

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation



Joey Dunham kicks the ball toward the goal during the opening round of the Cascade Soccer Club's new season. Heather Miller and Steven Wolff

look on. Brian Anderson is behind Dunham.

Photos by Dan Dillon

Area youth get kick out of soccer

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

After two years of nearly doubling in size, the Sandy Cascade Soccer Club is leveling off.

Thirty-three teams with nearly 400 kids officially begin their season this week on area soccer fields.

The players, who range in age from 5 to 14, are divided into teams at two-year age increments. Although most teams began playing this week, Gar Ragan, vice president of the organization, says there is still room on many teams.

"We can still take kids at any of the age levels," he said. In keeping with the league policy of not stressing winning, teams and additions to each team are selected by blind draw. This prevents "stacking" experienced players and creation of "superteams", according to Ragan.

"Although everyone likes to win, we try not to make that the highest priority. We don't even keep league standings."

Ragan said development of the league, which had its beginnings as a single club five years ago, has

not been without problems.

"It takes a lot of work and a lot of volunteers spend a lot of time putting it together," he said.

This is the first year the club could pay for uniforms in advance, says Ragan, adding it's a pretty good feeling to know there is money to work with.

"Last year it seemed like we were operating on borrowed time."

Although the club is solvent, Ragan said, "no one will be taking off for Reno" and fund-raisers will still be necessary.

Bob Espenel, a past president of the organization, said the biggest reason for the club's success is that everyone enjoys themselves.

"We have always tried to stress the fun part of soccer, both to the coaches and the players," he said.

According to Espenel, having fun hasn't interfered with teaching skills. He said that is evidenced by the improvement in abilities from year to year.

"The kids learn how to play a little better and the coaches learn how to coach," said Espenel.

"When the main thrust of our players start in high school in a few

years, their experience will make a real impact on the soccer program."

Kelso school is the hub of the club's activities, with several fields from 40 yards to 100 yards in length. A new addition at Kelso is a shoe exchange where parents who

find they have almost new soccer shoes for almost small enough feet, can exchange with others.

Kids have until Sept. 9 to sign up and can do so by calling Marty Wolff 668-7729.

"Sponsors can sign up any time," said Espenel.



Parent support along the sidelines plays an important role in the club's growth and boosts the players' morale.

Monster Lunker lands second place

After battling back all season, Sandy's Monster Lunker softball team found itself the victim of a seventh-inning rally Saturday, dashing their hopes of a state championship.

"They came from behind all year," said Lunker coach Joe Kern. "We had people scared to death in the sixth and seventh inning because that's when we did our damage."

At the state tourney in Hermiston, however, the tables turned in the bottom of the seventh inning of the championship game as Larry's Sports Center of Estacada snuck across a run to steal a 5-4 win.

Monster Lunker had come back in their half of the inning, rallying from a 4-1 deficit to tie the score behind a clutch triple by Caryn Rohweder.

The local team had driven through the winner's bracket the whole way, setting up the first meeting with Larry's, a team they had beaten by 10 runs earlier in the season.

"It was a different team," Kern pointed out. "They were loaded at state."

In the first game Larry's edged Lunker's 11-10, sending the Sandy team into the second-place game with Simplot of Hermiston. True to form, Lunker's grabbed the win in that one scoring a 6-5 triumph with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning.

That win set up a rematch with Larry's and more late-game heroics as they scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth, held the Estacada team scoreless in the top of the final inning with help from a big double play, and came away with a 4-3 win to set up the championship game.

The double play was one of 10

Lunker's turned during the tournament, Kern said.

"We didn't hit the ball as well as we usually do, but our defense was just phenomenal," he said. His infield made just four errors in the six games the team played.

That was evident in the all-state selections as shortstop Angie Hoffman and left-fielder Cindy Rudisill were named to the team. The other half of the infield double-play duo, second baseman Toby Zehrung, was named most valuable player.

"We definitely surprised ourselves," Kern said. "We just don't quit."

Reminiscent of Yogi Berra, Kern said, "It's not over till it's over and that's how we won a lot of our games over there."

The team battled 100-degree heat during the final three games and Kern, who found himself short of players, juggled the lineup to find relief.

Linda Snyder showed her versatility, covering five different positions in the tournament, including a stint on the mound to give regular pitcher Lori Kuzmesky a break from the heat. Kuzmesky was able to come back and was "strong the rest of the day," the coach said.

