

Sandy girls crush Columbia

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

Slow game fails the Chargers

For a while Tuesday night, the easiest job in the world belonged to the person keeping score for Columbia High School's girls basketball team.

The Chargers came to Sandy High School with intentions to slow the game down, hoping to keep the score as low as possible by holding the ball, stalling for time.

Unfortunately for Columbia, the only score the Chargers kept low was their own. Sandy coasted to the easy Mount Hood Conference victory, 64-27.

In the game, Sandy coach John Smith may have found a superstitious answer for the team's success: chewing on a straw instead of gum. With the win, Sandy is 13-3 overall, 9-1 in MHC competition and 1-0 with "The Straw."

Straw or not, the Pioneers were unstoppable, despite Columbia's best efforts to delay the game. The Chargers took just four shots in the first half, making only one.

At the end of the first period, the Pioneers had an 11-0 lead. At the half, Sandy held a commanding 31-2 lead.

Columbia took considerably more shots in the second half, but the majority of those shots failed to go through the net, much to the discouragement of the 3-7 Chargers.

With about 3:50 to go in the game, Smith had played all of his available players. In that 3:50 span, the team consisted of guards Heidi Dose, Kathy Layton and Denise Layton, forward Danielle Hink and center Brenda Swart. Those five players managed to hold their own against Columbia, scoring eight and allowing eight points, aiding the Pioneers to their ninth MHC triumph.

Sandy guard Shanna Daniels scored a game-high 18 points on nine-for-13 shooting, collected 10 rebounds and had a good first half defensively. Wendy Coleman scored 10 for the Pioneers, grabbing eight rebounds.

The Pioneers were without the services of Maria Rowland, who missed the game due to the flu. Sophomore guard Ali Lake performed well in her place, scoring 10 points and working well defensively.

Smith said he was elated with his team's

performance.

"I like the way we're playing," Smith said. "There's always the risk that we, being the better team in the last two games, (could) lay down to the opponents' level."

"It was nice to see our girls go out and play 100 percent."

"We had good poise, even though (the Chargers) were trying to hold the ball," assistant coach Molly Knudsen said.

Much of Sandy's action was not on the court, but instead on the Pioneer sidelines. Smith, busily chewing on The Straw during the game, called out plays and watched his team win easily.

Smith was not sure whether The Straw would remain in future contests. He usually chews gum during games, but was without Tuesday night.

"I think he should get rid of it," a disgusted Knudsen said of The Straw.

The Straw, however, was not necessary Friday night against Central Catholic. The

Pioneers got their biggest win of the season against the Rams 65-20.

Reserve center Tanya Schwartz had a terrific game offensively, finishing with 17 points. Daniels added 14 for the Pioneers and starting forward Julie Crampton chipped in 12.

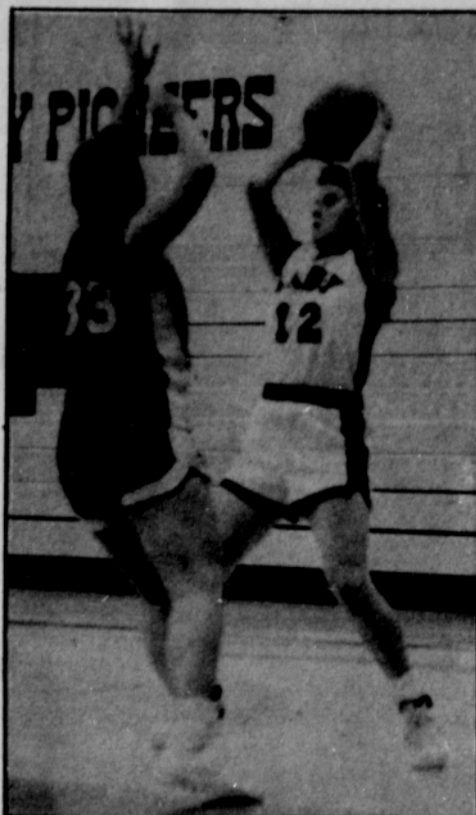
Again, Smith used all of his available players against Central Catholic.

"In these kind of games, I savor the moment of being able to play everybody because, this year, all of our 10 girls are putting out a very good effort," Smith said. "We all have a very good attitude. There's no internal problems."

"It's been fun to coach because of their good attitudes," he said.

The reserves have played an important role for the Pioneers this year. Smith is especially fond of the two seniors on the bench who are given limited playing time: Dose and Hink.

