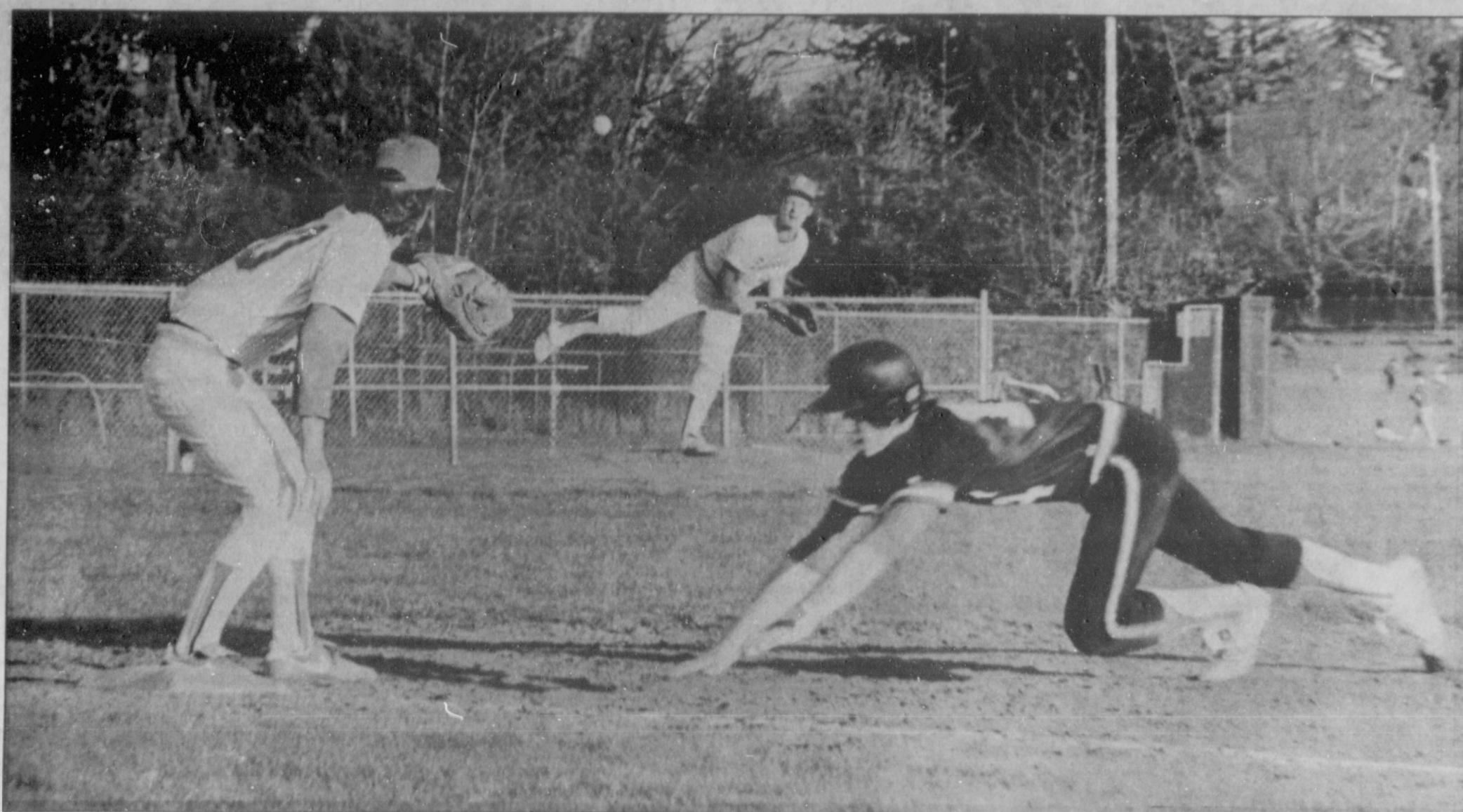


The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation



Pioneer Steve Peterson takes a dive in the dirt at first base.

Staff photo by Marty Morrison

Softball team blasts Eagles in opener

A sympathetic Wendy Heckard described Monday's opening league game against Centennial as "not a pretty sight," as the Eagles collected a 17-8 victory, while Sandy coach Gary Curtis was less sincere as he savored the easy victory.

"We scored two runs in the first inning, three runs in the second, and from then on pretty much scored at will," smiled Curtis.

The Sandy coach had plenty of respect for the young Eagle squad as he was impressed with the batting of Centennial.

"I was surprised at the way they got around on my pitchers," said Curtis.

Don't be misled by the coach's observation, the Eagles only connected seven times on the Pioneer's pitchers.

