

# Swimmers claim fourth place at state meet

by MARTY MORRISON

Sandy High's swim coach, Mark Smith, is walking on cloud nine right now after four of his boys swam to a sixth place finish in the state meet Saturday at the Mt. Hood Community College pool.

"This team achieved the highest standing ever for a SUHS boys swim team. In 1974, we placed eighth and in 1976, ninth," said Smith.

The Pioneer coach is "ecstatic" with the performance and finish of his four-man state squad of junior Doug Crane, senior Matt Roth, senior Steve Kinney and senior Richard Rolph.

"This was a good way to end the season. Our goal was to be in the top eight in the state, so we achieved it with a sixth place. I'm very happy it was done with those four individuals."

Undoubtedly, the second place performance of the Pioneer 400 free relay team was the climactic moment in the meet for the Sandy swimmers, and has their coach still buzzing.

Coach Smith set the scene. "Our 400 free relay team was seeded third going into the state meet, and placed third in the prelims with a 3.20.31

(dropping two seconds off their district time of 3.22.37).

So it came down to the fact that David Douglas was first going into the finals with a 3.14.44 clocking. Sheldon was second with a 3.19.54, and we were third with a 3.20.31."

Smith strategy for the race was simple to understand, however executing it against the state's best swimmers was the test.

"The way we saw it was — that if the first three (Crane, Rolph, Kinney) could hold position — then Matt (Roth) could hit the water dead even with Sheldon and Matt would hold it — and he did! And he held it in the best time that he had ever done."

Smith summarized the race as "magnificent, I wish we could have gotten it on tape, it would be something that I would watch until the day I die — it was just that tremendous."

While the Scots won the relay easily in a clocking of 3.12.93, Sandy and Sheldon went head-to-head for second place, with the Pioneers touching the wall a wink ahead of Sheldon in a 3.18.16. Sheldon took third with a 3.18.43 clocking.

Roth anchored the relay team, swimming to a personal record split time of 48.2, just has Kinney and

Crane had done seconds earlier with 49.9 and 49.2 clockings respectively. Rolph completed his swim in 50.7, eight-tenths off his personal record.

Crane and Roth also qualified for two other races in the state meet.

For Crane, the meet was a new experience, and because this was his first meet, Smith was sympathetic about the juniors droppings in the standings.

Crane took a sixth place in the 50 free, with a 22.29, while the winning time was posted by Rana Punja of Lake Oswego in 21.51. Going into this event Crane was ranked third in the state.

In the 100 free, Crane placed eighth in the consolation round with a 49.53. Chuck Hanson of Cottage Grove set

the winning mark at 46.79.

"Dug didn't hit personal bests in the meet and that was disappointing. But I have a lot of confidence in Doug, and his performance is partially due to his inexperience."

For Roth the state meet was a familiar sight, as the seasoned senior has been to the toughest meet in the state for the past three years.

Roth swam a 53.73 in the 100 fly to capture fifth place and a new personal record. Going into the state meet Roth was ranked fifth. As expected, Matt Sauter of Tillamook grabbed the top spot with a 51.66 clocking.

Staying true to form, Roth claimed third place in the 100 back, maintaining his third place ranking and set-

ting a new personal record of 56.48 in the process. Punja of Lake Oswego also bagged the winning time in that event with a 53.56 timing.

"Matt did his best ever in his four years at state competition, in breaking his times and anchoring the 400 free relay team."

Overall, Sandy claimed sixth place racking up 62 points as the David Douglas Scots displayed their dominance in the pool reclaiming the state crown with 198 points.

Smith found some icing on the cake as the state meet results showed that three of the teams (David Douglas, Lake Oswego, Centennial) that beat the Pioneers in the dual meet season were in the top seven in state. "And we place sixth, which just shows you

how magnificent our team is."

