

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation

Girls get revenge, 1st place

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

The Sandy girls basketball team was out for more than a win Friday night at Gresham High School.

It was out for vengeance. A vengeance that would put the Pioneers in sole possession of first place in the Mount Hood Conference. They got their vengeance and also got first place, beating the Gophers 55-46, never trailing.

Exactly one month earlier, the Gophers got past the host Pioneers, 39-34. Going into the grudge match, Gresham had a 10-game winning streak, while Sandy had a seven-game string of wins. The Pioneers were only one-half game behind Gresham, which was in first.

But the win turned that around. Sandy took first place and, more importantly to the players and coaches, the team got what it wanted: Revenge.

"(The game) had revenge written all over it," said senior forward Shanna Daniels, who finished the game with 15 points. "Tonight we wanted to win it really bad. We just wanted it again."

As promised, the game was not a "gimme" for the Pioneers. Sandy had to earn its triumph. There was no score for the first three minutes, when point guard Maria Rowland connected on a 10-foot jumper.

The Pioneers had a 4-0 lead before Gresham finally scored its first bucket. Each team chipped away in the first period as Sandy held a 10-7 lead at the end of the first.

In the second, the Pioneers took advantage of Gresham's inability to get the breaks on shots. At least three Gopher shots found the rim, rolled around and off the rim in the second quarter alone.

Gresham did what it could, however, to keep Sandy's scoring as low as possible. The Pioneers' scoring in the second was balanced. Four of the five Sandy scorers in the quarter had two points apiece. Daniels had three.

The Pioneers led at the half, 21-13.

Going into the third, Sandy's determination for victory was not about to be diminished. Julie Crampton, perhaps the Pioneers' best third-quarter player, scored six of the team's 13 points in the third. She had had only five points at halftime.

At the end of three, Sandy added to its lead, 34-21. With only eight minutes to go, a 13-point deficit was not a pleasant prospect for

Gresham.

The Gophers did manage to score 25 points, but Sandy scored 21 in the final period in one of the highest-scoring quarters for the Pioneers this year.

Crampton scored seven of her game-high 18 points in the quarter. Daniels added five, all from the free-throw line. Rowland and sophomores Ali Lake and Renae Aschoff combined to score the remaining nine in the quarter.

The Pioneers took sole possession of first place in the MHC for the first time this season, winning the game 55-46.

"We really held together as a team tonight," said assistant coach Molly Knudsen, whose husband Larry is athletic director at Gresham High. "Our goal was composure."

Head coach John Smith was exceptionally pleased with the win. He knew the reward for victory was first place.

Smith said that because of the half-game difference between the two teams, "nobody stands still. You either go up or down," he said. "Our goal was to go up."

"I couldn't be prouder of the girls. They kept their composure. I might have lost mine once or twice, but it helps when they're cool and calm and telling me to sit down," Smith said.

Smith added he was pleased with the turnout of visiting Pioneer boosters at the game. He was convinced that their support was instrumental in the team's win.

Some of those fans were at Sandy Tuesday night as the Pioneers got past Reynolds 48-32 in a game Smith called a "sleeper."

