

Section

II

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation

SUHS earns split in long day

Pumped up Pioneers earn 2-1 record with full slate

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

After six hours devoted to baseball, Sandy team members relaxed Tuesday, enjoying a split of a double-header against Milwaukie of the Three Rivers League, losing the first 10-4 but winning the second game 10-6.

In previous action, the Pioneers got past the Portland Interscholastic League's Jefferson Democrats 9-4 in a darkness-shortened five-inning contest Friday.

MILWAUKIE 10, SANDY 6; FIRST GAME — Sandy got out to a 3-0 lead through the first three innings, but the Mustangs took advantage of productive sixth and seventh innings to pull ahead and win the opener.

In the bottom of the first, after Pioneer pitcher Darren Pullen struck out the side, catcher Robb Spanier hit a ball to right field, which appeared as though it might have been caught, when Milwaukie's right fielder dropped it, as Pioneers Randy Gifford and Gerald Hale scored.

Later, Sandy scored again in the third inning, followed by a two-run top of the fourth inning by the Mustangs, as the Pioneers held a 3-2 lead.

Milwaukie tied it up as the Mustangs hit a double, knocking in a base-runner with one out, squaring the game 3-3 in the fifth.

In the bottom of the fifth, Gifford scored on an overthrown ball to first base, as the Pioneers regained the lead, 4-3.

At the beginning of the top of the sixth, Pullen allowed two walks and loaded the bases before being pulled with one out.

Junior Randy Wheeler, who was playing shortstop, came on in relief. The first batter Wheeler faced sacrificed to Wheeler, who threw out the batter, but the tying run scored.

The next batter stroked a sharply hit line drive to the shortstop, Stacey Pearson, who could not come up with the ball as two more Mustangs crossed the plate, giving Milwaukie a 6-4 lead.

Sandy was unable to produce any runs in the sixth, while the Mustangs scored four more in the top of the seventh, giving Milwaukie, a state semifinalist last season, a 10-4 win.

SANDY 10, MILWAUKIE 6; SECOND GAME — Following the three-hour opener, the two teams collided for the second game, which started off in much the same way.

However, the Pioneers had more of

a lead before Milwaukie could score. Through four innings, Sandy had a 7-0 advantage.

The opening run came in the bottom of the first, as Gifford crossed the plate on a Darren Pullen single to third base.

The Pioneers scored three runs in the second — from Nick Phillips, Rob Barrett and Mike Heckard — to boost their lead to 4-0.

Pullen doubled to right field in the third inning and later crossed the plate on a ground-out at-bat by Spanier, upping the Pioneers' lead to 5-0.

In the middle of the fourth inning, Milwaukie coach Craig Webster was thrown out for disputing the umpire's calls. Webster later tried to communicate with his assistant coaches, but the umpires kept him out of the game.

Sandy scored two more in the bottom of the fourth, the first coming when Gifford hit a line-hugging shot to right field, sending Pearson across the plate. Gifford later scored on a double by Hale.

Through four innings, Sandy had a 7-0 lead.

In the next two innings, however, Milwaukie rallied to pull within two runs, as the Pioneers had a 7-5 lead.

With the day becoming longer for the players and coaches — it was now about 5:15 p.m. and the double-header started at noon — the Pioneers were intent on holding on to the lead and win. And doing it as soon as possible.

In the bottom of the sixth, Milwaukie walked the first three Pioneer batters, two of whom would eventually score — Ken Ouder Kirk and Pearson.

