

Sandy's first football team

Tough Dutchman Pop Rannow started from scratch in 1927

by MILES AUBIN

The first Sandy High School football team was organized in 1927 by W.E. "Pop" Rannow, who had graduated from Pacific University in 1925.

While there, Rannow had been outstanding in football and baseball. "Spike" Emerson, Dale Stewart and Lee Webber, former teammates, describe Rannow as a very tough Dutchman who could really make the fur fly when he got angry.

When he coached at Sandy this potential was apparent, although Rannow was by nature a very gentle and easygoing person.

Rannow was not hired to coach football at Sandy (even though he had coached two years at Hillsboro). He was hired to teach social studies and Latin, and he was selected to coach baseball. In those days, coaches were often selected from the existing faculty without the benefit of extra pay.

He also drove bus for the reduced price of \$5 per month in lieu of the fact that he lived at the end of the route and had free transportation to and from work.

Rannow took it upon himself to organize a team, and he really had to start from scratch. Except for Lewis and Clark Lund, who had transferred from Gresham, none of the boys had even seen a football game nor knew how the game was played.

At that time, rarely was there ever a football on the playgrounds of any of the grade schools that fed into Sandy High School. (Ironically, almost the same condition exists today.) The only football any of those boys may have kicked in the past was of the "drugstore" variety received as a present.

Needless to say, no one could throw the ball. Some boys' only football experience was limited to the kicking of the inflated urinary bladder of a pig. This practice was customary when farmers butchered and dates far back in the past. This may account for footballs being referred to as pigskins. (A football movie of the 1930s, starring Jack Oakie, was titled, "Pigskin Parade.")

Football practice took place during a 75-minute activity period that ended at 4 p.m., when the buses departed. Athletics, physical education, chorus, band and all extracurricular activities took place during this period.

Band on Tuesdays and

Thursdays, under the direction of Principal G.D. Orr, was mandatory and took precedence over athletics. Male athletes did not participate in vocal music. (A picture from 1927-28 shows the chorus all girls.) Because of the extensive area and accompanying transportation problems, this activity period prevailed well into the 1940s.

According to Vic Bacon, a tackle, Rannow began by placing 11 prospective players in a single-wing formation and had them run through some basic plays. Within a

few days they were having light scrimmages.

So much interest and enthusiasm was generated that Rannow and the boys decided to organize a team and try to schedule a game or two. Based on the premise that a boy should see a football game before playing on the high school level, Rannow took the kids by bus to see Gresham High School play.

The following week the team got clobbered by Gresham High in the first-ever Sandy High School football game.

As it was, Sandy High School played four games. They lost to Gresham, Canby and Estacada. But they defeated Parkrose, a remarkable achievement.

In those days, the first team was the starters and the second team consisted of the rest of the squad. The 1927-28 Gresham High School yearbook shows the first Gresham team defeating Sandy 39 to 0.

Once it was decided to organize a team, the players went out and solicited \$5 from each of 11 sponsors to purchase padded pants for each member of the first team. The reserves wore denims. The rest of the attire was improvised from odds and ends.

The jerseys were off-white sweat shirts purchased at any general merchandise store for \$1. Leather cleats were nailed on work shoes and several played in tennis shoes.

This was the extent of the playing

equipment, other than two or three Sears and Roebuck helmets or shoulder pads.

The squad presented a ragtag conglomeration of football attire, which opposing fans would make fun of.

ment. It was not until 1935 that all players could walk onto the field reasonably equipped.

It should be mentioned, too, that the student body and the community had to learn enough about football to become spectators. At that time, few had radios. One might say that as far as football was concerned, the entire area was culturally deprived.

Coaches hired one official who acted as a referee. Usually, a faculty member acted as linesman and called offside penalties only. Generally, there were few penalties.

This was a time when college

and high school football was played very conservatively. Passing was usually a third-down play.

To some extent, the rules limited a wide-open game. A forward pass had to be thrown from at least 5 yards behind the line. Two incomplete forward passes in a series of downs resulted in a five-yard penalty. A pass into an opponent's end zone was a touchback. A ball had to go out of bounds to be put into play at the inbounds line. A ball going out of bounds during a running play was awarded to the team who last touched it.

Most fields, including Multnomah Stadium, on rainy days were seas of mud. It was common for college teams to go into a punt formation for most of the game, and when in their own territory, kick on first down and wait for the breaks.

The back in punt formation presented an element of surprise. He could kick, pass or run. Many of the All-American backs were triple threats. Another physical factor was the large ball which was difficult to grip in passing and had to be flat handed and side-armed.

There was very little substituting. Usually the regulars went both ways the entire game. A boy came out of the game only if he played poorly, was injured or if the team was way ahead (which was seldom).

Actually, there were very few injuries even though these early teams were inadequately equipped. The players were slower and smaller, and most of the action took place between the ends near the line of scrimmage.

In 1928, when Sandy played

Gresham, the Sandy team borrowed helmets from the Gresham bench. In that game the Sandy quarterback called all the plays from the line of scrimmage with no huddle. He would call out a complicated series of numbers, such as, "16, 42, 21, 18, shift." They would then shift into a T-formation, and on a two count, the fullback would dive to the right of center. "18, 36, 88," would be a single wing with the left half going over right tackle. "21, 98, 16," would be a pass to the right from

punt formation.

By 1930, all teams huddled.

It was a real honor to be a quarterback who called his own plays. He was also in position to be a real hotdog, who sometimes put on quite an exhibition.

Sandy's first winning season was in 1932, when they defeated Molalla, Parkrose, Hill Military Academy, St. Stephens and Tigard. They lost to Gresham, Estacada, Canby and Beaverton.



