

# The Sandy Post Sports and Recreation

## Sandy gets fifth at state AAA playoff

by MARTY MORRISON

The Sandy girls basketball team proved that polls can be true as the Pioneers captured fifth place in the Class AAA Girls State High School Basketball Tournament last weekend.

The Pioneers were ranked fifth in the prep polls going into the tournament, a ranking which they earned half way through the regular season and maintained it through the playoffs.

With the fifth place trophy now encased in the Sandy High trophy case, the Pioneers wrap up their longest season with a 21-3 win record.

"That's ten more wins than any other (girls basketball team), in a single season since girls basketball was initiated ten years ago," said coach John Smith.

The Pioneers, despite a 42-28 loss to Lake Oswego in the first round of the state tournament bounced back in to consolation round posting wins over Beaverton 46-42, McMinnville 42-36 and Newberg 50-26, for the fifth place trophy.

### FIRST ROUND SANDY 28, LAKE OSWEGO 42

It was a spine tingling moment when the Pioneers took the floor for the first time in the state tournament's history to warm-up.

You could see by the look and the color of the girls faces (white) that they were more tense than the Reynolds showdown.

Unfortunately for the Pioneers, that tension reverted into tentativeness and caution as the Lakers came out with fire in their eyes and wanting a victory very badly.

The state tourney was not a new experience for the Lakers as they made it to the semifinals last year to battle St. Mary's to a 38-32 loss. St. Mary's went on to win the championship.

Last year the Lakers were powered by sophomore Katy Steding, a 5'11" post, selected to the tourney's first team.

This year proved to be no different. "The Lake Oswego team is spelled with seven letters, S-t-e-d-i-n-g," said Sandy coach John Smith after the game.

Steding, now a junior, played with poise as she worked over the fifth-ranked Pioneers for 23 points and 10 rebounds.

In the first half the Lakers lead by as much as 11 in the first half, but Shanna Daniels, Coral Howell and Christa Searls closed the gap to 21-14 at the half.

In the third quarter the Pioneers double teamed Steding, which kept the Laker off the boards and denied her the ball, but the Laker guards started sinking "bombs" from the outside.

While the Pioneers shut off Steding in the third quarter they made turn-

over after turn-over to cripple any chance of a come back.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter the Lakers smelled the kill with a 30-21 lead, as the Pioneers struggled to get their offense rolling with a nine point deficit.

The Pioneers however refused to fold as Howell made some good drives to the bucket while Daniels and Coleman got the ball inside to get hard earned lay-ups.

Daniels led the scoring for Pioneers with 13 points, while Howell got 6 points.

### CONSOLATION QUARTER FINALS SANDY 46, BEAVERTON 42

In a topsy turvey game, the Pioneers posted their first win over the Beavers of Beaverton.

The Beavers entered the round posting wins over South Salem and Oregon City before losing to Roseburg in the Chiles Center on the University of Portland campus.

Incidentally, Oregon City handed the Pioneers a 41-43 loss in the regular season.

"We knew Beaverton would be tough, they had beaten some good teams to get to us and they came on strong against Roseburg at the end," said Smith.

The Pioneers weren't to be intimidated in this match as they had the killer instinct in this game, something they lacked against Lake Oswego.

Reserve guard Kenda Whitlock was a prime example of this as she buried two free throws with 35 seconds remaining in the game to put the Pioneers out of reach.

Smith was very pleased with Whitlocks play.

"She took over for Wendy (Heckard) in the fourth quarter, after she had fouled out, and provided good leadership at the point position."

In the first half, the Pioneers were in control of a "athletically strong game" as Daniels and Heckard led the Pioneers to a 17-10 lead.

Daniels was in control on the inside while Heckard accounted for all the Pioneers perimeter points.

The Beavers however refused to fall as they climbed within two points at halftime 23-21.

In the third quarter, Beaverton's Kandi Hudspeth evened the game at 23-23, as the Beavers picked up steam.

The Beavers rattled off nine more points to the Pioneers six to command the third period out scoring the Pioneers 11-6.

The Beavers were unable to contain the Pioneers's Daniels as she kept Sandy moving with her season high 25 points, as the Pioneers moved ahead by one.

Enter Whitlock to the foul line, and the game was history.