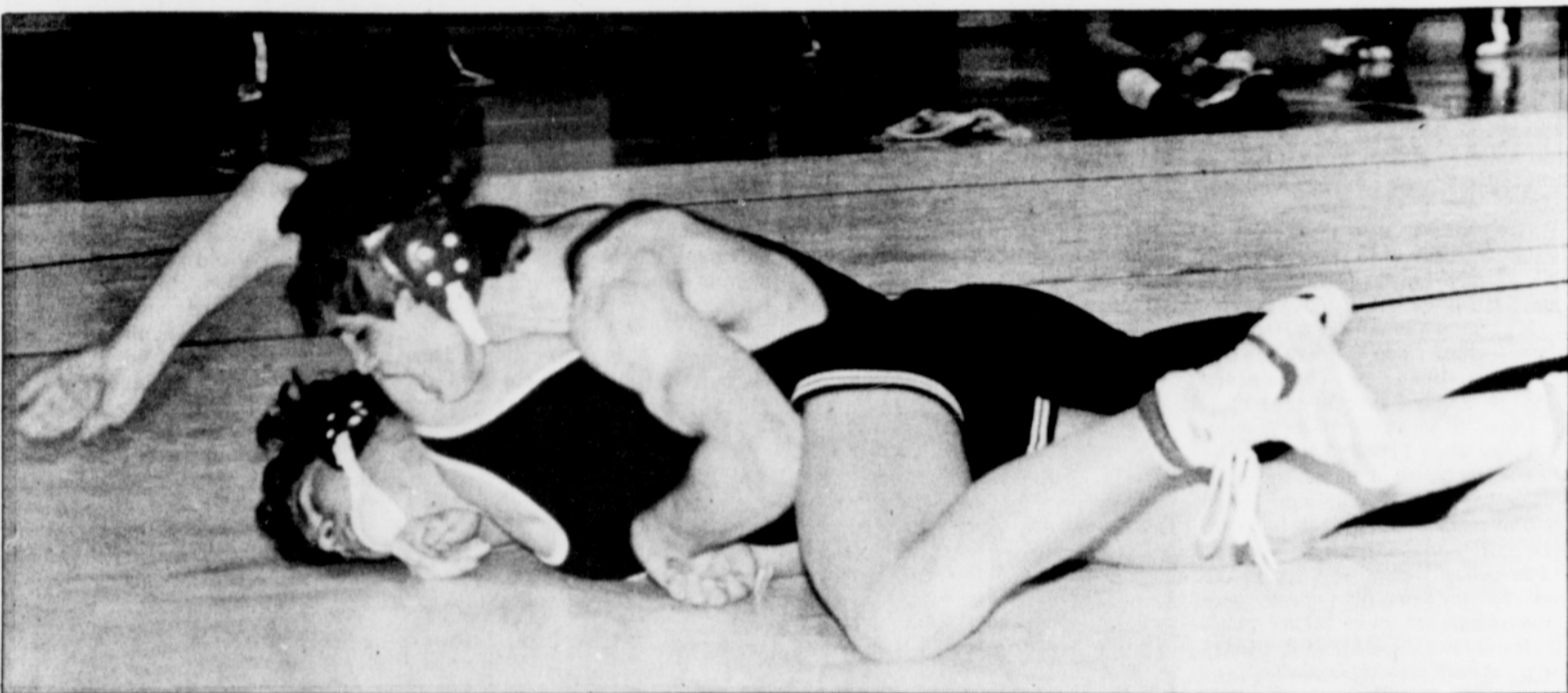
With the season over, Smith now is happily revising his record book, entering four new school records into the books.

Crane broke school records in the 50 free with a 21.90, and shaved-off more than a second from Roth's record in the 100 free with a 49.15.

Roth also established a new school record, breaking his own mark in the 100 back with a 56.48.

And the 400 free relay team shattered the existing record of 3.30.34 set in 1980 with their second place state performance of 3.18.16.

While Smith already eying next season, is forecasting a rebuilding year, you can bet Smith will savor this season for a long time.



Richie Mekelberg

## Slippery slopes snap ski teams win streak

Despite the sunny weather, the icy slope of Mirror Mountain proved treacherous for the Sandy ski teams, as their season long gathering of team first places ended Saturday in a two run slalom.

Sandy coach Robert Karsten, was more relieved with his team's performances than perturbed.

"Those guys needed to be shaken-up. I hope they understand that they can be beaten. It's very possible that if they have a bad day, and Barlow cooks it, then we could lose," said Karsten.

