

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation



GATHER 'ROUND — Even the best players sometimes don't escape the inevitable. A one-against-four situation does not lend itself to success.



CONTESTED — Which team controls the ball is up in the air on this play.

Soccer league opens with booting success

The Sandy Cascade Soccer Club, a non-competitive league for children up to age 14, opened its season with a full slate of games Monday.

Tuesday night saw six games at Kelso and Cedar Ridge schools. Five games at Kelso: One regular-sized field, two medium-sized fields and two mini-fields. It was non-stop action from one field to the next to the next.



FUNDAMENTALS — The aim of the Sandy Cascade Soccer Club is playing for fun and learning the game of soccer.



THE HEAT IS ON — A full sprint in the under-8 league can often lead to a one-on-one with the goalie.

Photos by Pat O'Halloran

Ex-Blazer good practice player but practice doesn't cut it

by PAT O'HALLORAN

Another one of those weeping letters to the sports editor of The Oregonian appeared in Sunday's paper. The writer chastised Trail Blazer management for cutting Tom Scheffler loose.

You remember Tom Scheffler, don't you? A rookie at age 30?

He received little playing time, which was OK because he wasn't one of the best players the Blazers ever picked up. Not that he didn't try. No, Scheffler practiced his guts out, and when he got into a game, he gave it his all.

But the letter-writer correlated Scheffler's lack of playing time with Portland's unexpected 42-40 won-lost record. A lot of misguided opinion floating around in that writer's head.

Scheffler's playing time was a direct result of his ability. At age 30, he had little room to grow in ability. He was not going to get much better. Sure, he was a good practice player.

But being a good practice player will not win games. Look at Marvelous Marvin Barnes of yesteryear. He would be out drinking, drugging and carousing until just before game time.

Not the best influence on a team, nor the type of guy who would be practicing his guts out. But when game time rolled

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around, Barnes would be out there, burning up the nets.

Of course, Barnes was an exceptional case. But it just goes to show, being a good practice player doesn't necessarily guarantee success at game-time.

Having the potential to be a game-buster helps. That is why the Blazers cut Scheffler and effectively cut Audie Norris (although in Norris' case, the potential was there, but the willingness to work for it wasn't). Ben Coleman and Ken Johnson both have the potential to be strong, career NBA players.

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Here's a great line courtesy of the Indianapolis Colts' rookie free-agent quarterback, Steve Wray, who says he wants to change his first name to "Hoo." Why would he want to do that? So when he goes into a game, the announcer can say,

"Now playing quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts, Hoo Wray."

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Is it too hot? Is everyone too strung out from a long, hot summer? Are the dog days dogging people out?

As summer nears its end, the ideas for feature stories start ending, too. At the beginning of summer, ideas are plentiful and so are picture opportunities. But after my fifth trip to the tennis courts in the last hour-and-a-half to take a picture of someone — anyone — playing tennis, I've come to the conclusion that no one plays tennis in August in Sandy.

Maybe it's a Boris Becker Syndrome: People older than Becker, 17, are too discouraged by his youth to play; people younger than Becker are too put off by his unattainable ration of talent-to-age to play. That has to be it. Now why isn't anyone jogging?

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One of the joys of being in the Army Reserve is getting to go to new and exciting places. So I'll be taking a two-week hiatus at beautiful Ft. Lewis, Wash., near Tacoma. I'll be back for the Sept. 5 issue, which will include a preview of the Mt. Hood Conference football season, with a coaches' preseason poll.