

Houston has
The Twin Towers,
Seattle has
The Ivory Towers,
Now, Sandy has...

THE BELLE TOWERS

by PAT O'HALLORAN

In Houston, there are the Twin Towers: Ralph Sampson and Akeem Olatunji. Seattle has the Ivory Towers: Jack Sikma and Tom Chambers.

But now Sandy High School boasts a trio that may have the same effect in Class AAA basketball. A group of high-flying girls that will most likely be sitting near the top at the end of the season — the Belle Towers: Shanna Daniels, Wendy Coleman and Coral Howell.

And for whom will these belles toll? They'll toll for the Mount Hood Conference hoop squads.

The Pioneers are the defending MHC champions (15-1 league, 21-3 overall) and return three starters from the fifth-in-state team. But it's where those three players are positioned that will give fits to opposing teams.

Daniels, the tallest at 6-feet, is the acknowledged on-court leader. First-team all-league, third-team all-state, second-team all-state tournament as a sophomore are her credentials. She led the 1985 state tournament in scoring with more than 17 points a game and was selected to an all-star squad that played in Tucson, Ariz., this summer. She also brings a wide range of abilities, not just scoring and rebounding.

Coleman: "Just a natural talent in basketball," says Coach John Smith. She was honorable mention all-MHC in 1985 as a sophomore. Standing 5-feet-11, Smith expects her to carry more of a load in the scoring department this season. She averaged about eight points a game last year.

"She should be in double figure this year, around 12 or 14 (points)," Smith said.

Howell is 5-9 and one of two seniors starting. She spent her summer honing her skills at individual and team camps, as well as playing on the Sandy summer team.

He has his two starting guards picked, but both have limited varsity experience. Five-foot-6 junior guard Maria Rowland and 5-foot-5 senior Shelley Tykeson will be starting.

"Both Maria and Shelley are working hard," Smith said. "Both love the game of basketball."

"We're trying to work them into the offense and helping them know when to shoot and when to pass."

Tykeson missed half of last season with a stress fracture in her leg.

Depth will be a problem, according to Smith. Sophomore Susie Adkins will back up at guards, while Amy McCoy, Julie Crampton and Tanya Schwartz provide relief on the front line. Only McCoy has varsity experience among the four.

Never has a coach been found who will accept the role of favorite. Smith isn't about to be the first.

"I think probably Parkrose is to be favored," he said. "They played eight players (in their regular rotation) last year, and all eight of those girls return."

The Broncos finished 8-8 in the MHC last year for fourth place. During summer league play, Sandy took it to them 50-37. Even after that game, though, Smith still was extolling Parkrose's virtues.

Other teams Smith figures to challenge for playoff spots will be Barlow and Reynolds, with Columbia getting his nod as a sleeper.

When many high school teams have a bounty of front-line talent, games tend to become lumbering, throw-the-ball-in-the-middle affairs. But all three of Sandy's front-liners possess outstanding athletic ability, so Smith is employing a fast break.

Daniels and Coleman will pound the defensive boards for rebounds while Howell and the two guards will be releasing early to get a head start on the break.

Daniels will handle the ball on the break. Smith has devised the break so the players can have a smooth transition in the set offense. Then he wants the team to take the first shot opportunity and crash the boards.

The team's main weakness, again due to the lack of experience at the guard, may be dealing with a full-court press.

"It's no secret, the teams in the league feel the way to beat us is with (pressure on Sandy's guards)," Smith said.

To counter this, and also to keep the front line out of foul trouble, the Pioneers will also employ a full-court 2-1-2 press from time to time.

The two guards will be pressing in backcourt, Daniels will hold down the middle and Coleman and Howell will be at the back to decrease the risk of foul problems.

"They've taken pride in being MHC champions," Smith said of his team, but the season outcome will be "dependent on the younger girls relieving (the starters) for key minutes during the game."



FACE OFF — Wendy Coleman (left) practice Tuesday, and Shanna Daniels face off during

Photo by Pat O'Halloran

Youthful team does have experience



RAINBOW JUMPER — Brad Searls Tuesday, works on his jump shot at practice

Photo by Pat O'Halloran

by PAT O'HALLORAN

Youth comes to mind when glancing over the Sandy High School boys' basketball roster.

But it is youth with experience that Coach Dan Brisbin will be leading in to Mount Hood Conference action this winter.

Three starters return from last year's squad that posted a 3-13 MHC record: junior guard Brad Searls, junior forward Gerald Hale and sophomore forward Tony Hale, who was the leading rebounder last season as a freshman. All three will most likely be starting in the opener at Clackamas Dec. 3. After those three, though, the picture blurs a little.

Seth Miller and Ben Glawe are "working out well at the post," Brisbin said. Miller, a senior, played for the varsity last season. Brisbin is still undecided as to who will start in the middle.

Battling at the guard spot are junior Chris Palmer, senior Jared Paulsen, who started part-time last year, and senior transfer Brett Sackett, who played for the Pioneers one year, moved away and is now back.

"We're pretty equal at the guards," Brisbin said. "We could start any of the four and not lose anything."

Senior David Harris is the other returnee. Brisbin said Miller has shown improvement inside.