The pitching duties, while limited as the Eagles spent most of the day on offense, were split between freshman Katy Clift and Jamie Brittle as each recorded four strikeouts and one walk.

The Eagles scored 18 runs on six hits as the Eagles allowed 15 walks, according to Curtis, the statistics illustrate some very aggressive base running.

"I very happy with six hits as long as we have a good on base average. High batting averages don't score runs," said Curtis.

According to Curtis, the team allowed too many mental errors and hopes to get them smoothed out in the next few games.

Heckard concurred on that point. "It was like, who could make the most errors."

On the junior varsity field, the Eagles lost a squeaker 13-12 in the seventh inning. According to Curtis some poor officiating contributed to the loss.

The Eagles will travel to Barlow on Friday for their next league game. Game time is set for 4 p.m.

Pioneer basemen drop opener to Eagles 17-8

by MARTY MORRISON

Two big innings by Centennial gave the Eagles the power to hand Sandy a 17-8 loss in the Pioneer's Mt. Hood Conference opener Monday.

In a game that was much closer than the score illustrated, it took the Eagles until the sixth inning to nail down the victory with two grand slams and eight runs.

In the first inning, the game looked much different as the Pioneer's pitcher, Steve Peterson, mowed down the first three Eagles with fastballs.

Meanwhile, the Eagles came out blazing with four hits as Jeff Day connected for a single and Dave Lambert needed just one swing to send the ball out of the ballpark to give the Eagles a 2-0 lead.

In the second inning, just as quickly as the Eagles jumped out to a two run lead, the Eagles bounced back with two runs on errors which

set up the Eagles first big inning. As two outs loomed on the scoreboard showing the Eagles on top 3-2, the Eagles wanted nothing more than to get out of the inning as Centennial gained its confidence.

"Confidence is very important," said Sandy coach John Rohr. "Hitting is mental, and when a team has its confidence it can mean trouble for the other team," said Rohr.

The Eagles got a first hand look at what confidence can do as Centennial continued to build on their lead in the second inning. Some scrappy baserunning kept Centennial alive with two outs as a bouncy grounder weasled by Day to allow the Eagles two more runs.

With a runner on second, Centennial unleashed its first home run of the day over the center field fence increasing the margin 7-2.

Peterson ended the scoring binge eight batters and six hits later with a

strikeout.

On the Eagles second time to the plate, while not as glamorous as Centennial's, was effective as Peterson and Kelly Rogstead earned runs chipping away at the Eagle's lead.

In the third inning, Peterson continued to throw well striking out the first two batters however the Eagles got a break on a Rob Kitto error which allowed two runs.

The Eagles made up one of the runs in the third inning as Lambert got on base with a walk and then scored on a Peterson single to keep the Pioneer's hopes alive 5-9.

Down four runs in the top of the fourth, Peterson put the clamps on the Eagles confidence for the period striking out two batters and allowing only two hits.

The persistent Eagles, meanwhile, continued to chip away at Centennial as Day hit a double to call Jason Kern home from second base

narrowing the gap.

As the Eagles lead dwindled to three, 9-6, the title of victor in this game still remained very much in question.

The mystery continued through the fifth inning as both teams kept each other in check with tough defense. Kitto and Kern made some fine catches to power the Sandy defense.

At the top of the sixth inning Rohr reassigned the mound to Parker Daughettee.

Rohr explained the substitution on the basis that Peterson has been having some elbow problems and furthermore, that Peterson had thrown his quota of pitches for the game.

Unfortunately for Peterson, Daughettee was unable to get in the groove as he allowed four hits and three runs with only one out showing.

Rohr's next move was a major reassignment as the mentor moved Lambert from his catching duty to

the mound while Daughettee manned the plate.

Again, the swap proved ineffective as the senior loaded the bases with a walk which was the prerequisite for the Eagle's decisive four run grand slam.

Centennial capped-off the slammer with another slammer before grounding out twice to second baseman Wayne Reick ending the mystery and the scoring drive 17-6.

The Sandy "never say die" Eagles generated three hits for two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to slate the final score 17-8.

On the junior varsity field, the Sandy JV's found themselves outclassed as the Eagles took a 30-8 victory.

The varsity and junior varsity's next league challenge will pit them against the perennially strong Barlow Bruins Friday at Sandy.

Sandy netters get help from transfers
Dennison, Martin unbeaten

by MARTY MORRISON

Two Sandy foreign exchange students have recently stunned the rest of the league with their talent on the tennis court.

Brent Dennison and Jens Martin, the Eagles number one and two singles players respectively are getting blank faces from their opponents as both boast undefeated records.