"It was a good win and the most satisfying game of the tournament

because it was our first tournament win," said Smith.

"Following the win I could see confidence coming from the girl that I didn't notice in the first two games."

### CONSOLATION SEMIFINALS SANDY 42, McMINNVILLE 36

In a tightly contested match, the Pioneers prevailed in overtime as Daniels sank a free throw with one minute remaining to break a 36-36 tie to boost Sandy into the championship round.

"McMinnville, (19-1, Valley Conference Champs), was probably our best game of the season," said Smith.

The Pioneers held a one point lead, acquired in the first quarter, and kept it throughout the second and third quarters to stay close so that anything could happen in the end, (a position Smith hoped for in the Lake Oswego game).

According to Smith the game didn't begin the way he had hoped as two McMinnville sharpshooters, Jami Molberg and Kathy Morris combined for 49 of the team's 67 points. "We obviously needed to stop them."

Three minutes into the game, and McMinnville on top 10-4, Smith called a timeout to regroup and discuss strategy.

The timeout was effective as the Pioneers got on top with their one point 11-10, first quarter lead.

"From the timeout forward, the girls played outstanding defense. It was a demonstration of perfect execution on team defense."

The key to our win was the defense on Molberg and Morris," said Smith.

Daniels led the Pioneers with 17 points Heckard got 11, Coleman tallied eight, Howell got four and Searls had two.

### CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SANDY 50, NEWBERG 26

The turning point in this game came in the second and third quarters as the Pioneers bagged 23 unanswered points against Newbergs slow-down strategy.

Sandy was expecting a tougher match as the Tigers had beaten Reynolds "in a fine game."

The first quarter was inconspicuous as Sandy got the nod 8-6 after eight minutes of play.

From that point on it was all Sandy as the Pioneers sported a well rounded offensive attack.

Heckard led the charge in the second quarter "picking up the pace on the transition, as Howell was the recipient of four Heckard assists and converted them to eight points."

Howell had an outstanding game hitting four-for-four from the field and playing tough on defense," said Smith.

Helping Heckard on the transition were Daniels and Coleman as they "hit the board real hard in the second

quarter." Daniels collected 12 rebounds while Coleman grabbed 10 for the game.

At halftime, the Pioneers held a comfortable 19-6 lead.

In the second half, Daniels got the coaches off the bench with a "Dr. J" underhand shot from the foul line.

With the Pioneers in complete command in the fourth quarter with a 32-12 lead, Smith brought in the reserves.

Shelly Tykeson contributed to the Pioneers effort adding three points in six minutes as did center Chris Muff, adding for points.

Julie Clark, Maria Rowlandson, and Amy McCoy also got into the action but failed to score any points.

"The best part of the Newberg game for me was to see everybody play and contribute," said Smith.

### TOURNAMENT AWARDS

With the Newberg victory, the Pioneers laid claim to the fifth place trophy.

In addition to the trophy, Daniels was recognized as the top scorer in the tournament with 70 points and selected by the coaches to the tournament's second team.

Coral Howell also received recognition for her four blocked shots, tying with St. Mary's star, Karon Howell, to be ranked fourth in the blocked shot category.

### OUTLOOK

At the team's awards dinner Monday night in the Sandy High School Commons, coach Smith pointed to the Mt. Hood Conference Championship trophy with a picture of Mt. Hood on it and said, "...right now we're at the top, but next year people are going to be shooting at us, and we're going to have to be ready."

The Pioneers should be ready as Smith has probably one of the strongest front lines in the state returning in sophomores Daniels and Coleman.

The Pioneers will sorely miss the leadership of point guard Heckard, and reserve point guard Kenda Whitlock.

"Filling Heckards shoes is going to be no easy chore," said Smith, but added that 5'5" Junior Tykeson should get the nod for the position.

"Shelly (Tykeson) has shown real improvement this year and looks real good at the ball handling skills," said Smith.

Smith is also pleased to have junior starting forward Howell returning for one more year.

Rounding out the letterman returnees are Rowlandson at guard and Amy McCoy at forward.

While Smith has called for his girls to take a two month rest after a job well done, he is busy planning summer camps for his players.