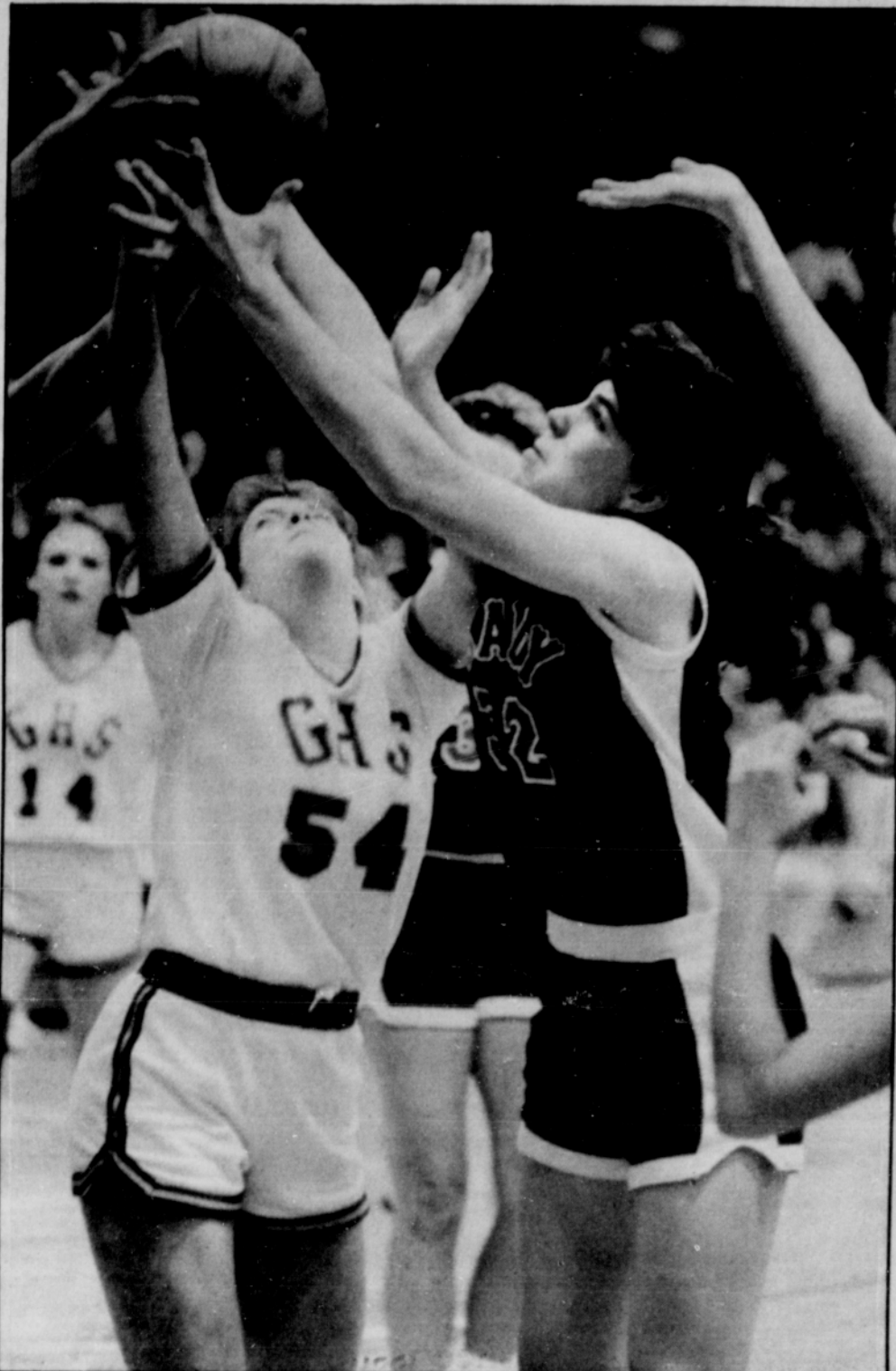
The game was tied at the end of the first, 6-6, before Sandy outscored the Lancers in the next two quarters, 36-10, taking a 42-16 lead.

Crampton again led the Pioneers in scoring with 16 points. Daniels had 12 points and 11 rebounds for Sandy. Forward/center Wendy Coleman added 10.

The win over Gresham puts Sandy at 12-1 in the MHC, 16-3 overall and is ranked ninth on the Associated Press poll this week.

The Pioneers will take their nine-game winning streak on the road to Barlow on Friday night. Following that game, Sandy plays host to Centennial and Parkrose to end the regular season.

The Pioneers have clinched a playoff spot and are taking each regular season game one at a time, so as to maintain first place and to have a better seed in the state tournament.



Renae Aschoff grabs a rebound during the girls win over Gresham.

Staff photo by Terry Farris

Boys retain first place with win

The Sandy boys took first place at a meet Saturday at Mount Hood Meadows, retaining first place in the Mount Hood Conference.

The girls team, meanwhile, took second in the meet and slipped into second in the MHC, behind Hood River. The girls were tied for first going into the meet.

Two Sandy representatives took first place honors individually in the meet. Holly Sarich was first for the girls and Sean Fenwick was first overall for the boys team. In addition, junior Randy Quiett finished third overall.

With the first place finish, the Pioneer boys have a 10-point lead over second-place Barlow. Hood River is third.

The girls are only two points behind Hood River and are followed in the standings by Parkrose. Those two points can be quickly regained, said coach Robert Karsten.

"In one race, two points is just one finish ahead of us," Karsten said.

Shannon Baker had the second-best Sandy time of the afternoon. She was followed by Liz Krenwinkel and Julie Marosi.

The skier with the third-best time for the boys was Dave Quiett, who followed Karsten's game plan instead of doing what he felt like doing. As it turned out, the team won because of Quiett's selflessness, according to Karsten.

"The one major thing he had to do was 'stand up' and he did that," Karsten said. "He didn't go for the glory; he did exactly what he was told to. He supported the team, rather than his own goals."

Karsten added he is pleased that the entire team is improving in unity and has an unselfish attitude.

"I'm seeing a lot of (sacrifice) in the team and it's wonderful — not only their time, but their efforts; and they all want to be first," Karsten said. "To find a champion — as most of them are — (in) being selfless and willing to sacrifice for the team seems to make it all worthwhile."