Dennison, a sophomore transfer from Australia, crushed Centennials number one singles player 6-1, 6-2 in league play Monday on the Sandy courts.

Dennison controlled the match handily moving the ball all over the court, as his opponent could do nothing but say, "this guy is good."

Dennison's father Ron, is a transfer teacher and coach of the girls tennis team at SUHS.

Martin, a junior transfer from West Germany, in a similar fashion to Dennison took the second singles match 6-2, 6-3 over Centennial.

On the doubles court, Chris Palmer and John McDevitt took a 6-3, 7-6 decision to help the Eagles winning cause posting a 3-2 team win.

A team victory in tennis is figured on the basis of the team winning the most wins of five matches. Each team enters two singles matches (i.e. Dennison and Martin) and three doubles matches for a possible five points.

With the Eagles win over Centennial the boys team posts a 3-1 record with the only loss coming from Reynolds. The Lancers are currently undefeated for the season and accustomed to leading the league as Sandy coach Terry Chung refers to Reynolds as "perennially strong."

While the Eagles lost to Reynolds as a team, both Dennison and Martin recorded victories.

Dennison had to go the extra distance with Lancer Mike Spencer, whom many regard as the best in the league, to get the victory 6-4, 6-7, 6-0.

Martin similarly had a tough match winning 7-5, 6-3.

The Eagles lost the Reynolds match on the basis that the Lancers swept the three doubles matches.

"The success of the team rests in

the hands of our doubles matches," said Chung. "If we can get just one of our three doubles teams to win we have a good chance at winning any match."

While the Sandy coach believes that his first doubles team of Tim Park and Brian Wecker more often than not will be over classed in the league this year. He hopes to have his second doubles team of Palmer and McDevitt in a better position to win. The Eagles third team is composed of Matt Stone and Zoltan Dubrawsky or Aaron Jones and Matt Flishram.

"Right now our weakness in the doubles is in their confidence. If they could get some wins under their belts their play would improve significantly," said Chung.

Last Monday, the Eagles played Columbia at Mt. Hood Community College where Sandy scored a decisive 4-1 victory.

Dennison and Martin both won their matches easily 6-2, 6-0, and 6-0, 6-0 respectively, while the Eagles number one doubles team won 6-2, 6-2. Palmer and McDevitt got off to a slow start but got on line to win their match 3-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Following the Columbia match, the Eagles faced The Dalles in medium winds on Wednesday of that week to post a 3-2 win.

Dennison and Martin again crushed their opponents 6-0, 6-3, and 6-1, 6-1, for two points as Palmer and McDevitt scored the necessary third victory 6-3, 6-3.

This year Chung believes his team is weaker in terms of local talent but because of the additions of Dennison and Martin the coach said he has "strong" team. In addition, the Eagles are also a young team with no seniors on the squad.

As of Monday's match against Centennial, Chung speculates that the Eagles are in third or fourth place behind Reynolds, David Douglas and possibly Gresham.

The boys will face Barlow on Friday, 3:30 at Sandy.

The girls team dropped their match to Centennial on the Eagles courts 1-4.

The girls next match will pit them against Barlow their at 3:30.



Photo by Marty Morrison

Brent Dennison returns a high fore-hand shot.



Runners try out new running course.

Spring Country Run nears

The second annual Spring Country Run is just around the corner, set for Sunday April 21 at 11 a.m., and is in need of volunteers to help run the race.

The starting point will be at the Sandy High School Track, but the course will be slightly different from last year so as to include the newly developed scenic trails constructed by the Environmental Education class at Sandy High School.

The 3000 meter run which is only 1.86 miles, will be run through fields and trails to make this course a challenging cross country type run.

The 10,000 meter run will be equal to about 6.2 miles, with the course looping west on Hwy. 26, around Orient Dr., Kelso Rd., Bluff Rd. and finish off the last mile through the scenic new trails.

Race director Scott McMullen and the Sandy Cross Country Team are

pleased with the new course and hope to double the field of runners over last year.

Specifically designed t-shirts are available with the entry along with 28 hand-made "Spring Country Run" mugs to be awarded to winners in each division. There will also be a drawing for merchant contributions to be held after the last race.

McMullen encourages pre-registering for the race by April 14. Entry fee is \$7 with a t-shirt and \$3 without. Day of the race registration is \$4 or \$8 with a t-shirt.

Proceeds from the race go to the Sandy Cross Country team fund.

Entry forms are available at Sandy Union High School, Sandy Post and sporting goods stores in the Gresham area.

Volunteers who can help with the race are asked to contact McMullen at 668-6605.