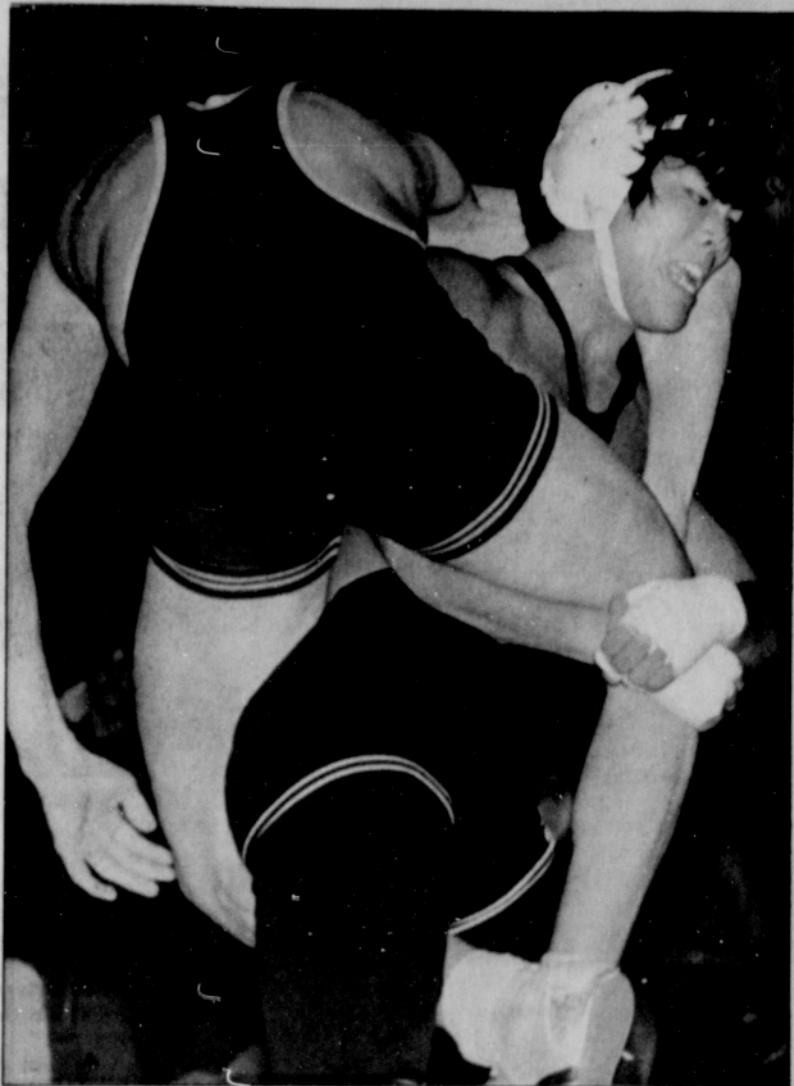


The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation



Hui Choi prepares to throw his opponent.

Photo by Scott Newton

Solo win at Classic precedes home victory for SUHS

At the Cardinal Classic in Tacoma, Wash., voting a Sandy wrestler as the most outstanding comes close to being a Christmas tradition.

Chris Jones and Chuck Kearney have earned the honor for Sandy in the past. Senior Dan King has now joined their ranks, having become the third Sandy wrestler in four years to win the honor.

King beat a good wrestler from Franklin Pierce, coming on strong in the third period with a takedown and nearfall for an 8-3 win in a match described by Coach Ron Calhoun as "real exciting." It was apparently also impressive enough to earn King the outstanding wrestler honor, which is decided by a vote of the coaches.

Calhoun likes to attend the tournament because of the level of competition. "More kids participated in this tournament than will participate in their (Washington's) state tournament," he said. "They train for that just like it was the state championships."

King provided highlights for an otherwise disappointing weekend. An

injury to 135-pounder Hui Choi and three additional forfeits hurt the Pioneers' chance of doing well. They finished sixth out of eight teams.