Other players the coach has been pleased with during workouts are Shane Nichols and Morgan Emrich, both backups at the forward and post positions.

The Pioneers are one of the shortest teams in the league, but while Brisbin acknowledges that rebounding MAY be a weakness, he hedges on saying it WILL be a weakness.

"Size-wise, you'd think so," he said. "That's going to depend on how well our technique is."

"If we're at all tentative, it will be a weakness."

One area that won't be a weakness will be the outside shooting.

"We'll do a lot of outside shooting," Brisbin said. "We can give most people some problems with our shooting."

"The defense and rebounding are going to be real keys for this ballclub."

The team needs to have "aggressiveness on defense," he said. "We're getting the guys to want to play tough defense."

For the team to win improve its win-loss record, Brisbin said, it will need to win early to inspire a winning feeling among the players.

"If we can win some games early... (and if) things go right, we can get some confidence," Brisbin said.

Centennial and Parkrose "are the class of the league," Brisbin said. "David Douglas has a lot of people back. After that it's wide open."

YMCA extends deadline

The Mt. Hood YMCA has announced the extension of the Y-Ball registration deadline due to the closure of the Sandy Elementary District schools.

The deadline has now been set for Friday, Dec. 13. The Sandy league is made up of teams from Sandy, Orient, Welches, Boring, Damascus and the surrounding areas.

Teams are being formed for boys and girls in the third- through eighth-grades, with third- and fourth-graders playing on weekdays and fifth- through eighth-graders playing on Saturdays.

Those interested, but do not have forms, are asked to call the Mt. Hood YMCA at 665-8150 for further information.

Coleman nabs state honors

Sandy High School junior Wendy Coleman has been chosen to the second all-state volleyball team by a board of coaches.

This capped a season by Coleman in which she was picked first-team all-Mount Hood Conference for the second straight year and first-team all-state tournament.

Coleman was joined by teammate Shanna Daniels, who was picked to the honorable mention list. Daniels is also a junior and was on the first-

team all-MHC.

Other MHC players tapped were Julie Leamon, Gresham, first team; Michele McDonald, Centennial, second team; Christine Camp, Gresham, honorable mention; and Colette Dineen, Barlow, honorable mention.

Kelly Cole of state champion St. Mary's was selected as the player of the year and her coach, Rick Lorenz, was named coach of the year.

Ski club sets info meeting

The Sandy Area Ski Club will hold an informational meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m. at the One Day At A Time Mountain Bakery in the Sandy Marketplace.

The club members will ski at Mirror Mountain. A bus will run on Saturdays for five weeks, beginning in January and leaving from Sandy Marketplace.

This will be the second year for the club, which had about 25 to 30 participants last year. People of all ages are welcome. Discounts are available on lift tickets, rentals and ski lessons.

For more information, call Bob or Laurie Espenel at 668-5352.

Rec league signups ending

Registration for the 1985-86 Sandy Men's Basketball League will close Friday, Nov. 22, at 5 p.m.

All rosters, fees and address verifications need to be turned in by the deadline. Registration packets

are still available at the Sandy Community/Senior Center for those wishing to participate.

Anyone with questions regarding the league are asked to call the Sandy Recreation Department at 668-5569.

Eagle Creek softball park turning dream into reality

by KIM JACKSON

A five-year dream for two Gresham men began to take shape recently as work began on an estimated \$400,000, eight-field slowpitch softball complex in Eagle Creek.

The site, located about six miles south of Sandy at the junction of highways 211 and 224, is 29 acres and will eventually be a recreation area, featuring horse shoe pits, picnic area, a children's play area and concession stands.

The complex is the brainchild of Ron Lesperance and Brian Knox, both of Gresham. The pair were kicking the idea around about five years ago, and with the acquisition of the property, it finally ended up a reality.

"We finally found a piece of property that would be great for softball fields," Lesperance said. "The location is central to a lot of cities around here."

Lesperance and Knox, both 35-year-olds and graduates of Gresham High School, hope to form the Eagle Creek Softball League in addition to building the complex, but say the main thrust will be to draw teams for tournament play.

"The biggest thing it's for is tournaments," Lesperance said. "Brian went to a 32-team tournament in Salem last summer and they ended up turning away about 54 teams. So there is a lot of interest for tournaments."

Lesperance stressed he did not want to butt heads with the existing Greater East Multnomah County Softball Association, or any other existing body.

"We're not here to force anybody out," Lesperance said. "We are just getting it out there for league play. Anyone that wants to join, can."

Lesperance said the facility can accommodate an 80-team schedule, mens' and womens' teams, per week. Cost per team to play in the league will be \$300.


That money, plus revenue from selling advertising signs to hang on fences around the softball fields, will go toward paying off the enterprise.

"We figure it will pay for itself," Lesperance said. "We're hopeful the business people in Gresham, Sandy and Estacada will help support this thing by buying advertising signs. But still, this will mainly be for tournaments."

"And those areas will benefit," Lesperance said. "Places to eat, motels, gas stations, etc., will all see some revenue."

Lesperance said one field has been largely completed, with the rest to come on line before the complex is ready to use around the middle of April or the first of May.

"This isn't just two people," said Lesperance of the operation. "It's going to take a lot of people to get it going. We're going to learn as we go."





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