"It's been a real pleasure to work with them this year," Smith said. "They give 100 percent when they are called on. They don't complain when they don't get in the game. Those are the kind of senior leaders that don't come around that often."



Sophomore guard Ali Lake (12) tries to find an open player during Sandy's 64-27 Mount Hood Conference rout over Columbia. Lake scored 10 points off the bench.

Boys rebound after losses

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

After a pair of disappointing losses to Parkrose and Central Catholic, Sandy's boys basketball team defeated the Columbia Chargers 68-60 in Mount Hood Conference action Tuesday night at Columbia High School.

"We needed to have this one," head coach Dan Brisbin said of the win. "We couldn't let this one get away if we wanted a shot, realistically, to get in the top four (of the MHC, thus earning a playoff spot)."

Tony Hale led the Pioneers in scoring with 20 points. Brad Searls and Randy Wheeler each added 15 for Sandy. Hale and Wheeler both had good games in collecting rebounds.

Sandy had a slim 13-12 lead at the end of the first period, then played good offense in the second quarter, getting the fast break going and tightening the defense on the Chargers.

At halftime, the Pioneers led 32-23.

Brisbin said it was hard for Sandy to get in the flow of the game, as the officials sometimes let some calls go unnoticed while making tight calls at other times.

Columbia got hot in the second half, narrowing the gap at the end of the third, Sandy leading 48-43. Later, with about four minutes to go, the Chargers pulled to within one. The Pioneers then responded by getting the fast break going and pulled away from Columbia, winning 68-60.

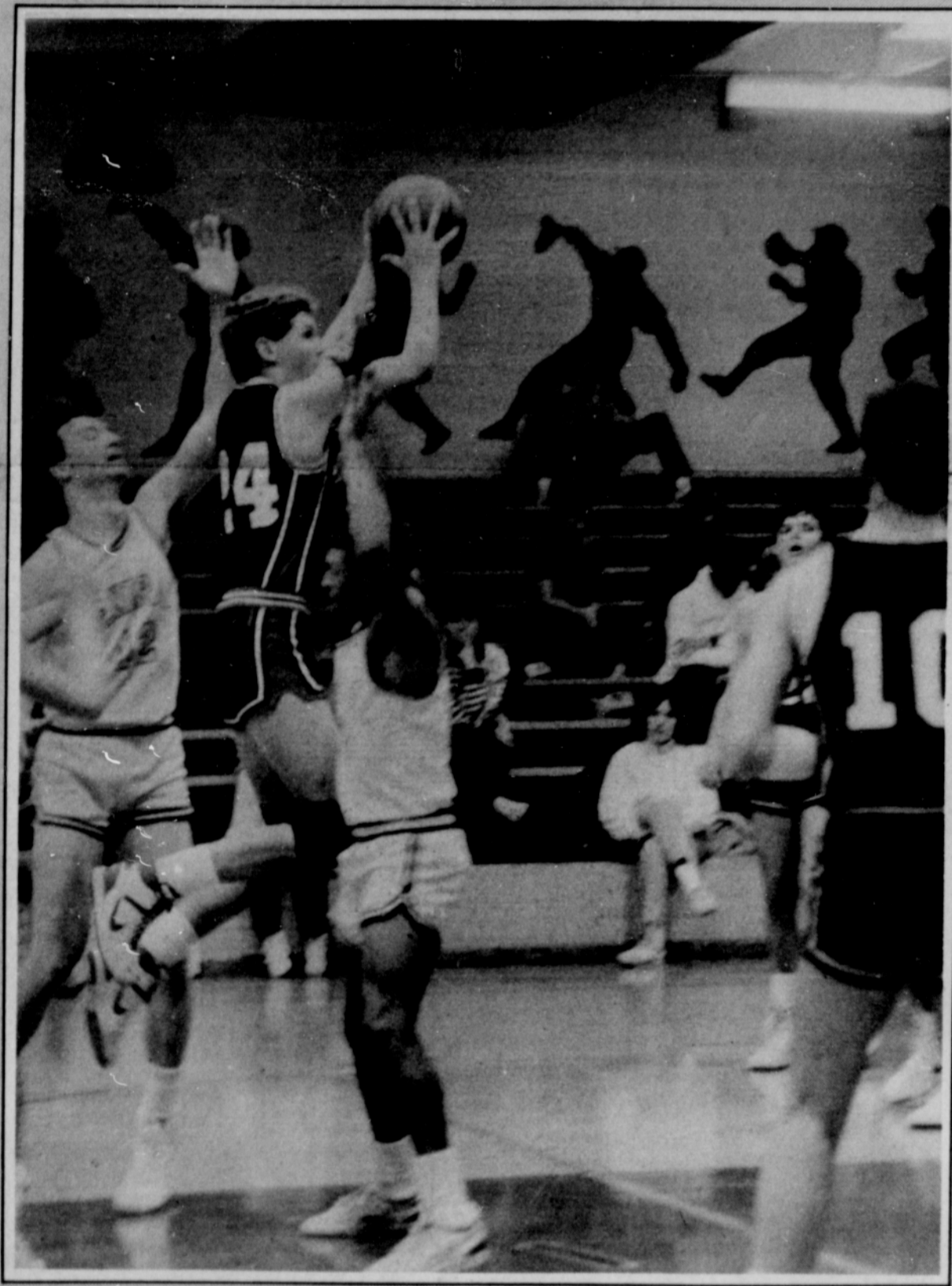
With the triumph, Sandy evened its record to 7-7 overall, 4-4 in the MHC. The Pioneers' next contest is a road game against David Douglas Friday night.

