

Boys look good for playoffs

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

Sandy's public address announcer Kenneth Ouderkirk was somewhat premature at the end of Tuesday night's boys basketball game with Central Catholic when he said, "The Sandy Pioneers are playoff-bound."

But Ouderkirk was not too far off the mark, as Sandy humbled the Rams in Mount Hood Conference competition, 75-63.

With one game remaining, the Pioneers are in very good shape, looking at the playoff picture. Going into Tuesday night's MHC games, Sandy, Reynolds and Gresham were all tied in fourth place at 7-7. But Gresham lost to Parkrose, one of the league's toughest teams, and Reynolds defeated Columbia, one of the league's easiest-to-beat teams.

Following their wins Tuesday, Sandy and Reynolds go to 8-7 and Gresham falls to 7-8 and barely in the playoff picture. On Friday night, Reynolds will travel to Parkrose to take on the 10-5 Broncos and Sandy hosts 1-14 Columbia.

The Broncos are 5-0 against Gresham, Sandy and Reynolds combined, but had a scare in January when the Lancers barely lost, 48-47 at Reynolds. However, the game will be at Parkrose and the Broncos are tough to beat at home.

So it does look good for the Pioneers, but anything is possible. For example, Columbia could knock off the Pioneers. How will Sandy's team keep from getting overconfident?

Pioneer coach Dan Brisbin responded with a simple answer: "They know what's at stake."

"We know Reynolds will have a tough game with Parkrose, because we played Parkrose about as good a ball game as we could play down there. (The Broncos beat Sandy last Friday night 53-46.)

"If we take care of business Friday, we should go (to the state tournament)," Brisbin said.

The game with Central Catholic was quite a spectacle of impressive Sandy fast breaks and an even more impressive Sandy defense, perhaps the team's best defensive performance of the season.

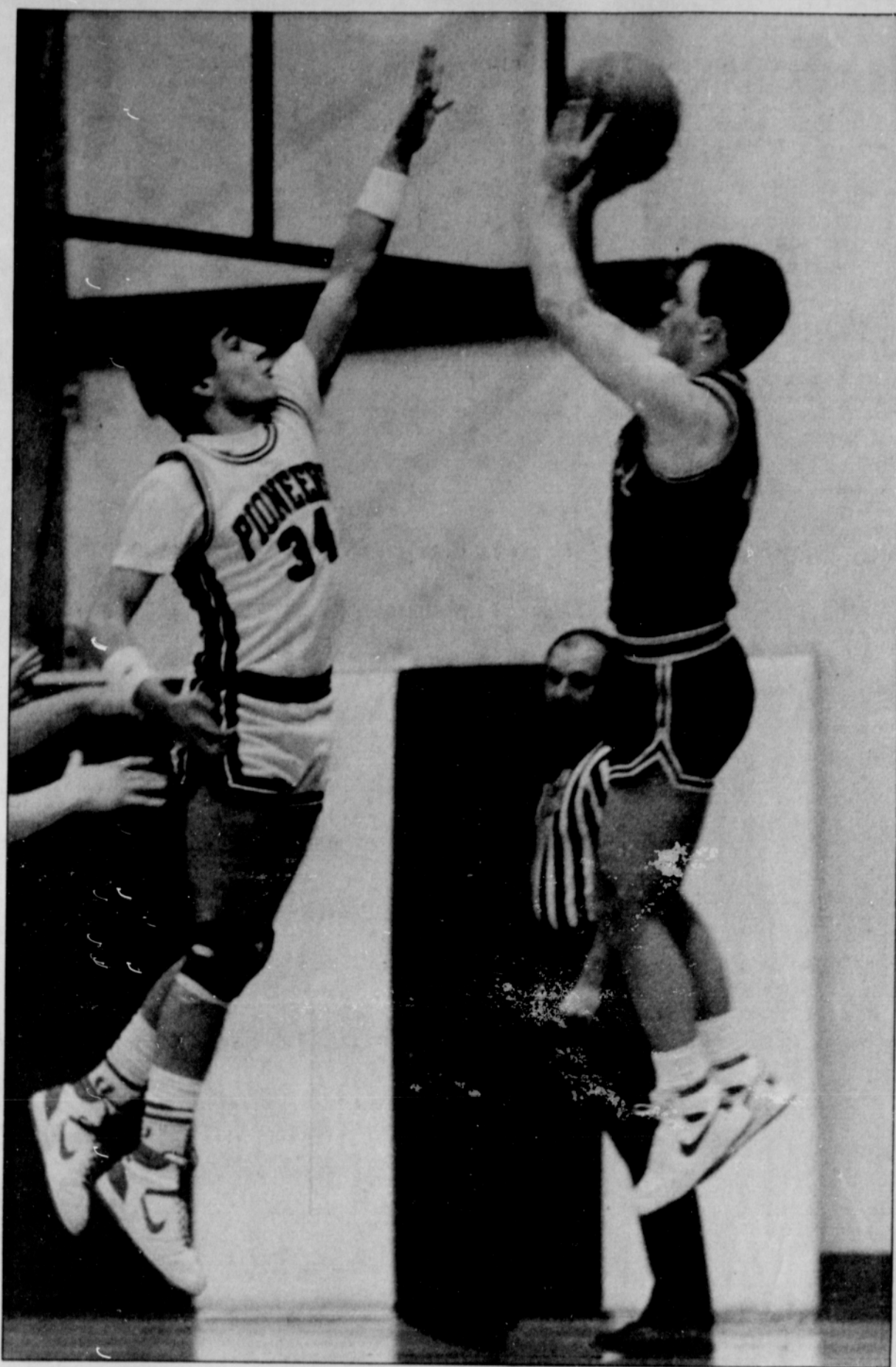
The Pioneers got out to a 4-0 lead and led by as many as seven in the opening period. After guard Brad Searls scored Sandy's first six points, 6-foot-3 forward Randy Wheeler scored the Pioneers' next eight points, as Sandy led 14-7 with 2:17 to go in the first.