Frank McKinnis, at 159, won his first two matches to get to the finals, and then lost 5-3 to Phil Pine of Elma, with two "real questionable calls" going to Pine, according to Calhoun.

"I really felt Frank out-wrestled him," he said. "He (Pine) didn't do that much. He's a counter wrestler."

Loren Bateman, at 178, also lost an exciting match in the finals, falling 3-2 to Jeff Skoda of Franklin Pierce, last year's defending state champion.

Bateman — who was undefeated until the loss in the finals — turned in a "good effort," said Calhoun.

Rod Smith, a 115 pounder, won his first two matches at the Cardinal Classic, but fell 6-0 in the finals.

In other action at what was billed as the largest single-day tournament in Washington, Tony Barnes, at 108, finished third.

At 122 pounds, Wayne Reick finished fourth. Jeff Smith, at 130, also finished fourth.

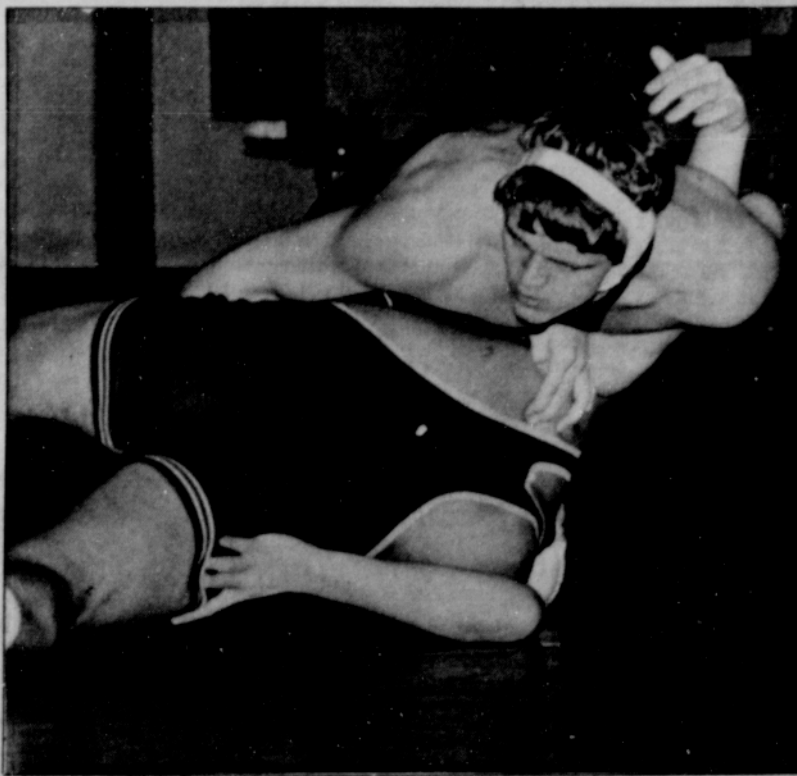


Photo by Scott Newton

Loren Bateman works for a fall in a one-sided match against Columbia.

In Mt. Hood Conference action, the Pioneers downed Columbia 46-16. "If we had wrestled that well against David Douglas we would be 2-0 now instead of 1-1 in the league," Calhoun said.

Barnes, Rod Smith, Jeff Smith and Choi won by falls against the Chargers. Yoshiaki Masui, at 98, won 13-0. Reick won 6-0. Ken Jepsen, at 141, won 6-2. Aaron George, at 157,

won 10-9. McKinnis won 7-3 over Columbia's best wrestler, Jim Sloan. Bateman won his match last week 20-0.

Sandy's second varsity finished second at the Cardinal Classic by fractions of a point. Individual champions included Ernest Roberts at 101, Dan Emerson at 130, George at 158, Doug Crane at 168 and Kyle Gibson at 178.



Photos by Hank Emrich

Mt. Country ends with win

Sandy recreation department volleyball finished up last week with championship matches at the high school.