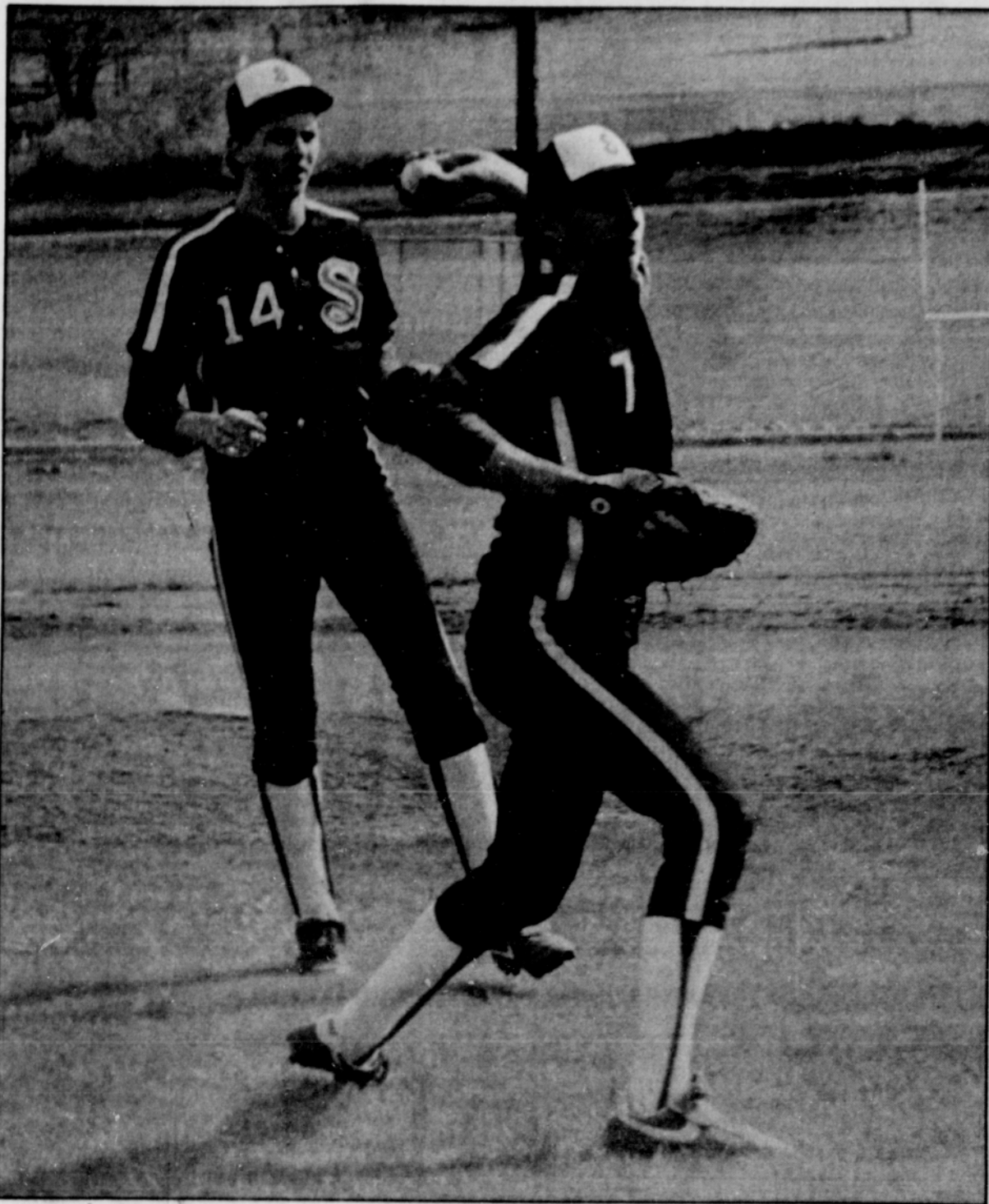
After reaching first on a fielder's choice play, Pullen later scored on a Spanier single to center field, giving Sandy a 10-5 lead.

Only one Mustang scored in the seventh to give the Pioneers their second win this year against an loss.

"It's good to get the split," said Sandy head coach Bob D'Aboey after the six-hour day of baseball. "It's good to come back after missing a good opportunity (to win) in the first game."

"I think the kids showed a lot of character in scoring 10 runs and getting the win in the second half (of the double-header)," he said. "It was a good team effort to come back in the second game and I'm proud of them."

"It was long, but I thought our team played very well," Pullen said of the Tuesday afternoon devoted to



Pioneer first baseman Darren Pullen (7) throws out a Milwaukie runner as Randy Wheeler (14) watches.

baseball. "I think we were just a little more pumped than the other team (in game two) and didn't let the ump get to us."

"It was a really good job coaching, pulling the pitchers out (at key times)," Pullen added. "Our hitting was very good and we scored when we needed to."

SANDY 9, JEFFERSON 4 — The Pioneers took a 5-0 lead in the first, as Spanier knocked in two runs in the inning, while Wheeler drove in one with a double.

The game was called after five innings, due to darkness, but Sandy was credited with the win in the non-league contest Friday afternoon.



Randy Gifford gets back to second base on pick-off attempt.

Pioneers jump to 2-0 record

Sandy's softball team opened its season in a triumphant way Tuesday afternoon in Milwaukie, defeating the Mustangs 3-0 and 4-2 in a non-league double-header.

Sophomore catcher Konnie Jones knocked in four runs in the two games, and had the game-winning RBI in each of the pair of games.

In the first game, pitcher Katie Clift tossed a one-hitter, allowing just one walk and striking out 14 Mustang batters.

After a scoreless first inning, Jones knocked in Jami Brittle for the score, giving the Pioneers a 1-0 lead. Later, sophomore Trish Davis hit a shot to first base as Jones crossed the plate, giving Sandy a 2-0 advantage.

The score remained 2-0 until the top of the sixth inning, when Jones got her second RBI of the game, scoring Brittle, as Sandy upped its lead to 3-0.

Clift managed to control the tempo for the Pioneers, never allowing a Milwaukie player to score as the Mustangs stranded four players on the bases.

In the second game, it was a pitcher's duel as the coaches from each team started pitchers who threw harder than their starters in the game prior.

Nevertheless, the Pioneers managed to be productive in the few times they reached base.

All of the scoring was done in the fifth inning — by both teams. Milwaukie scored two runs in the top of the fifth, while Sandy reached base six times, scoring four.

With the score 2-0, Milwaukie, Clift walked, leading off the bottom of the fifth. Then Krenwinkel singled, followed by a Shannon Baker base on balls, which loaded the bases.

After a Pioneer strikeout, Brittle walked in a run as Clift was forced into home, leaving the bases loaded once again and cutting the Mustangs' lead to 2-1.