Pioneer boys, girls fall to Centennial

The Sandy swim team completed its dual meet season Thursday at Centennial, but was unsuccessful in getting the Mount Hood Conference win.

The girls, who took first in seven of the nine events, lost to the Eagles 65-58. The boys, taking first in only one of their 10 events, lost 94-56.

The Pioneer girls went into the final event, the 400-meter freestyle relay, leading 58-57. However, the team was unable to win the event and surrendered eight points to Centennial.

Senior Becky Hewgley and freshmen Michelle Crane and Robyn Hayball each took first in two events, while the team took first in the 200 medley relay.

Hayball and juniors Tammy Boten and Marcie McDevitt broke times in two events apiece.

The boys, however, only won one

event. In the 500 freestyle, senior Dean Haines took first with a time of 5 minutes, 33.26 seconds.

In the Centennial meet, seven swimmers from the boys team broke their personal bests. Junior Brian Collins and sophomores David Izer and Loren Terrill each broke times in two events. Troy Hilstad, Richard Montgomery, Ben King and Bob Richards each broke times in one event.

Coach Mark Smith said the team is preparing for the district finals, which take place this weekend at Mt. Hood Community College.

"Now's the time to work on resting the swimmers and getting out any little idiosyncrasies they might have," Smith said. He added that the team is unable to take three swimmers from the boys team due to academic ineligibility.

Place well at tournament

Eagles zap Pioneer wrestlers

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

The Centennial Eagles wrestling team took a 32-0 lead Thursday night en route to a 50-21 win over the host Sandy Pioneers in a Mount Hood Conference dual meet.

The main problem for the Pioneers was the match-ups. Sandy's three main wrestlers, Yo Masul at 106 pounds, Marsial Herrera at 123 and Justin Yungeberg at 191, were matched up against Centennial's three main wrestlers.

The Eagles took advantage of the situation and won all three of the big matches, in addition to winning six other matches. Sandy won only four

matches.

The four victorious Pioneers were Jeff Davis at 141, Casey Beaudoin at 157, Troy Freeman at 168 and Art Skipper at 178. Davis, Beaudoin and Skipper all won their events by getting a pin or a technical fall (leading by 15 points).

Sandy coach Ron Calhoun said he was somewhat disappointed in the end result and the situation of the match-ups, but not in his team.

"We just seemed real, real flat," Calhoun said. "(Centennial) sort of beat us through our strengths. In a couple of cases, we were just totally outgunned."

The Pioneers were outgunned to the tune of five pins, two technical falls and two decisions by eight

points. Sandy outtered with just two pins, one technical fall and one decision of two points.

"The disappointment was the way we matched up. We ran into all their top-quality kids (against) our real good kids and they won all three of those," Calhoun said.

Sandy's record in the MHC dropped to 3-3. One of those three losses came to David Douglas earlier in the season, but the Pioneers avenged that loss Saturday at the Molalla Invitational.

Sandy, powered by five wrestlers who finished first in their weight classifications, finished the tournament tied for first place with St. Helens. Both Sandy and St. Helens

had 69 points. David Douglas came in third with 54 points and Molalla finished last with 51.

The tournament win over David Douglas did not count in league standings, however.

Calhoun was pleased with his team's improvement in comparison to the dual meet with Centennial.

"The kids wrestled much, much better at Molalla," Calhoun said. "We avenged our loss with David Douglas. Unfortunately, the loss during the dual meet season is the one that counts."

On Thursday night, Sandy wraps up its regular season competition in a dual meet at Barlow. The Bruins are leading the MHC and promise to be tough competition for the Pioneers.

Boys lose key playoff game to Lancers

by DAVE MAGNUSON
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The Bell was ringing loudly in the fourth quarter of the Sandy/Reynolds boys basketball game Tuesday night.

Reynolds' Ray Bell made himself visible to the home crowd in the fourth, scoring seven of his game-high 21 points in the quarter, including a slam dunk with 4:24 to go. On the dunk, Bell was also fouled, but was unable to convert the three-point play.

However, the powerful jam electrified the crowd and all ended the Pioneers chances of coming back and winning the game.

Reynolds won the Mount Hood Conference contest 55-43.

Unfortunately for Sandy, the timing of the loss was poor. Both teams were 5-5 and tied for fourth place in the MHC going into the game. The winner would have sole possession of that fourth place spot, the last playoff spot open.

Sandy got out to a 2-0 lead and appeared to have control of the ball game for the first couple of minutes, recovering Lancer turnovers and taking advantage of Reynolds fouls. But then the Lancers hit for a spurt of 10 points, taking the 10-2 lead. Sandy managed to pull back to within two points on six occasions before tying the game 20-20 with 3:34 to go in the second quarter.

