said Monday.

Racing a reason for family to be together

by SCOTT NEWTON

As the members of a family get older it gets harder to get everyone together, though there are exceptions.

Diana and Ron Hug and family are one such exception. During the summers their family gets together for boat races.

"It's made a family of us," Ron said. "I've got to know these kids a lot better through boat racing, and I think they know me better."

Tom Canada, 22, Derek Canada, 20, Scott Canada, 16, and Dawn Canada, 12, and Diana and Ron spend

weekends camping and racing at places as varied as Grants Pass and John Day.

July 31 they'll be competing at North Fork Reservoir near Estacada. Time trails begin at 9 a.m., with racing at 1 p.m.

Everyone is involved in one way or the other. Derek and Scott were the first two in the family to start competing. Derek was the 1981 rookie of the year, and competes in the most competitive class.

Tom started a year later than his two brothers and now, depending on how the time trials go, is sometimes

in the same class as Scott. Their mother Diana started racing this season, and once missed qualifying for the same class as Scott by one second.

Dawn gets to run the boats occasionally and is looking forward to racing, and Derek's friend, Sue Sorrels, may debut at North Fork.

And where does that leave Ron? "I'm the mechanic and the chauffeur. I get 'em there," he said.

Ron works for Transport Storage and Distributing as a truck driver, hauling GM products. Diana has driven with him, drove a school bus

at Aloha last year, and will be driving for SUHS this year. Ron and Diana live in Sandy.

Though the family may go different ways during the week, on weekends they get together, camping regularly with a group of other enthusiasts.

They have four boats, one of which is loaned out. Scott, who bought his own boat, is sponsored by Paola's Pizza.

The engines used range from two-cylinder Mercurys and Yamatos to four-cylinder Mercurys.

A man from Tillamook has the franchise for Yamato engines, which are purchased used from Japan. Ron said that in Japan people bet on the boat races much like one might bet on dogs here.

A new Yamato engine might run \$2,300, while a used one goes for about \$695. In general they are "not as fast, but consistent," Ron said.

They also have a four-cylinder Mercury with a "squeezed head" for additional horsepower, perhaps as high as 60 (with 165 pounds of compression per cylinder). "It's way up there," Ron said.

They compete in Inter-City Racing Commission races, of which there are about 38 members who belong to four different associations. The Portland Outboard Racing Association is hosting the North Fork race.

The IRC is believed to be the last wildcat, or independent, club in the U.S. More familiar to many people may be the American Power Boat Association (APBA), the major professional power boating group.

Ron stressed that the IRC emphasizes safety. He raced cars when he was younger and found it "too expensive and too dangerous." The family has also had motorcycles, but he seems to prefer boats.

Ron and Diana neither consider boat racing that expensive or dangerous. Diana pointed out that at the end of a season one can get a boat and engine at a reasonable cost.

Ron said that every Sunday boats are checked for safety. Helmets and life preservers are required equipment, and a cord to activate a kill switch is attached to a driver's jacket. Some carburetors are also set "full butterfly" so the engine dies if the driver lets up on the throttle.

In three years of racing Ron said

they've only seen one "bad wreck."

The Oregon Marine Board grants them the water space for the closed-course races, which are usually about a half a mile in circumference.

In the toughest "F" (handicap) class of races, boats may attain speeds of 90 miles per hour, Derek said. The boats lift out of the water and pretty much travel on a layer of air.

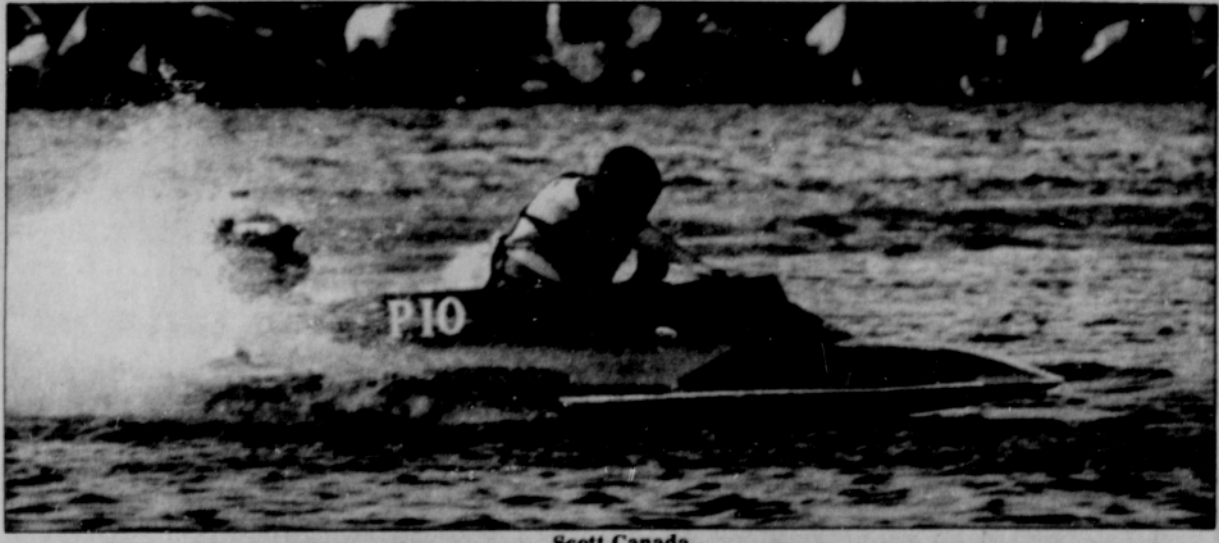
It took Derek about two years to get the "guts up" to compete in the flying "D" races, in the class of "hot dogs."

In the races with flying starts all the boats cross the starting line at the same time and jockey for position. The other races are handicapped, with the slowest boat taking to the course first.

Boaters may compete in two heats of both a flying start race and a handicapped race. Trophies are awarded according to a point system.

Before missing some races (Ron got a piece of metal in his eye and wasn't up to going one weekend this season), Derek was third in points in the competitive "D" fly.

"For some reason it's just natural for him," Ron said. "It's smooth, he's just picked it right up."



Scott Canada



Derek Canada

Racing photos by "Hutch"



Ron and Diana Hug, Derek Canada, Tom Canada and Scott Canada