The girls fared a little better than the boys placing second behind Parkrose, while the boys settled for third as Gresham and Barlow got the top spots.

"The girls got to realize that there will be some good teams coming up against them from around the state besides the teams in their own league," said Karsten.

For the Pioneer boys, the day started out to be one of their best performances this year as Steve Sarich and Jeff Day placed first and second on their first trip down the course, and Brian Silvey took fifth.

Things continued to look good for the boys on their second run as Day and Sarich traded places, but the Pioneers were unable to get a third qualifying time.

"Silvey and Valian had technical problems," said Karsten, as both skiers pre-released from their bindings.

The order came down from Karsten to Dave Lambert to do a "stand-up" run.

"I told Dave to just make it down for a solid time. I even said he could have a short fall — I never expected him to take a 30 second fall," joked the Pioneer coach.

Karsten found some constelation with Lamberts 30 second fall. "By taking third place, even after a 30 second fall, shows everybody just how far ahead we actually were."

Karsten admits that he was a little surprised with the first place performance of Sarich on his first run, as the coach told Sarich just to "make it down," but the fast skiing Sarich "just cooked it."

The girls found themselves in a 15 second hole after their first pass down the slick slalom, after Jennifer Day and Tahnice Swanton took spills, but the veteran Marcie Huff, held the girls in third place behind Parkrose and Hood River getting the second fastest time on the first run.

On the girls second run, it was Day who led the charge for the Pioneers, as the gifted freshmen took first. Huff, who had a good second run going slid-out of the course and had to hike.

Karsten, lost the steady skiing of Holly Sarich to the Pacific Northwest Ski Association Junior Olympic qualifying race held over the weekend.

While both teams were out of the top spot this weekend, the Pioneers still hold first in the season team standings. Hood River, Gresham and Barlow trail the Sandy girls, while Barlow, Gresham and Hood River round out the top qualifying positions for state.

## Wrestlers turn in fine effort at district

by MARTY MORRISON

Experience.

Despite the lack of it, the Sandy Pioneers wrestling squad "put in a fine effort" to capture a fourth place finish at the Mt. Hood Conference district Championships Saturday in the Sam Barlow High School gym.

"The kids wrestled real well, placing fourth in the district, which was very good considering the experience that we have," said Pioneer Coach Ron Calhoun.

Led by state qualifiers Wayne Reick at 136 pounds and Richie Mekelberg at 130 pounds, the Pioneers tallied 162 points behind the Barlow Bruins 436 point district championship performance. Meanwhile the Gresham Gophers took second place, racking up 285 points, and the Eagles of Centennial claimed third place with 190 points.

Middleweight Reick had a good tournament, but had to settle for the runner-up spot to district champ Joey Herrera from Barlow. Prior to the championship match, Reick had

scored three victories on the Bruins mat.

At 130 pounds, Mekelberg wrestled his way into the semifinals match where he lost to the eventual district champ, Kerry Parr, from Gresham. Mekelberg rebounded from the loss to continue on through the consolation bracket to take a third place finish and a ticket to the state tournament.

According to Calhoun, both wrestlers are anticipating a tough schedule this weekend in the Earl Chiles Center located on the University of Portland campus.

"Both kids have rough draws. If Wayne wins his first match he'll have to wrestle against the first seed in his second match. And if Mekelberg wins he'll have to wrestle John Barkely of Milwaukie, who pinned him earlier in the season."

While third place finishers at district qualify for a berth in the state tournament, two Pioneers just missed bids with their fourth place finishes.

Sophomore Yo Masui, took fourth

place wrestling in the 98 pound class making it to the semifinal round where he lost to Gresham's eventual district champion, Sean Allison, a probable state champion.

Tony Barns, a senior wrestling in the 118 pound category also lost a match in the semifinals, capping his wrestling career at Sandy with a fourth place finish.

Four more Sandy grapplers completed the season with placings in the district meet.

Fifth place rankings were won by junior Rod Smith, at 130 pounds, and senior Kyle Gibson, at 181 pounds.

