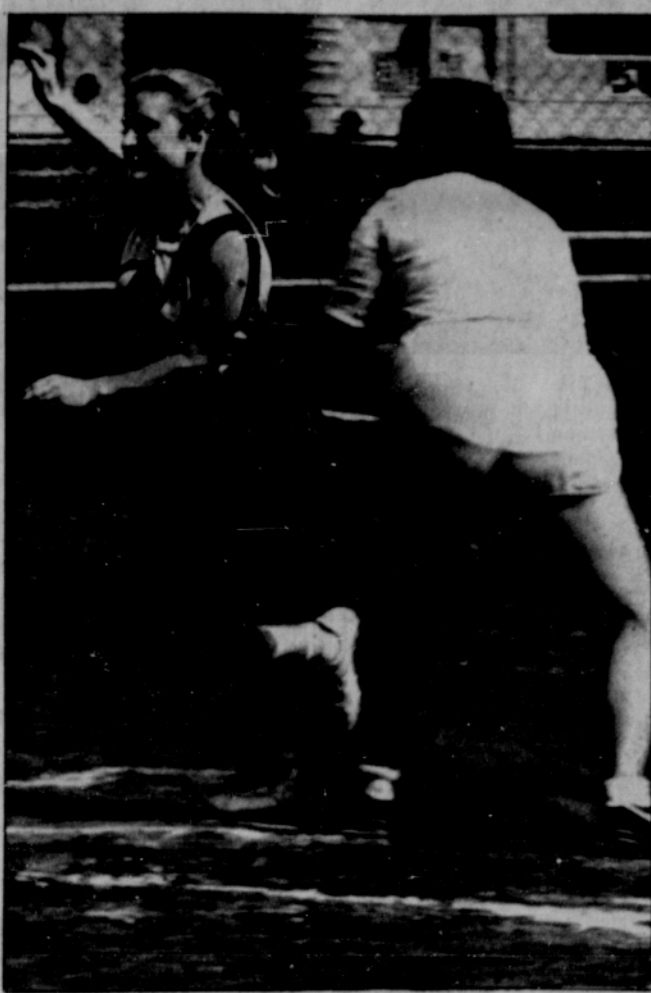


The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation



Cheri Hunter of Williams Thriftway makes the catch in left field.



Janice Hodel of CCB is tagged at home by Kathy Pinkerton of Wholesale Auto.



Lisa Smith of Ted's Brightwood Store catches a line drive.

Skipper's punt sets up North TD

Scott Skipper found himself among good company as he and his North teammates prepared for the 36th annual Shrine All-Star football game.

And with teammates like that, there was no coasting in practice. "They all hit," Skipper said Monday. "You can't go to sleep on one play or someone will roll you over."

A crowd of 13,120 attended the game, according to a Shrine game spokesman, who estimated it was the best crowd they've had in four years. But the North squad was unable to end the South's recent dominance of the series, falling 13-9 Saturday at Civic Stadium.

A 49-yard punt by Skipper in the second quarter, which landed inside the five-yard line, set up the North's only touchdown. A fumble was recovered by the North a few plays after Skipper's punt.

He punted seven times, with an average of 38.7 yards per kick.

He also played the entire game at fullback, and a good portion of the game as strong-side linebacker, playing the wide side of the field. He was also team captain.

At fullback, as was the case at Sandy, he spent most of his time blocking. Asked if he minded that, he said, "Oh no, it's kind of fun."

He was the primary receiver on two pass plays. On one, quarterback Bill Fellows of Barlow was sacked. On the other he was covered too closely, and so the ball wasn't thrown to him.

With four or five minutes left in the game Skipper had a chance to win it for the North. Thirty yards from the goal line he nearly picked off a pass, but "I started running before I caught it," he said. "I guess that's the breaks of the game."

Skipper was a member of the SUHS wrestling team that finished second at state. He was also disappointed this spring with his second-place finish in the state javelin competition. He agrees things haven't all been going his way. "You've just got to keep trying," he said.

He'll get that opportunity at the University of Oregon. He left Tuesday for Eugene to check in with the other freshman football players.

At 6-3 and 210 pounds, one goal is to bulk up. He's also anxious to get off to a good start in his school work, and plans to major in business or pre-engineering.

Steelheads down Hawks in opener

The Portland Steelheads opened with a 19-16 preseason win over the West Seattle War Hawks Saturday.

The War Hawks have "improved about 100 percent over last year," said Allen Fry, an offensive guard. They "surprised us," he added.