Then Jones singled, sending Krenwinkel and Baker across home plate, giving Sandy its first lead of the game, 3-2.

Later, Davis hit one to first base and scored Brittle. Sandy led and eventually won, 4-2.

Neither team rapped many hits in the second game. Sandy got three hits while Milwaukie had four. Obviously, Sandy coach Gary Curtis would like to see more hit production, but he was glad of the sweep over the Mustangs.

"We faced some pretty good pitching tonight," said Gary Curtis, Sandy's head coach. "We didn't hit as well as we wanted to hit, but I was pleased about the win."

With the two-game sweep of the Mustangs, the Pioneers open their season 2-0 overall. Their first Mount Hood Conference game is Monday at David Douglas.

Townsend honored for service

A Sandy man was given a hunter education award for his service in teaching hunting skills.

Robert E. Townsend won The Oregon Hunter Education Bronze Award, which is given by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Townsend is one of over 1,000 volunteer instructors throughout Oregon who conduct hunter education classes for young hunters.

The classes are required of all hunters younger than 18 before they can hunt wildlife in Oregon and are designed to teach young hunters to be ethical, responsible and safe in the field.

"Without our volunteer instructors, there would be no hunter education program in Oregon," said Bill Hastie, hunter education supervisor for the ODFW.

Sandy alumni plan tourney

The Sandy Alumni Association will hold an organizational meeting on Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Paola's Pizza Barn, 38015 Highway 26, to plan the alumni basketball tournament.

Team captains are urged to attend. Jersey selection and team positioning in brackets will be among the topics discussed.

The basketball tournament will serve as a benefit for Richard Meyer, who participated in past tournaments.

For more information, call Jim Griffin at 665-4350.

Back to the track

Boys team is young; girls team looks strong

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

It will be a wait-and-see season for the Sandy track team this year.

The girls team won the class AAA state championship last year, but Sandy coach Randy Hutchinson is unsure of what this season holds for his Pioneer team.

The boys team was fourth in the Mount Hood Conference last year and was deep in some areas, shallow in others, which is similar to this year, according to Hutchinson.

So far, however, Hutchinson sees a strong corps in the field events for both boys and girls. He also sees a lack of depth in the running events.

The Sandy boys and girls teams have athletes who will consistently win their particular events at dual meets, but the way scoring is done in the Mount Hood Conference dual meets makes it vital to have strong second- and third-place finishes as well.

Hutchinson does not see many events where they will have an abundance of depth. That is not surprising, since Sandy had 123 students turn out for track this year. The Pioneers pale to the likes of Barlow (180), Centennial (140) and Gresham (140). This does not dampen Hutchinson's spirits, however.

"There are some big turnouts that we have to contend with and bigger schools," he said. "But little old Sandy always manages to compete pret-

ty well."

Hutchinson, and his coaching assistants Darold Beymer, Ric Elsberry, Doug Olson, Greg O'Meara and Julie Ward, are optimistic of the season and see improvements in both teams.

BOYS

The Pioneer boys went 5-3 in the MHC last year, which earned them fourth place in the conference. Hutchinson believes his team can either meet or beat that mark this year.

"We've got an excellent nucleus for a very young team," Hutchinson said. "We have four senior boys on the team so we lack a great deal in terms of upper-class strengths. The kids we have out, (the coaches) feel are some real blue-chippers."

Heading the list of those "blue-chippers" is senior Justin Yungeberg, who has already thrown the shot 48 feet, 8 inches, which is a personal best for him.

Also promising to do well in the shot put are sophomores Marc Malek and Brian Zimmerman. There are also two others who show some promise in the shot put, but only three compete on the varsity level.

Yungeberg and Malek will also throw the discus, in addition to senior Paul Wiese. Yungeberg and Wiese each throw the discus 130 feet consistently.

Dennis Dries and Art Skipper will also help out with the discus.

Skipper will try to successfully defend his district championship in the

javelin. Last year, Skipper tossed the spear 196-7, earning a bid to the state tournament.

Mike Hogen, Malek and senior Dan Weaver will also throw the javelin this year.

In the jumping events, Mike Hutchinson (no relation to the Pioneers' coach), Darren Buckner and Skipper will take part in the high jump.

Hogen, Scott Walker and a host of sophomores will help with the triple jump. Buckner, Eric Sarich, Charlie Harris and Jason Nickila should be the strong contenders in the pole vault.

Senior Brad Schmautz leads the Pioneers in the running events, as he will try to defend his MHC championship in the 800-meter race.

Other Sandy long sprinters who may be successful in the league this year are Robert Kruger, Colton Archer and Hutchinson.

Coach Hutchinson said his team lacks a quality short sprinter, but hopes the long sprints will help his team to improve on last year's record.

And he does see improvement.

"A transition stage best describes us right now," Hutchinson said. "We're very, very young," he said. "The majority of the members of the squad are freshmen and sophomores."

The teams Hutchinson sees as being tough competition in the MHC this year are David Douglas, Barlow,

Turn to Track, Page 2B



Sandy senior Justin Yungeberg heaves the shot.