

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation

Skiers, in keeping with tradition, win

by MARTY MORRISON

Sandy High's ski team kept with tradition, as both boys and girls teams captured first place in giant slalom competition Saturday at Mirror Mountain. Sandy reigns as state champions in both boys and girls competition. Steve Sarich also returns as individual champion for the state.

Led by the efforts of Sarich's first place finish (54.2) and Marcy Huff's second place finish (61.7), the Pioneers were the only team to have every racer qualify in this first race of the season, according to Darren Ross, assis-

tant coach for the Pioneers.

Although Sarich's performance was expected, teammate Jeff Day turned in the second fastest time of the day to keep Sarich honest.

"Steve is a ways ahead of me, but I'm pushing him," said Day.

Sarich may have been a little surprised to see Day pushing, but no less surprised than the girls were to see Hood River grab a close second in the meet.

"They weren't really expected to be that tough," said Ross.

Day added his own observations to Ross'

statements.

"I think the girls may have been in trouble if a couple Hood River girls hadn't fallen," he said.

That does not necessarily mean the Hood River girls have established a pattern, according to Ross.

"We may have been skiing a little conservatively," he said.

Huff has good reason. An injury last year took her out of most of the season, and she is getting used to a knee brace she wears while skiing.

"My knee still bothers me but my brace

helps a lot. Actually I feel stronger in my bad leg while wearing the brace than I do in my good leg," said Huff.

The technical course failed to slow any of the Sandy girls as five finished in the top ten. The course was set very technical, according to Huff, with five "closed gates" causing many racers to be disqualified.

Freshman Jennifer Day turned in an excellent run of 63.6 to finish third, while sophomore Holly Sarich captured fifth place with a time of 65.5. Rounding out the top 10 for Sandy was Amy Lynch and Rachel Schouten, finishing seventh and ninth respectively.

The boys received little challenge as the team time showed a four-second lead on Barlow, its nearest challenger.

Supporting Sarich and Day's first and second place finishes were Brian Silvey finishing 11th, Pete Valian 14th and Mike Estes at 17th place.

The junior varsity made Sandy's sweep complete, finishing almost a second faster than the nearest challenger.

This Saturday the Pioneers will continue their quest for the state championships as Hood River plays host for the rest of the conference, sponsoring a dual slalom at Cooper Spur.

Girls get 2 victories

After a horrible first-quarter against Centennial last week, the Sandy girls basketball team was not about to let it happen again, starting strong twice this week to get two more wins.

The Pioneers came out blazing against Columbia Thursday, with 23 points in the first quarter on the way to a 73-42 win. Wendy Heckard had five assists in that quarter, and chipped in 4-4 shooting. Shanna Daniels popped in all six of her shot attempts.

Heckard's 10 assists and Daniels' 18 points spelled disaster for the Chargers.

David Douglas tried to stop Daniels on Tuesday, but it only opened things up for Wendy Coleman, who scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the 55-42 win. Even surrounded by the the Scots, Daniels, popped in 16 points and grabbed 14 rebounds.

Coral Howell contributed 8 for the Pioneers, who played without regulars Kenda Whitlock and Christa Searles.

Wendy Heckard had to handle virtually all ball handling chores, responding with 5-6 shooting and five assists.

Although the Scots were able to hold Sandy to only 11 points in the second half, the Pioneers responded by giving up only six points in that span.

Now comes the big showdown for the tenth-ranked Pioneers. They will meet Reynolds at Sandy Friday, in a contest that puts the league's top spot on the line.

MHC GIRLS BASKETBALL STANDINGS		
	W	L
Sandy	6	0
Reynolds	4	2
Parkrose	4	1
Centennial	4	1
The Dalles	3	4
Barlow	2	4
David Douglas	1	5
Gresham	2	4
Columbia	1	6

Tuesday results

Sandy 55, David Douglas 42
Reynolds 63, Parkrose 49
Columbia 47, Centennial 45
Gresham 50, The Dalles 48
Barlow 59, Canby 41

Boys fall to Douglas

With ball handler Gerald Hale ill at home, the Sandy boys basketball team was only able to make a game of it for three quarters before succumbing to David Douglas 59-40 Tuesday night.

A low-scoring first half saw the score knotted at 20-20 at the half, but the Scots pulled out in front by 10 at the third and never let the Pioneers closer.

It was the same story Thursday against Columbia. Down by five at the half, the Pioneers couldn't muster enough to get any closer, losing 50-41.

MHC BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS		
	W	L
Parkrose	8	0
Gresham	6	2
Centennial	5	3
David Douglas	5	3
Columbia	3	5
The Dalles	2	5
Reynolds	2	6
Barlow	2	6
Sandy	2	6

Tuesday results

Centennial 68, Columbia 51
Gresham 70, The Dalles 49
Parkrose 64, Reynolds 23
Barlow 63, Canby 50
David Douglas 59, Sandy 40

Team leader always in control

by HANK EMRICH

Wendy Heckard says she is 5 feet 4 inches tall, but she won't look you in the eye when she says it.

The point guard for Sandy's girls basketball team may be a little self-conscious about her height, or lack thereof, off the court, but the only thing on her mind when the game starts is pure basketball.

"I've never thought of her as being short," says Coach John Smith, "her size has never been a detriment."

Smith says that Heckard is "deceptively" quick, something that has helped her to be the team's second leading scorer, with a 14-point average.

Her role on the team does not stop with scoring, however.