"It's tough picking anybody out," Kern said. "It was definitely a team effort right down the line."

In the final month of the season, Lunker's captured first through fourth in four consecutive tourneys, including first in the Sandy City Tournament and fourth in the tough Regional Recreational Tourney.

"Not bad for a first-year team," Kern said.

Gym charges could cause Rec difficulty

Sandy Elementary School district's plans to charge \$5 per hour for use of gyms has Bill Knight-Weiler in a sweat.

Knight-Weiler is recreation director for the City of Sandy.

Fees for use of the gyms, which have been provided to the recreation department free of charge in the past, could amount to several thousand unavailable dollars, according to Knight-Weiler.

"We plan to approach the schools in hopes they will modify their decision," he said.

Knight-Weiler said there are few other options, should those efforts fail.

"Probably the most obvious would be passing the cost on to people enrolled in the programs," he said.

Within the recreation programs, basketball would probably be

hardest hit. Knight-Weiler said fees are already up to \$300 a season, which has caused some teams to drop out even before any additional gym fee.

Although volleyball fees are not as high as basketball, Knight-Weiler said the increase would appear to be even more dramatic for those involved in that program.

Knight-Weiler said the high school would also be looked into as a possible site for the programs.

"The best solution would be our own facility, but that's a long way off," he said.

The gyms are provided free of charge to youth groups, as in the past. Adult groups, other than the recreation department, had been charged \$5 for an entire evening session in past years.

SUHS students wonder about sports

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

A steady stream of students filed in and out of Athletic Director Mike Kostuba's office this week as registration got underway at Sandy High.

Many sought clarification on the nuances in the stack of forms they carried, many just stopped to say hello, and many wanted to know "Is there going to be a team this year?"

Difficulties in passage of school levies have placed a cloud of uncertainty over incoming students' athletic futures. Most realize that

any further cuts in the athletic department would mean the loss of some programs.

Although Kostuba said the school will begin the year "as planned", he acknowledges his department would have to drop a sport or sports if asked to make any more dollar cuts.

"We can't cut back and run anything at three-quarter speed," he said.

The department cut \$41,000 last year and had to drop swimming as a result. Kostuba said the main reason swimming was cut was because funding for the pool was also eliminated.

At present almost half the students

in the school participate in sports at one time or another. The numbers appear to grow every year and if the amount who turned out for weight training this summer is an indicator, this year will continue the trend.

All fall sports begin practice Aug. 22. The school will start the year with a cross country team; freshman, jayvee and varsity football; freshman, jayvee and varsity volleyball; girls varsity soccer, and jayvee and varsity soccer for boys.

Kostuba said the girls soccer program was just beginning and he can see a jayvee team in the future.

User fees as a method of funding

are considered unrealistic by Kostuba. He cited possible problems with collections and other issues as his reasons.

"How do you charge the kid who doesn't play as much as the other the same fee?" he said.

"I'm philosophically opposed to anything which might have a tendency to make participation more elitist," said Kostuba. "It should be open to any and all."

As for the students who want to know if there is going to be a team, Kostuba can only tell them "we're going to start with one."

Swimmers register for fall

Registration is underway for fall classes at the Sandy Swim Center.

Saturday classes for American Red Cross instruction will begin as soon as the required seven students have signed up. The 10-week series will run from 9 a.m. to noon each Saturday and includes classes for novices, beginners, advanced beginners, intermediates and swimmers.

Tiny Tot classes for 3 to 6-year-olds will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5 p.m. and from 5 to 5:30 p.m.

Classes for basic and advanced water safety is also planned. Times and dates will be announced later.

Advanced water safety students must be 15 years old and hold certification at the "swimmer" level of instruction. For basic rescue and water safety, a student must be at least 11 years old and have reached the "advanced beginner" level.

For children interested in joining the swim team, pre-competitive swim classes are scheduled 4 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning Sept. 19, Oct. 3, and Oct. 17.

Adult instruction is available on Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m.

For more information about any of the programs offered, call the Sandy Aquatic Center at 668-4400.

Hwy. 26, Sandy Phone 668-8058

PAOLA'S PIZZA BARN
Congratulations to:
Missy Schwartz

Missy Schwartz is prep of the week. Schwartz, 11, was selected to join the Rockwood Blackbirds at the national tournament in Glenpool, Okla., this weekend. Way to go, Missy!



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