Central managed to pull to within four as the opening period came to a close, 17-13. Wheeler finished the quarter with 10 points.

The first half of the second quarter was a less-than-spectacular offensive showing for both teams. In the period's first 4½ minutes, neither team sank a field goal and Wheeler was the only scorer for either team, making two free throws.

Then with 3:35 to go in the first half, Central's Dave Hune scored on a lay in, was fouled by senior guard Chris Palmer on the shot and completed a three-point play, pulling the Rams to a 19-16 deficit.

The Rams then pulled up to 44-40



Randy Lamm (34) gets a hand in the face of Central Catholic guard Dave Hune in Tuesday night's game at Sandy. The Pioneers made their playoff hopes look

very bright as they beat the Mount Hood Conference's second-place Rams, 75-63.

ing the Rams to a 19-16 deficit.

The Rams completed two more three-point plays in the first half, as Central scored nine of its 13 points in the quarter off three-point plays.

Still, Sandy managed to counter with three Matt Flisram field goals, all from outside, and Palmer went 4-for-4 from the line, as the Pioneers held their lead, 29-26 at the half.

Flisram was equally as hot at the beginning of the third quarter, making three more shots, two from outside, as the Pioneers pulled out to a 39-32 lead with 4:57 to go in the third.

Flisram did not score in the remainder of the ball game, but finished with 12 key points, all within 10 minutes of game time.

With 1:45 to go in the third, Wheeler sank one of two free throws, giving Sandy its biggest lead, 44-36.

The Rams then pulled up to 44-40

just 43 seconds later.

With one second remaining in the quarter, Central guard Blake Wilson attempted and amazingly scored on a one-handed desperation jumper. Sandy kept its lead, 46-42.

At the outset of the fourth period, the 6-foot-1 Searls went wild, stealing the ball twice, getting fouled twice and burying four straight free throws, as Sandy led with 6:52 to go in the game, 50-44.

And the Pioneers would not let up on the Rams, as center Tony Hale and Searls each scored a field goal as Sandy had its biggest lead of the game, 54-44. The crowd was deafening as Central coach Steve Halligan called a time out with 5:31 to go.

Sandy's defense was nothing short of relentless throughout the first few minutes of the fourth.

Following the time out, the Pioneers lost a little bit of the intensity they had at the outset of the final quarter. Brisbin was aware of

this and promptly called a time out in hopes to regain that intensity.

The bulk of the next few minutes was back and forth scoring, as Sandy maintained a 63-59 lead.

While Central scored its final four points of the game, pandemonium struck the Sandy gym. With 1:13 to go, Hale took the ball from one end of the floor to the other, scoring a lay in, which electrified the crowd.

Hale's older brother, Gerald, later sank four free throws within 15 seconds as the Pioneers upped their lead to 69-63.

The pandemonium was far from over. With 17 seconds to go, Searls allowed his quick momentum to carry him through the air to the hoop for a finger roll lay in.

Then each of the Hale brothers got steals within the final 10 seconds and converted each of them for lay ins. Tony Hale was fouled with a fraction of a second to go, but missed the free throw.

Girls finish with a bang

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

The regular season ended in fine fashion Friday night as the Sandy girls basketball team beat visiting Parkrose in Mount Hood Conference action 58-35.

The No. 5-ranked Pioneers ended the season with a 12-game winning streak — all league games — a 19-3 overall record, a 15-1 MHC record. They own the league title for the third straight season.

In addition, the entire starting lineup for Sandy earned spots on the MHC all-star team. Forward Shanna Daniels and center Julie Crampton made the first team, forward/center Wendy Coleman made the second team and the backcourt duo of Suzee Adkins and Maria Rowland were selected to the honorable mention team.

