

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation

Section II

Pioneers lose to Scots

Sandy drops MHC game

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

The Sandy High School Pioneers lost on their home field Monday to David Douglas in the first Mount Hood Conference game for both teams.

The Scots got out to an overwhelming start, scoring six runs before the Pioneers even swung a bat, on their way to a 15-4 victory.

"We had a poor top of the first inning and that kind of dictated the whole day for us," Sandy Coach Bob D'Abov said. "They only got one real

hit in the first inning and ended up with six runs.

"That hurts when you're down 6-0 to one of the best teams in the league early (in the game)."

The Scots had three official hits in the first inning, but the one hit D'Abov called "real" was the only one that made it past the infield. In addition, the Pioneers committed two errors in the inning and walked three, allowing six runs and stranding no one on base.

In the bottom of the first, Sandy's Stacey Pearson walked to get on base and then stole second. Randy Gifford then ripped a double to center field, as Pearson scored, pulling the Pioneers to 6-1.

Gifford later scored as Darren Pullen grounded out to first, but gave time for Gifford to cross the plate.

The inning ended with the Scots on top 6-2.

Each team scored once in the second. Sandy's run came on a Robert Rodriguez infield single, scoring Nick Phillips from third. Phillips had gotten on base with another infield single.

At the end of two, the Scots maintained a 7-3 advantage.

The Pioneers closed to within three runs in the third inning, when second baseman Gerald Hale started a rally with a walk. He then went to second when Pullen made it to first on a David Douglas fielding error.

Catcher Robb Spanier then walked, loading the bases. Shortstop Randy Wheeler hit into a fielder's choice to the Scots shortstop, who threw the ball to second, forcing Spanier out. But Hale scored.

At the end of the third, the Pioneers were still in the game, with the score 7-4. But the fourth inning proved disastrous for Sandy.

Three David Douglas runs had scored before Sandy got anybody out. The Scots then scored two more in the fourth, blasting out to a 12-4 lead.

The Pioneers were in a hole they could not dig out of, as the Scots would go on to score three more runs in the game to Sandy's zero, winning the game 15-4.

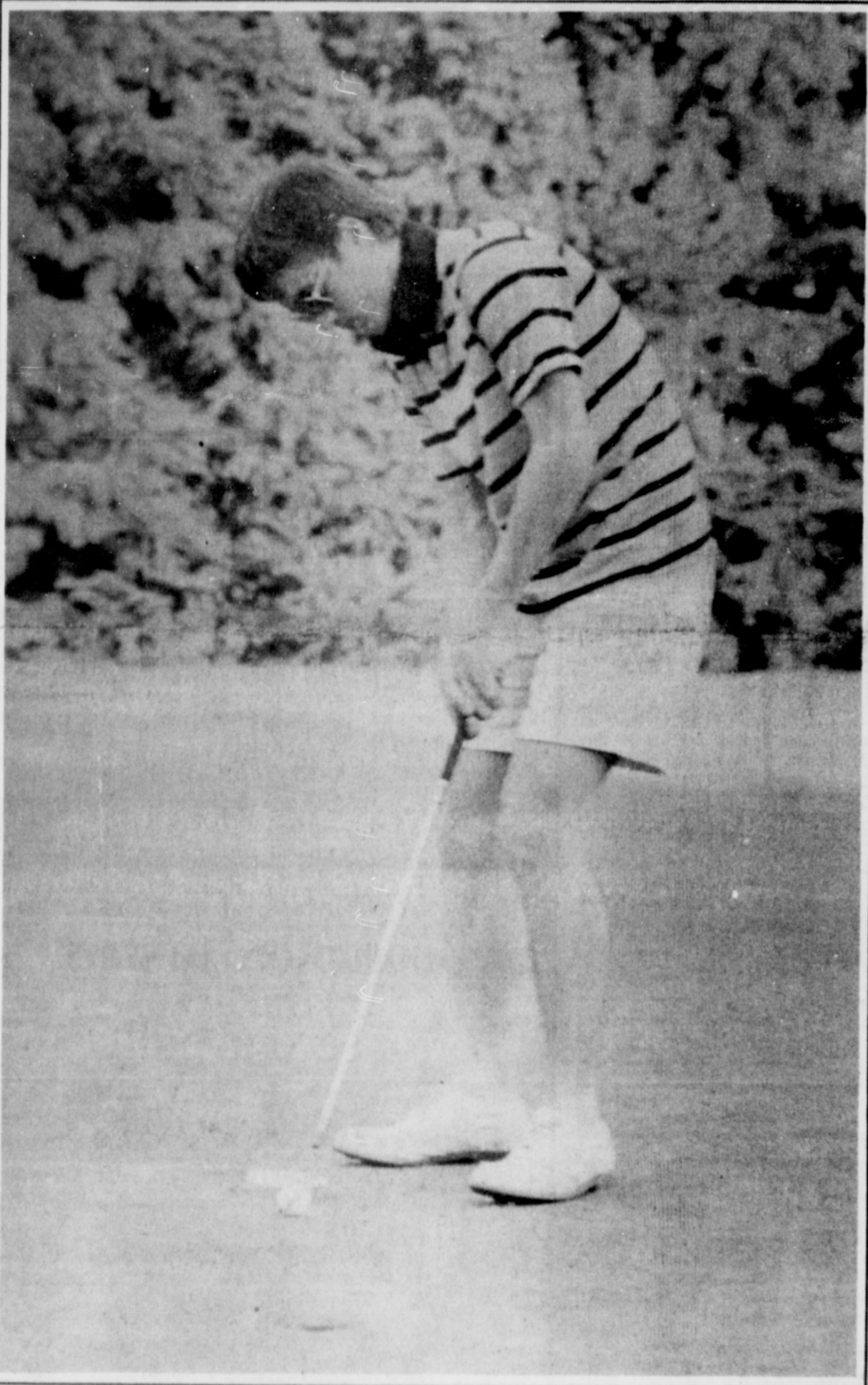
It was a game lacking many positive aspects, but there were a couple.