Earlier in the year, David Douglas, now tied for first place in the MHC, defeated the Pioneers in Sandy, 55-51. Brisbin said that historically, Sandy/David Douglas games are often close. But the Pioneers will have to play tough to defeat the Scots.

"We will have to pick up our execution just a notch," Brisbin said. "We have to build on our intensity and confidence."

A glimpse of that intensity and confidence was seen Friday night at Central Catholic's Pine Street Palace, but the Pioneers came up on the losing end, 72-52.

The game actually was closer than the score would indicate. At the end of the first quarter, Sandy held a seemingly commanding 19-9



Randy Wheeler looks for an open man during a game with Central Catholic.

Photo by Dave Magnuson

lead. Center Mike Hogen started his first game of the season, scoring seven points in the first quarter. Hogen finished with a career-high 15 points, leading the Pioneers.

Central Catholic retaliated in the second quarter by capitalizing on

Sandy miscues, converting costly turnovers into points. At halftime, the score was tied 29-29.

The Rams were down by four points with 7:12 to go in the third quarter, when they picked up on

their offense, outscoring Sandy 12-2 in a 4½-minute span, leading 43-35.

Wheeler, who was having a good game defensively for the Pioneers, fouled out with 2:49 to go in the third. This was a probable turning point for Sandy.

Ski teams place in conference battle

Girls take second; boys take third

The Sandy girls ski team took second place in conference competition Saturday while the boys team took third, due in part to a leading skier's fall.

Sean Fenwick, who is Sandy's fastest skier, fell during a run Saturday, which cost as much as 10 seconds. Leading the Pioneers were Randy Quiett, Dave Quiett and Dave Seeger.

Leading the girls team were Holly Sarich, Shannon Baker and Julie Marosi, en route to the second-place finish.

Final team results were unavailable at press time.

Coach Robert Karsten sees his team is one of the best of the 10 teams in the league. In fact, he strongly believes that, next to Hood River, there is none better.

"We're not going to be state champions," Karsten said. "But we're going to be good. We're going to be second in league."

"As to our usual standing (in comparison to the past), we're going to stay just about even. We've got a good team; good, hard workers," Karsten added.

In addition to Fenwick, the Quietts

and Seeger, Karsten sees Sean Tafoya, Tony Neumann, Don Eri, Charlie Harris and Dennis Dries as being "excellent" skiers for the boys team. Senior Liz Krenwinkel joins Sarich, Baker and Marosi as being among the elite on the girls team, according to Karsten.

"Out of all of them, they're all excellent skiers," Karsten said. "It all depends on the weekend and their mental attitude."

"We (as a team) have a chance to battle who I think will be the best team in state (Hood River) and we should be able to come head-to-head with them a number of times. Right now, they have a lead on us and we have to fight back," Karsten added.

The Pioneers head to the slopes again Saturday and will do so for another several weekends. Karsten said his team puts in more hours of training than other teams in the league.

"We have extremely hard training," Karsten said. "The kids are putting out what it takes to be champions. If anything, they should make it (to the championships). If not, it's not because they didn't try."