Sandy found itself trailing twice in the opening quarter against Parkrose, but quickly turned it around, scoring 10 unanswered points, en route to a 12-3 lead at the end of the first.

Coleman then scored seven of her 11 points in the second quarter. Sandy got out to an 18-3 lead before the Broncos scored, ending the Pioneers' 16-0 spurt.

Crampton scored a lay in with 1:39 to go in the half, as Sandy took a 28-11 lead, its largest margin to that point.

Parkrose then had a mini-rally of six straight points. Adkins then felled one of two free throws to give Sandy a 29-17 lead at the half.

The game ball in the third quarter belonged to Crampton, who scored all 10 of the Pioneers' points in the period. All five of her field goals were from inside the free-throw lane. The Broncos countered with five points in the quarter, as Sandy tied its biggest lead, 39-22.

The Pioneers surrendered the four points to Parkrose at the beginning of the fourth quarter, then scored four of its own, leading 43-26 with 5:40 to go.

The Broncos' 5-foot-3 guard Nancy Buschert then made a field goal before Sandy rallied 10 unanswered points, upping its lead to 53-30 with 3:07 to go in the game.

Buschert then hit a tough 16-foot jumper, making the score 53-32.

Sandy outscored Parkrose in the final 2½ minutes 5-3, winning the season-ending contest, 58-35.

Crampton was 11-for-21 from the field, leading all scorers with 24 points. Crampton had seven rebounds while Coleman hauled in 12 boards.

Rowland had eight assists, nine points and three steals. Daniels passed for seven assists and had five rebounds.

As a team, the Pioneers had only nine turnovers, while stealing the ball eight times.

"It feels great," Crampton said of winning the league title. "Our goal now is to make it to the (state) championship game. I think we're going to do it — seriously."

How will the team make it to the final game?

'If we play like this, we should do awfully well.'

"(We must) keep playing as a team, like we've been doing, and keep talking defensively and (having) everybody hitting their shots and going for the boards. That's the main thing."

Sandy head coach John Smith was mildly elated over winning the MHC crown for his third consecutive time.

"I'm really thrilled for the girls," Smith said. "We've, from the beginning of the year talked about the fact that it's a long season. There'll be peaks and valleys. We wanted to spend a little time in the valleys and climb out quickly."

"Our goal from the very beginning was to be playing our best basketball and being at the top of the hill at the end of the season," he said.

As far as the post-season tournament is concerned, the coach is confident of success.

"I think we're in pretty good shape," Smith said.

The Pioneers have a bye in the sub-tournament round and will probably face Sunset, the state's eighth-best team, according to the Associated Press poll this week.

Each of the five starters have at least one year of post-season experience. Daniels, Coleman and Rowland each have two years' experience in the playoffs.

"I think probably the best description of the overall group of girls right now is we're just real excited," Smith said.

"(Being a) three-time winner of your conference is something that doesn't happen that often."

16 Blue Marlins qualify for "A" championships

Sixteen swimmers made "A" times in the Last Chance Invitational held at the Barlow High School pool on Feb. 14 and 15.

An "A" time is a designated time which, if met, allows swimmers to compete in the Oregon "A" Championships, held in Albany next weekend.

Those breaking the "A" times at Barlow were: Beau Knight with four

new "A" times; Carrie Mills, Scott Drill, Adam Hayball and Blake Smith, each with two new "A" times; and Jason Smith, Derek Spires, Nikki Hanson, Sara Drill, Shawna Stewart, Laurie Holbert, Rachel McAllister, Janine Williamson and Heather Dorn with one new "A" time.

There will be 14 swimmers traveling to the Oregon "A" Championships on Feb. 27, 28 and March 1, the most since 1980.

Rodeo club being formed at Sandy

After a three-year period of hiatus, the Sandy Union High School rodeo club has been rejuvenated.

The club, which dissolved in 1984, was begun once again by a few sophomores and juniors at SUHS.

The primary goal of the club is to increase the students' interests in rodeo and to have fun.

The team is looking for new members. The requirements for becoming a member of the club are:

- Members must be in high school.
- Members must have a grade point average of at least 2.5.
- Members must have superintendent/principal permission.

An \$80 fee, which covers the costs of insurance, national dues and state dues, must be paid at least 30 days prior to a rodeo. The fee is for the entire year.

The team, which is coached by Wade Buswell, a 21-year rodeo veteran, will meet each Monday and Wednesday night at Gift of Joy Arabians, 23900 442nd Road, beginning in October.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Danna Schwenk at 668-8498.

Freshmen swimmers look to the future

For two swimmers from the Sandy swim team, competing in the season-ending finals of the Oregon swimming and diving championships was not to be this year.