Wendy Coleman and Shanna Daniels

## Young hoopsters dominate inside

by MARTY MORRISON

Sandy High's girls basketball coach, John Smith, is a happy man and with good reason as his team captured the fifth place trophy at the Class AAA Girls Basketball Tournament last weekend.

But Smith has something more than just a trophy to smile about. It comes in the form of sophomores Shanna Daniels and Wendy Coleman.

Daniels, 6'0" and Coleman, 5'9", provide the Pioneers with a front line that could easily dominate the Mt. Hood Conference for the next two years.

Smith also believes his front line possesses characteristics needed to win the conference.

"Daniels and Coleman are as good a post combination you'll find returning in the state next year," said Smith.

"Along with (junior) Coral Howells improvement this season, these three should be a strong nucleus to defend the Mt. Hood Conference championship.

This year the three Pioneers were cast into the limelight as Daniels was selected to the all-league first team in the Mt. Conference while Coleman received honorable mention by the league.

After the AAA tournament, Daniels was also chosen to the all-tourney second team as she scored 70 points in four games to become the highest scorer in the tournament. In addition to averaging 17.5 points per game, Daniels also made her presence known on the boards during the tournament as she reeled in 36 rebounds to be the eighth leading rebounder.

"This is a super accomplishment for a sophomore," said Smith.

Howell got distinction in the AAA tournament blocking four shots to rank as the fourth leading shot blocker in the tourney.

During the regular season Daniels led the Pioneers in the scoring and rebounding department averaging 15 1/2 points per game while gabbing nine rebounds per game.

While Daniels leads the team in points the stats show that she doesn't play selfishly as she averages 3 1/2 assists per game to rank second in that department on the team.

"Unselfish" is the word Smith uses to describe Coleman's play on offense, and hopes to convert it into aggressiveness next year.

"Coleman is one of the better shooters but doesn't always take the shots she should," said Smith.

While the 5'9" forward may play cautious on the offensive end of the court, her position at the hub of a 2-3 zone displays her aggressiveness on the defensive end.

"Even though she often gives away two to four inches in height, we still have her front the other team's post," said Smith.

Last year as a freshman, Coleman pulled down 194 rebounds to fall shy of the school's 209 record.

This season, Coleman averaged eight rebounds per game to set a new school record with 225 rebounds.

While one might venture to guess that there exists a rivalry between these two girls on the court, there is no evidence of it.

"They complement each other well. When either one is sandwiched, the other one slides over to help out," said Smith.

For Coleman, whos first love is volleyball, she admits that sometimes she isn't always psyched-up to play basketball, and said that Daniels helps inspire her and get her going.

Coleman and Daniels are both varsity players on the Pioneer's volleyball team and have logged many hours on the Sandy High court.

"We get along good on and off the court," said Daniels as she added that the two were friends long before high school.

Daniels transferred from Estacada High School last year where she played on their varsity basketball team which struggled to a 3-14 record in the Tri Valley league.

The 6'0" post said she didn't like playing on the Estacada team where she was "high (leading scorer) this and high that," because there wasn't any competition.

Furthermore, Daniels said, "I don't like to loose, and our team did too much," with a record 3-14 and last place in the Tri Valley league last year.

"Daniels has a tremendous head for the game. She knows where to pass, and when to hit the outlets," said Smith, as he attributed her skills to long hours of playing.

Daniels is similar to the University of Washington's star forward Detlef Schrempf, in that she loves to play basketball.

"I started playing when eight years ago. We (Daniels family) used to live in apartments where there was full court and I used to play against high school guys," said Daniels.

Daniels has gone from rat-ball games in the summer to organized basketball in the Nike summer league, Basketball Congress International and the AAU Junior Olympics.

The Pioneer's senior point guard, Wendy Heckard, believes Daniels and Coleman have great potential.

"I wish I had one more year. If we had just one more year we could take it (the state title)."

Heckard's dream might not be to far fetched for the Pioneers if the chips fall the right way.



Sandy girls basket team at awards dinner

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**Congratulations to GARY MASSEY**

Gary Massey is prep of the week. He finished second in arc welding at the Clackamas County Skills Competition. He teamed up with Jeff Abshere to take two first-place finishes in welding competitions. In addition, he was fifth, out of 60 competitors, in a safety competition. Way to go Gary!

Enjoy great pizzas & good times at Paola's!