Champions in the "A" Division were Mountain Country Realty with the Boring Birds placing second. The Birds jumped to an early lead in the first game as Mt. Country came back to win a close one. In the second game, the Birds had early troubles connecting and "were never in the game" according to Jerry Prickett of the Birds. The Birds and Mt. Country had each scored one win against each

other in league play. Neither team had lost to a team in the League II division this season. The championship was won by scores of 15-13 and 15-4.

"B" Division winners Carlson Chevrolet beat Whistle Stop in the first match, 15-4 and 16-14. In the second match of the "B" playoffs, U.S. Metal Works had to go three games to defeat Mt. Hood Cleaners, 15-2, 12-15 and 15-11.

Carlson Chevrolet then defeated U.S. Metalworks, 15-11 and 15-8 for the championship.



The League I champion Mt. Country Realty team for Sandy Recreation Department volleyball. From left to right:

Jay McCallister, Randy Castille, Karla Estes, Steve Nelson, Marilyn Olson and Will Frank.

Pioneers grab tough win from Chargers in overtime

After losing to David Douglas 56-39 Friday night, the Sandy boys' basketball team showed up to play basketball at Columbia Tuesday night, coming away with a 53-51 win in overtime.

Columbia is a scrappy hustling team, and the Pioneers showed they were ready to play that kind of a game early. Steve Pettingill made a diving steal right after the opening tipoff and Dave Bennett hit the Chargers with a blocked shot two plays later to give Sandy an early 5-2 lead.

Columbia's split-personality ball game, gambling defense and patient offense, slowed things down and put the Chargers up 11-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Sandy struggled for most of the second quarter and Columbia soon stretched the lead to 16-8, patiently waiting for the middle to open up and capitalize on three-point plays.

The Chargers appeared to be having their way under the Sandy basket, so much so that three Columbia players fought for a rebound at one point, only to tip it in for a Sandy score.

Evidently Coach Dan Brisbin felt having the Chargers score for Sandy was not the right means of attack, and after a Pioneer timeout, Mark Shelton and Robert Brader combined to tie the score at 16.

Columbia again began to push for the middle and a foul with no time on the clock put Columbia ahead 24-20 at the half.

The Pioneers scored the first two buckets of the second half to knot the score and shifted to a 3-2 zone to stop Columbia's drive to the hoop. With the Chargers going to the bomb, Sandy collected rebounds for a while and owned a 30-29 lead at the end of the third.

Wes Wright fed Brader a couple of sweet bounce passes inside early in the final quarter and Sandy was able to stretch the lead to 39-33. Pettingill and Brader were taking turns under the basket and when Pettingill cashed in on two free throws, Sandy had a seven point lead.

The Charger press came alive however, and Columbia was at 41-38 with less than two minutes left. It looked like the Pioneers might shut the door when they pushed to 46-40 on a Greg Hill offensive board and follow with one minute left in the game.

Anything can happen and did in the final minute, with Ron Muck tripping over a Columbia player in the backcourt screened from the view of an official immediately after a Sandy player missed a "sure" layup. The Chargers took advantage to pull within one at 46-45.

Pettingill was able to sink two free throws to give Sandy a three point edge with 12 seconds left. Columbia couldn't get a shot off until just two seconds remained, but an untimely foul put the Chargers on the line and into overtime.

In overtime Columbia's 30-foot bombs finally began to miss the mark and Brader scored the winner with four seconds remaining to close the game at 53-51.

"We haven't won too many close ones like this," said assistant coach Curtis Heath.

Columbia is marked as a playoff contender and Heath said the win would mean a lot to the Sandy team.

"We are 1-1 in league play and it took a good team effort to beat a team like Columbia," he said.

"We haven't been playing bad basketball, and it is beginning to pay off dividends," said Heath.



Robert Brader pops one over Columbia defense.

Photo by Hank Emrich