Rounding out the point makers for Sandy with sixth place finishes were Ernie Roberts in the 106 pound category, and Dan Emerson in the 130 pound class.

The fourth place finish for the Pioneers avenged the tough loss to David Douglas during the dual meet season, explained Calhoun, as the Scots took fifth place in district.

The Pioneer grapplers completed the season with a 3-5 record.

Wrestling fans can watch the state tournament at the Earl Chiles Center on the University of Portland campus beginning at 11 a.m. today.

## Bowling scores

SANDY EARLY BIRDS  
Feb. 18, 1985

	W	L
Toni's	15	9
Eagle Foundry	13	11
Jack's Pro Shop	12	12
Mini Mart	11	13
Alpine Hut	11	13

H and L Steel Corp. 10 14

High team series: Jack's — 2,018.  
High team game: Toni's — 719.  
High individual series: Grace Lamb — 532, High individual game: Grace Lamb — 189.

## Wrestling coach believes key to success starts with pins

Chuck Kearney, freshman wrestling coach at Sandy high, likes to wait until the end of the season to rate his freshman wrestlers.

In the Mt. Hood Conference, the season ends with a district tourney for the first-year wrestlers, giving each coach an opportunity to see how

much his charges improved over the season. The Pioneer wrestlers showed that they had learned something, with eight of the 11 wrestlers com-

peting able to place in the tournament.

With only two losses during the season, Kearney probably expected

the wrestlers to fare well. They lost to Centennial in the first meet of the season, when only eight wrestlers had turned out for the squad. The team did a good job of recruiting others to wrestle, doubling in number and losing only to a powerful Barlow team in the remainder of the season.

Kearney believes in an aggressive style of wrestling, and said he thinks the team was successful in that area.

"We achieved 85-90 percent takedown ratio," he said, "we got most of the takedowns scored in our meets."

Kearney said it is important for kids to win as freshmen.

"To make them champs as seniors, we have to learn to take people down and pin them," he said.

"I feel that if I am a successful freshman coach, I will have added something to the varsity," said Kearney.

According to Kearney, a large part of his job is keeping kids interested in wrestling.

"We try to build a team spirit among the freshmen," he said.

With only three wrestlers from last year's squad not wrestling this year, Kearney feels he has been successful in that aspect.

"A couple may come back next year even," he said.

Kearney said his teaching goes beyond the fundamentals of wrestling.

"The wrestling room is a classroom," he said, "If I don't teach them something about life, I am not doing my job."

In doing his job, Kearney turned out two frosh district champions, Jason Cody at 115, and Steve Christman at 123.

Cody was unbeaten through district, carrying an 8-0 record.

"If he keeps the motivation an in-

terest he has now, he could be a superstar," said Kearney.

Christman garnered the top spot by beating a fellow Sandy wrestler, Donovan Buhl, in overtime.

"It was probably the best match of the tournament," said Kearney.

Kearney said he could have put the wrestlers in different weights, but prefers to wrestle freshmen at their natural weight.

"I don't push weight-cutting. I don't believe in it at freshman level," he said.

Kearney prefers to emphasize weight training, what he calls a "weight conditioning" program.

"I like them getting stronger," he said, "wrestling is like a six-minute sprint and they need it."

Kearney said Buhl and Christman have wrestled each other in practice all year long, always competing hard.

"They have to get up for practices like everyone else does for meets," said Kearney.

"Steve is probably the most improved wrestler on the team, a very intelligent wrestler," said Kearney.

Art Skipper took second at 152, something of a setback for the sometimes-varsity wrestler who was expected to clean up.

"Art is going to be a real horse," said Kearney, "he is probably the strongest freshman in the state."

At 125, John Skinner was seeded second, unbeaten heading into district. He was hurt in the tournament and did not place.

The coach said there was one thing that impressed him more than any other about this year's team.

"I'd say that 95 percent of the time, we were going from the whistle, and I like that," he said.



Some of the members of the successful freshman wrestling program. Pictured in the front row: Jason Graham and Coach Chuck Kearney; second

row: Tony Mills, Rance Danielson and Art Skipper; third row: Steve Christman, Donovan Buhl and Pat Archer; top: Dale Calnek.