However, they still have three more opportunities and are proving to be two of the strongest competitors in Sandy High School history.

Freshmen Robyn Hayball and Michelle Crane competed in the Oregon School Activities Association-U.S. Bank swimming and diving championships preliminary round Friday, but both were unable to qualify for the final round.

Both Hayball and Crane qualified to compete at the state championships in the 100-yard breaststroke while Crane made it to the 200 individual medley at the Mount Hood Conference district final held Feb. 13 and 14.

Since the two are freshmen and both have broken the school record in the 100 breaststroke, the future appears to be bright.

This year, Crane finished 13th in the 200 individual medley in the preliminary round, just two

seconds shy of competing in the state consolation race.

Hayball was 15th overall in the preliminaries of the 100 breaststroke and Crane was 18th overall.

Earlier in the season, both Crane and Hayball broke the school record, previously held by LeAnn Madison in 1977. Hayball now owns the new record, finishing the 100-yard race in 1 minute, 13.07 seconds at the district finals.

Sandy coach Mark Smith said he is looking forward to next season as he sees next year's Pioneers a little tougher than this year.

"I believe the team has come a long way since the beginning of the season," Smith said. "We're definitely going to be much stronger next year than we have been."

Smith, who coaches the Blue Marlins Aquatic Club in Sandy, said that there will be about six swimmers from the BMAC who will be swimming as freshmen next year at Sandy.

This year's team will lose three swimmers to graduation.

And Mount Hood Championships

Ski teams prepare for state

Sandy's most consistent skiers, seniors Sean Fenwick and Holly Sarich, each finished second in the Mount Hood Conference district finals this weekend at Cooper Spur.

Fenwick finished the dual slalom course with a time of 67.59 seconds, which was a mere four-hundredths of a second slower than Hood River's Rick Searcy, who took first.

The Pioneer boys team took third overall, as Hood River and Barlow took first and second, respectively. However, Sandy maintained first place in the MHC after the meet.

The two scoring skiers for Sandy behind Fenwick were Dave Seeger, who took 12th overall with a 72.81-second time, and Randy Quiett, who took 16th overall at 73.73.

Sarich finished second behind Kristen Klindt of Hood River with a clocking of 75.6 seconds. Klindt finished .68 seconds ahead of Sarich.

Hood River finished first and maintains its first-place standing in the league. The Pioneers took second and remain in second place.

Following Sarich was Shannon Baker in ninth place overall at 82.51 seconds, and Liz Krenwinkel in 11th at 83.8 seconds.

This coming weekend, the three leagues that compete on Mount Hood, the MHC, the Metro League and the

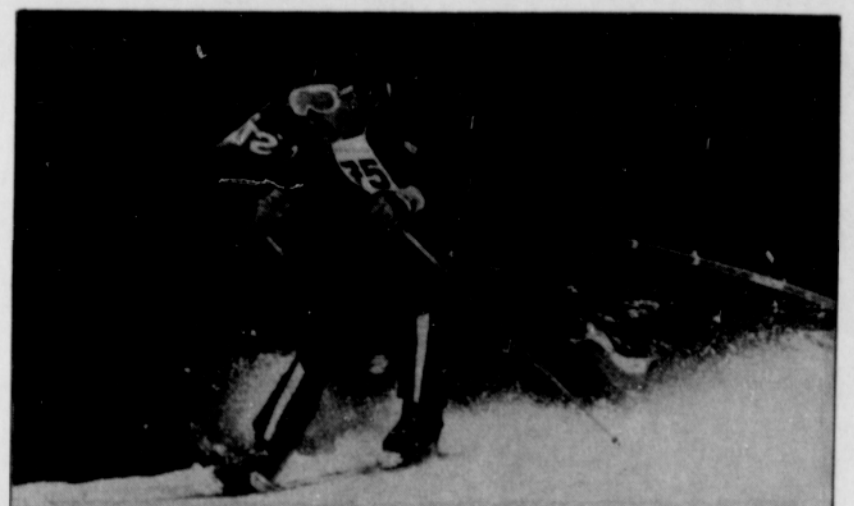


Photo by Ken Barton

Sandy junior Randy Quiett makes his way down Mount Hood in the dual slalom race at Cooper Spur last weekend. Quiett was Sandy's third finisher and was 16th overall in the Mount Hood Conference district finals.

Three Rivers League, will compete in the Mount Hood Championships, an event which Sandy coach Robert Karsten views as "fun."

"There will be some good teams there," Karsten said, adding that Lake Oswego, Lakeridge and Clackamas should be tough competition for the boys, and St. Mary's Academy, Sunset, Lakeridge and

Lake Oswego ought to give the girls good races. "We've got the talent and we don't make as many mistakes as some of the others."

Following the Mount Hood Championships will be the state championships held March 5 and 6. Karsten believes his team will fare well at both championship events.