"Even with 14 points a game, Wendy still manages to dish out at least a half-dozen assists," says Smith.

"That means she has a hand in over half our offense," he says.

Heckard, who has had double digits in both assists and scores in a couple games this year, does not see much difference between putting the ball in the hoop and putting it in the hands of a teammate.

"I just like to see the two points on the scoreboard," she says.

A good part of her assists go to Shanna Daniels, the Pioneers 6-0 post.

"I feel really confident with Shanna in there," says Heckard, "we encourage each other a lot."

Heckard, a senior, and Daniels, a sophomore, spend a lot of time together off the court as well as on.

"I think it helps that we are friends," says Heckard, "you kind of get to know where the other one is on the court."

Although Heckard says she hopes to play on the same team as Daniels in the Nike league this summer, this is their last season together in high school ball. Smith will miss Heckard after her graduation even more than Daniels.

"She is going to be very difficult to replace," says Smith.

Heckard has been a fixture at point for the last three years, a role she was used to long before.

In grade school, Heckard played on the "A" team sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Her freshman coach at Sandy, Lynn Harris says the strongest thing about Heckard is her attitude.

"She is an up person," he says, "she has a positive approach, almost cocky."

Heckard credits Harris with much of her success.

"He really taught me a lot, he really knows basketball," she says.

Heckard has not always been a big scorer, but Harris says that is because of her unselfish nature.

"She has always had the ability to take her shot, and she seldom takes a bad one," says Harris.

Smith has been the impetus to getting the point total up, says Heckard.

"He has really encouraged me to take that outside shot," she says.

Heckard also sees Smith as an instructor, where she also says he does a good job.



Photo by Hank Emrich

Wendy Heckard may not be tall, but she can score.

"He is tough, but he is good," says Heckard.

Tough is the same word Smith likes to use to describe Heckard's play.

"She is tough all the way around," he says, "defense, offense, and at practice."

"The level of play that she has been able to keep up is a result of a lot of time and effort on her part," says Smith.

It seems the harder Heckard works at basketball, the more she likes it. An all-league softball

player, she says she used to enjoy softball more, but now it is "about even."

"I just want to get better and I want the team to do well," says Heckard.

Her coaches feel she is "college-material," so she will probably have that opportunity to get better.

"She has great intelligence for the game," says Smith, "she knows the game so well that she is constantly looking for all options out there on the court."

Although Heckard plays nearly

every minute of every game, she rarely shows the pressure.

"She plays under control, she has not fouled out this year, and is seldom in foul trouble," says Smith.

Harris summed up what probably makes Heckard the outstanding player she is.

"It has to be her attitude," he says, "she has just the right attitude for running a team."

"She has that piece of confidence that the good ones need to have."

Wrestlers fall to Columbia

A couple years ago, there was no such thing as overexposure to wrestling at Sandy High School. But in a rebuilding year, things change.

"Lately I think we have had just too much wrestling in too short of time," said Coach Ron Calhoun.

Calhoun's team is well under the .500 mark, partly because of a hectic post-holiday schedule which included make-up meets, matches with the league's powerhouses back to back and several tournaments. The schedule was topped off last week by final exams at the school.

The end result was a 34-31 loss to Columbia, a school that has been a stepping stone for Sandy's rich wrestling tradition in the past.

As usual, Sandy was able to pick up some points in the smaller weights, with Yo Masui keeping his league record perfect with an 11-10 win. Rod Smith and Rich Meckleburg followed with falls, Wayne Reick gained a superior decision, and the Pioneers held a 20-9 advantage.

The Chargers got three wins to pull ahead 21-20 before Sandy made its last charge. Aaron George and Kyle Gibson both pinned their opponents, but Columbia got falls in the last two events to win the match.

The jayvee wrestlers easily handled Columbia, a good indication that the Pioneer wrestling program is back on track.

Blue Marlins compete well

With six swimmers competing at Corvallis this weekend, the Blue Marlin Aquatic Club finished with some outstanding performances.

Top scorer at the event was 8 year old Nikki Hanson. She placed in three events; fifth in the 25 yard butterfly, seventh in the 25 yard freestyle and eighth in the 25 yard breaststroke. Her time in the butterfly broke her previous best, as did her swims in the 50 yard and the 200 yard freestyle events.

Robyn Hayball also scored, taking eighth in the 11-12 girls 100 yard breaststroke. Her time in the 100 yard freestyle was also a personal best.

Adam Hayball, Stacey Stewart and Janine Williamson also broke times at the meet.

The Marlins swim next at the Piranah B-C meet in Lake Oswego Jan. 26.

Booster Club sets banquet

The Sandy Union High School Booster Club is sponsoring a special awards banquet on Monday, January 28 at 7 p.m. in the high school commons.

All current member of the Booster Club, parents of honored students, award winners and members of the general public are invited. Attending the banquet will be guest speaker Don McCarty, head football coach at Lewis and Clark College. Also during the banquet, certificates of accomplishment will be presented to all nominees and winners of the student of the month competitions for September through December.

Reservations should be made in advance by calling 668-8011, extension 228.

Hwy. 26, Sandy 668-8058

PAOLA'S PIZZA BARN

Congratulations to JEFF DAY

Jeff Day is prep of the week. The SUHS senior took second in the giant slalom Saturday at Mirror Mountain, helping lead the boys team to a four-second victory in the team's first Mt. Hood Conference meet. Way to go, Jeff!



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