The game wasn't as close as it sounds, with the War Hawks getting their last score at the close of the game. John Frankel, general manager, said "about 500" attended.

Fry didn't start though he saw playing time. Cal McKinnis Sr., who is beginning his 21st season of semipro football, started at defensive guard. Cal Jr., his son, started at fullback, and "caught a pass, and gained a few yards," Fry said.

Jess Stenson, Steelhead quarterback, threw for 356 yards. Stenson played for Centennial High School and Lewis & Clark College.

The Steelheads are playing under new ownership. "I think it's 10 times better than last year," Fry said. At practices there are now about 50 players, "instead of 15."

Saturday the Steelheads will take on the Washington County Grizzlies at Hillsboro at 7:30 p.m.

Oregon to host Japanese

Chuck Kearney pinned his way through the Oregon AAA state tournament, and Larry Topliff didn't run into a whole lot of resistance either.

"If they (Sandy fans) want to see these guys have to reach in their back pockets for something extra this will be a good chance," said Chuck Kearney Sr. about an Oregon dual meet with the Japanese national team, set for Aug. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Hood Community College.

"Most of these (Japanese) guys are earmarked for the Olympics one of these days," Kearney said, so local fans might get to see some "Sandy all-stars scrap a little bit."

The "highly-trained, highly skilled" Japanese team was recently in Chicago for the National Junior Worlds.

Monster Lunker wins city title the hard way

Thanks to Williams Thriftway, Monster Lunker took the long route in winning the Sandy Area Softball Association's city title this weekend.

"We do everything the hard way," said Carol Hilstad, Monster Lunker first baseman. "It never ceases to amaze me."

Coach Joe Kern called it a "pretty rough weekend," but added that that's nothing new for them.

Murphy's law—if something can go wrong, it will—was in effect against The Store-Inn Between Tavern, Kern said. But in the bottom of the seventh, with the score 3-3 and two out, Cindy Rudisill got the winning RBI for Monster Lunker.

They also downed Wholesale Auto 20-6 Saturday.

Monster Lunker played its first game at noon Sunday against Thriftway. Including a preseason tournament, the regular season and the city tournament, Monster Lunker has lost only twice, earning a 24-2 record locally. Both losses have been to Thriftway. "The times we've beaten them they've still given us tough games," Kern said.

The 8-5 loss knocked ML out of the driver's seat. They went on to beat Clackamas County Bank 7-3. CCB "played a superb game," Kern said. "They've got to be the most improved team in the league."

About 5 p.m. the stage was set for Ted's Brightwood Store to take the tournament title as they were undefeated going in, and people were talking about how the "Teddy Bears" were having a better tournament.

Monster Lunker jumped to a 6-2 lead after an inning of play, with the outs coming one-two-three in the second for both teams.

In the bottom of the third Ted's cut the lead in half, with the score 8-4.

ML got a run in the fourth. Ted's first two batters were out, but then they hit seven straight for five runs and a 9-9 tie. It was "pretty impressive," said Kern, who watched helplessly from the bench. "There's not a whole lot you can do about those base hits but watch 'em go by."

The fifth inning was scoreless, and both teams scored two in the sixth, leaving the game tied, at 11-11.

Both teams held in the seventh. In the eighth Marlene Peoples caught three flies in left field. Then ML's Angie Hoffman at shortstop fielded all three of Brightwood Store's hits.

In the ninth inning Hilstad, Caryn Rohweder and Lori Kuzmesky all got hits to load the bases. With two out, Rudisill again turned out to have good timing, driving in two runs.

Toby Zehrung doubled for two RBIs, and Hoffman singled in the 16th run. Brightwood Store was unable to make a last comeback, with the loss making a second game necessary. This time Monster Lunker dominated, 20-4, ending over an eight-hour day for them.

Kuzmesky's "brilliant" pitching against The Store-Inn Between Tavern was one key to the tournament victory, according to Kern.

Kuzmesky also batted in the 600 range, as did Brenda Roberts, with Rudisill not far behind.

Other times Hoffman, Zehrung,

Linda Snyder or a number of other players have pulled them through, Kern said. Hoffman's "been steady all year," he said. "She's kind of the glue on this team." She puts "a whole lot of hard work into it," both on and off the field.

Though they didn't have a good tournament, Kern said he wasn't surprised at the way they came back and took first.

"One thing you've got to say about 'em is they never give up,

they never quit," Kern said. "No matter what the score is, they'll be out there fighting."