Members of the first Sandy football team were, backfield, from left to right: Ken Scales, Alvin Eri, Quinten Norquist and Ed McCabe. Linemen: Russell Norquist, Clarence Griffin, Lewis Lund, Clark Lund, Vic Bacon, Elmer Glockner and Wilbur Dodd. Pop Rannow is pictured above.



The Blue Marlin Aquatic Club took third place Saturday and Sunday at the Tigard A/B Sextathlon. Of the 19 swimmers, 16 placed in the top 12 of their

respective age groups.

Photo by Sue Hanson

Blue Marlins place 3rd at Tigard meet

The Blue Marlin Aquatic Club captured third place this weekend in the Tigard A/B Sextathlon.

The team was composed of 19 swimmers, 16 of whom placed in the top dozen of their respective age groups.

Overall, the BMAC was defeated only by the Multnomah

Athletic Club of Portland and the Oregon Project of Lake Oswego.

Highlighted performances of the weekend were: Nikki Hanson, who took third place in the girls' 9-10 year old age group; Scott Drill, second in the boys' 13-14 year olds; and Troy Hilstad, third

in the boys' 15-18 age group.

According to Sue Hanson, BMAC coach, there were 54 personal-best times set at the Tigard meet. The biggest improvement was 51 seconds. The following swimmers had five personal-best times, that is they broke their previous record five

times in all: Sarah Drill of the 9-10 girls' age group; and Jacob and Josh Wendler, both of the 8 and under age group.

"The weekend was a success to all those involved," Sue Hanson commented. "It was a job well done by all BMAC swimmers."

Stacy Pearson named to first team offense

Barlow and Gresham dominated the selections for the Mount Hood Conference 1986 football all-star team as the Bruins grabbed eight first-team spots while six Gophers were named to the first team.

Stacy Pearson of Sandy was first team wide receiver and punter. Randy Wheeler was first team place kicker.

Kicker — Mike Mumper, Centennial; Mark Wreath, David Douglas; Jason Hubert, Gresham. Punter — Mark McKenzie, Reynolds.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive ends — Ben Glawe, Sandy; Shawn Helmore, Gresham. Linebackers — Doug Gunderson, Barlow; Brian Hergert, David Douglas; Justin Yungeberg, Sandy. Defensive backs — James Dnette, Barlow; Todd Wolf, Gresham; Al Blain, David Douglas; Mark Leggett, Central Catholic; Gerald Hale, Sandy. Linemen — Russ Major, Gresham; Steve Hull, Gresham; Ryan Prusse, Barlow; Mark McKenzie, Reynolds; Bill Christman, Sandy.

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Running backs — Vic Rust, Central Catholic; Frank Harrison, Barlow; Troy Nixon, David Douglas. Quarterback — Geoff Williams, Gresham. Wide receivers — Stacy Pearson, Sandy; Marty Bartholomew, Centennial. Tight end — Ryan Prusse, Barlow. Linemen — Russ Major, Gresham; Tim Bailey, Barlow; Ben Glawe, Sandy; Jeff McCrea, Reynolds. Center — Rip Napoli, Barlow. Kicker — Frank Harrison, Barlow. Punter — Tim Dooney, Central Catholic.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Running backs — Todd Wolf, Gresham; Zac Stokes, Reynolds; Byron Starnum, Sandy. Quarterback — Todd Montgomery, Centennial; Ron Gray, David Douglas. Wide receivers — Greg Wornack, Gresham; Eric Scheele, Columbia. Tight end — Cam Cross, David Douglas. Linemen — Pete Pierson, David Douglas; Kris Welch, Central Catholic; Steve Pyne, David Douglas; Tom Schwab, Barlow. Center — Dan Dieringer, Central Catholic; Jamie French, Reynolds. Kicker — Randy Wheeler, Sandy. Punter — Stacy Pearson, Sandy.

HONORABLE MENTION

Running backs — Matt Jones, Central Catholic; Andy Bayhi, Parkrose; Barry Tinsley, Reynolds. Quarterback — Aaron Miller, Barlow. Wide receivers — Mark Schultz, Centennial; Jason Shuler, Columbia. Tight end — Tony Hale, Sandy. Linemen — Jim Crain, Centennial; Ron Baird, Centennial; Kyle Cassidy, Central Catholic; Eric Ancil, Central Catholic; Roger Budge, Columbia; Joe Schnabel, Columbia; Brian Warner, David Douglas; David Cloud, David Douglas; Mike Harrison, Gresham. Center — Tim Pitteck, David Douglas.

Co-ed volleyball

SANDY CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE Standings through Nov. 7

TEAM	W	L
Construction	20	0
Oja Lumber	11	7
Mt. Hood Medical	8	10
Paula's Pizza	20	20
Elusive Trout Pub	4	16

Nov. 5 results

Mt. Hood Medical def. Oja Lumber 13-15, 17-15, 6-4. Elusive Trout Pub def. Mt. Hood Medical 15-11, 15-7.

Oja Lumber def. Elusive Trout Pub 15-12, 15-11.

Bowling

MOUNT HOODERS Standings through Nov. 6

TEAM	W	L
H.I. Steel	24 1/2	15 1/2
Prokop TV	24 1/2	15 1/2
Hoodland Thriftway	24	16
Smith Tool	22	18
Osima	20	20
Sandy Farms	19	21
Walrad Insurance	17	23
Sheppards Exc.	9	31

High series, team: Hoodland Thriftway, 2243; high game, team: H.I. Steel, 764; high series, individual: Bonnie Caba, 576; high game, individual: Bonnie Caba, 209.