Following a Reynolds time out, the Lancers managed to score on a tip in and hit two free throws, pulling ahead 24-20.

Sandy forward Randy Lamm made one of two free throws and Matt Flisram hit a 14-foot jumper to finish the Pioneers' first-half scoring. Reynolds countered with

'It was a game we needed. We couldn't buy a shot.'

— Dan Brisbin
Pioneer coach

three points as well, as the Lancers held a 27-23 halftime advantage.

Lamm had seven points in the first half and finished with a team-high 11 points. Center Tony Hale added six in the opening half.

The intensity that was evident in the game's opening minutes by the Pioneers reappeared at the beginning of the second half. Lamm hit two 14-foot baseline jumpers at the beginning of the third quarter, then Hale hit a jumper. The game was tied 29-29 with 5:25 to go in the third.

After Reynolds' Tim Murray hit the tail end of a two-shot foul, the Lancers had a 30-29 edge.

Then Hale took a beautiful pass from guard Brad Searls and laid the ball through the hoop to regain the lead, 31-30, with 4:30 to go.

The Lancers then outscored the Pioneers 8-0 in a 2½-minute span, taking the lead away from Sandy, 38-31. After Sandy's Mike Hogen hit a 10-foot jumper, the third quarter came to a close. Reynolds leading 38-33.

In the first 4:42 of the fourth quarter, the Pioneers were unable to fill the hole, while Reynolds was busy scoring and Bell was busy dunking. The Lancers took advantage

of Sandy's inability to score, scoring eight unanswered points in that span.

Flisram finally ended Sandy's drought by hitting a pretty, hanging 10-foot baseline jumper. Reynolds still held a commanding 46-35 lead.

With the home crowd as intense as it was, Sandy had very little chance of catching up in the final three minutes. Reynolds outscored the Pioneers in those three minutes 9-8, winning the game 55-43.

Incidentally, Sandy defeated the Lancers earlier this season 57-45. So in terms of total points scored, the series is deadlocked.

In addition to Lamm's 11 points, Hale scored 10 and Searls had 8.

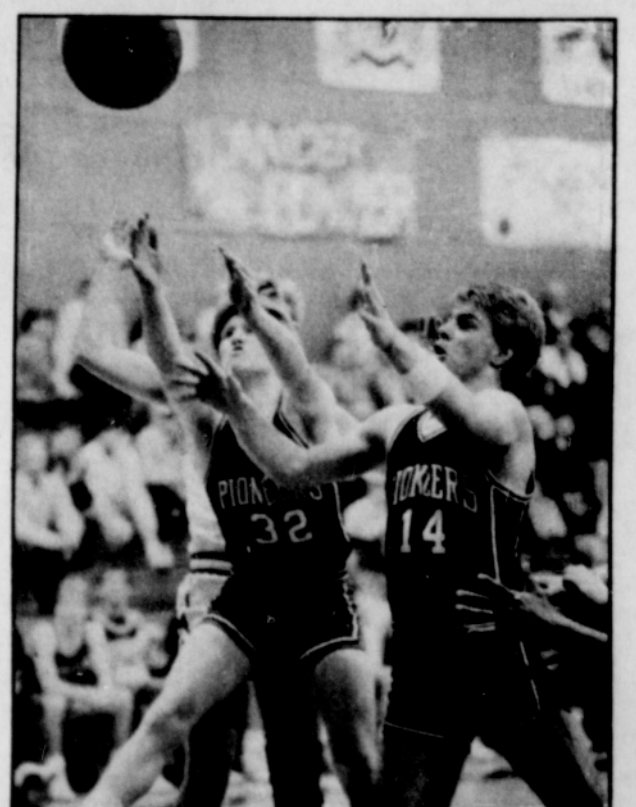
"It was a game we needed," said Pioneer coach Dan Brisbin. "We couldn't buy a shot. I think there were a lot of times where we had guys on our arms (fouls) and we couldn't get that out of it, either."

Brisbin added that the shot selection he wanted was there, but the ball simply would not go through the hoop. On a brighter note for Sandy, the Pioneers played host Friday night to the Gresham Gophers, beating Gresham for the second time out of two meetings this season, 67-61.

Randy Wheeler led all scorers with 20 points. Searls and Lamm added 12 points apiece and guard Gerald Hale finished with 11.

Next for the Pioneers is a must-win contest against the Barlow Bruins at home. Sandy lost to the Bruins earlier this year at Barlow, 61-41.

Brisbin feels the team must now work its way out of its hole and hopes the Pioneers can get a few breaks to regain fourth place.



Matt Flisram (32) and Tony Hale (14) go for a rebound.