Swimmers win events, but lose to Gresham

The Gresham High School boys swim team defeated Sandy 101-64 and the Gresham girls beat the Sandy girls 110-49 in action Thursday at the Sandy Aquatic Center.

But several Sandy swimmers won individual events.

Junior Troy Hilstad earned a personal best time in the 100-meter butterfly with 56.96 seconds, breaking his old record of just over one-half a second and finishing first.

Sophomore Bob Richards also broke a personal record in the 100 breaststroke, earning first with a 1 minute 13.12 second clocking. This beat his old record by 3.8 seconds.

Nine other swimmers on the boys team collected personal best times. The boys team also won the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:55.71.

Gresham, however, was successful in capturing the victory, earning 10

bonus points in the diving category, because Sandy does not have a diving team.

Pioneers' coach Mark Smith was unavailable for comment on the meet, due to illness.

The girls team took first in the 200-medley relay, consisting of Becky Hewgley, Robyn Hayball, Michelle Crane and Trisha French, with a time of 2:06.42.

Hewgley took first in the 50 freestyle (27.1 seconds) and in the 100 butterfly (1:08.44). Teammate Hayball took first in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:16.73, a personal best.

The Gophers scored 13 points in the diving competition. Again, Sandy did not have a diving team, so was unable to earn any points, losing the meet to Gresham, 110-49.

Mt. Hood hitting school to offer three sessions

Three hitting sessions will be offered next month for high school baseball players at the fifth annual Mt. Hood School of Hitting in the Mt. Hood Community College gym.

The sessions are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 14, 15, and 16. Participants can pick one of three sessions. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch and a T-shirt. Enrollment is limited.

The purpose of the school of hitting is to teach the proper fundamentals of hitting. Each hitter will be provided with as many swings as possible in the batting

cage under constant supervision.

Camp director is Dale Stebbins, head baseball coach at MHCC. Other coaches at the sessions will be Mike Bubalo, head coach at Tigard High School; Greg Cusick, hitting coach at MHCC; Tom Campbell, head coach at Tigard High School; Royce McDaniel, head coach at Lakeridge High School; and Jon Peterson, head coach at Gresham High School.

Players should bring a bat, batting gloves, workout gear, tennis shoes and a batting helmet.

Sandy wrestlers drop three matches

Sandy wrestling coach Ron Calhoun says he had two days of "bad news" after losses to three teams in two days last week.

"The kids wrestled very, very poorly," Calhoun said of the Pioneers' match at Gresham last Thursday night. "We had some major letdowns. There were a couple of kids who were sick."

The final score was no indication of how close the match really was, Calhoun said. The Gophers won 39-31.

Sandy won the final four individual matches against Gresham. Before the Pioneers defeated their last four opponents, the match already was decided in favor of the Gophers.

"Gresham is a good team,"

Calhoun said, "but not very much better than we are."

Six Sandy grapplers won their matches. They were: Yo Masui, Marsial Herrera, Justin Yungeberg, Art Skipper, Troy Freeman and Ken Burchett, who won his first match as a varsity wrestler at heavyweight.

On Friday, the Pioneers traveled to the Earle A. Chiles Center at the University of Portland to take part in the ASICS Tiger-Oregon Wrestling Classic. The Classic invited the top 20 class AAA high school teams based on last year's results.

The Pioneers turned out to be misfits in the competition, but gave their all, nevertheless, Calhoun said. "We wrestled much, much better

(than against Gresham), but our competition was tough," Calhoun said. The Pioneers opened first-round competition against Milwaukie, one of the state's top five teams.

Only four Sandy wrestlers won their matches against the Mustangs, en route to the 46-19 defeat. Masui, Freeman, Skipper and Yungeberg were the Pioneers' only victors.

Before the match began, Sandy was forced to forfeit their 136- and 148-pound matches due to illness and lack of athletes. Those forfeits created a 12-0 Milwaukie lead before the match began.

"When you give them away,

there's no chance for you," Calhoun said of the forfeitures. "We didn't have enough horses."

The Pioneers then went on to the consolation round and took on La Grande. Again, Sandy had to forfeit the two weight classifications, losing to the Tigers, 32-24.

Clayton Hull, John Skinner and Jeff Davis joined Masui, Skipper and Yungeberg on the list of triumphant matmen against La Grande.

The Pioneers' next opponent is Reynolds in a home match Thursday night. Calhoun said he is not quite sure of how well his team will perform against the Lancers, but he said it should be a "good match."