The weekend before last Monster Lunker finished fourth in the 24-team Oregon Parks and Recreation district tournament. In the top of the seventh in a game against Doc's of Estacada, ML overcame a 13-7 deficit with a 15-run inning. "It was by far the most exciting game in my life," Kern said, adding that that runs the gamut from women's

slowpitch to professional baseball. There were 50 fans from Sandy standing on the bleachers "going crazy."

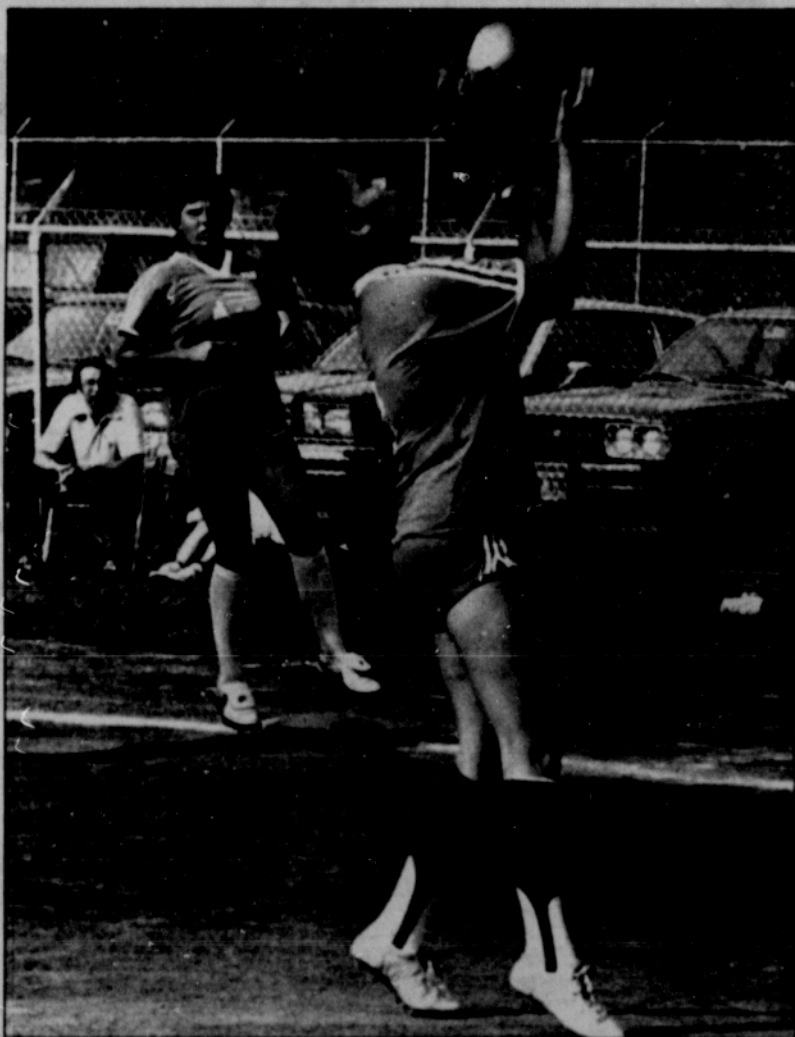
The weekend before that Monster Lunker finished third in the 16-team Slo-Ballers Invitational, also at Estacada, again by coming up through the loser's bracket.

This weekend they'll take a 30-6 overall record into the ASA state tournament at Hermiston.

"They've surprised me all season, so I'm not going to be surprised anymore," Kern said. "If they go out and fight, who knows what could happen?"

As for Ted's Brightwood Store, "It was a good season," said Peoples, a co-captain. "We're ready to come back next year."

The Store-Inn Between Tavern was third in the six-team round robin tournament. Thriftway was fourth, Wholesale Auto fifth.



Pitcher Jan Gifford of Ted's catches a fly. Pam Barnett is also pictured.



First baseman Carol Hilstad of Monster Lunker makes the catch for an out.



Back row, from left to right: Joe Kern, Bill Kern, Connie Kern, Mary Valitski, Fred Fegel, Brenda Roberts, Bill Fegel, Caryn Rohweder, Dennis Lake and Maynard Hilstad. Front row, from left to right: Leilani McMahon, Angie

Hoffman, Toby Zehrung, Jackie Roberts, Linda Snyder, Lori Kuzmesky, Cindy Rudisill, Kim Jackson and Carol Hilstad.