Sandy continued its perfect base-stealing performance on the year, as it has made away with 36 thefts so far this season, never having been

Turn to BASEBALL, Page 2.



Batter Jeff Ulmen takes swing during Monday's 15-4 loss to the David Douglas Scots at Sandy. The Pioneers are 3-3 in the young season and face Gresham Friday.



Scott Shields putts the ball into the fourth hole at Mountain View Golf Course Tuesday afternoon.

Sandy golfers edge Barlow

Coach happy with victory despite an uneven start

Playing in a "typical first match," the Sandy golf team edged the Barlow Bruins 172-182 in Mount Hood Conference competition Tuesday at Mountain View Golf Course.

"I'm happy we won, even though we could have played better," said Dan Brisbin, Sandy's coach. "As the season goes on, I think we should shoot lower numbers than we did."

Seniors Ron Seyler and Scott Shields each shot a 5-above-par 41, while junior Russ Loomis shot 44 and senior Tony Jensen shot a 46.

Barlow's Derek Peterson shot a 39 to lead all players.

"Some guys played fairly well but we had a couple of tough shots," Brisbin said. "I think we'll get better as we get into the season a little

bit."

Last year, the Pioneers got off to a slow start in MHC play, holding a 2-7 record at one point before winning their final seven matches.

Brisbin said he was glad the season got off to a winning start, but he is unable to tell how his team will do for the remainder of the 15-match, two-invitational season.

"It's hard to tell after one match," he said.

The Pioneers have a matches against Central Catholic (Thursday), Parkrose (Monday) and David Douglas (Tuesday) before participating in the 16-team Beaverton Invitational tournament next Friday.

"I should know better by then," Brisbin added.

Sandy hopes to top last year's record

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

If the 1987 Mount Hood Conference golf season goes according to logic, the final result will be a 1-2-3 finish of David Douglas, Centennial and Sandy.

Logic, however, rarely has anything to do with the game of golf and the same is true of any golf season.

Last year, the threesome of David Douglas, Centennial and Sandy battled for the top two playoff spots in the MHC. When the season came to a finish, only David Douglas and Centennial made it to the state tournament, sending Sandy back to the hypothetical MHC pro shop.

This year, none of these teams have lost any major people to graduation, so, logically they should only get better.

Again, logic will doubtlessly have little to do with the end result come May because there are so many other factors involved.

Sandy Coach Dan Brisbin is aware of these factors but is looking for consistency from his top five players in hopes of bettering the team's 9-7 MHC record of 1986.

"Our top five people are going to have to play pretty consistently," said Brisbin, who begins his second year as the Pioneers' coach.

Turn to GOLF, Page 2.

Pioneers beat Scots in softball

Sandy junior Kelli Portinga had to be the most relieved softball player Monday at David Douglas High School as she ripped a 10th-inning single up the middle, scoring teammate Jami Brittle and giving the Pioneers a 1-0 win in Mount Hood Conference action.

It was the first league game of the season for both teams, but Sandy came away with the win over the Scots, much to the delight of Pioneer coach Gary Curtis.

He said he breathed "a sigh of relief" as the run came in. "Basically nothing happened until the 10th inning," Curtis said.

Katie Clift pitched the Pioneers to the triumph. Through 24 innings this season, Clift has a 0.29 earned run average.

In the game against the Scots, she gave up five hits, all singles, struck out six and walked only two David Douglas batters. She stranded nine base runners.

The Pioneers, meanwhile, got their only run on seven hits, two errors, three walks and two hit batters. Unfortunately for Sandy's offensive statistics, 11 Pioneer runners were left on base at the completion of the extended contest.

At one point in the game, David Douglas could have won, but the Scots were thwarted by the almost-too-routine play of junior Monica Merrill in the bottom of the eighth inning.

With two outs and with runners on second and third, a David Douglas batter squeezed a bunt down the third base line when Merrill picked up the ball and, instead of turning around to tag out the runner from third, chose to get the runner out at first.

The ball narrowly made it ahead of the Scot batter at first for the inning-ending out.

Then in the 10th, Shannon Baker flied out to start off the inning. Brittle then singled a shot to left field. Sophomore Konnie Jones moved Brittle to second when she drew a walk.

With players on first and second, Donna Gray flied out to right field for the Pioneers' second out.

Portinga then smashed a shot right up the middle and over the grass infield at David Douglas, as Brittle became the first and only player to cross home plate in the game.

The Scots went down in order in the bottom of the 10th as Sandy won, 1-0.

Open gym available for volleyball

Beginning immediately, the Sandy Recreation Department is sponsoring an open gym for volleyball on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Cedar Ridge Middle School, 17225 Smith Ave.

The program is open to persons 18 years or older. The recreation department has requested that no children be brought to the open gym sessions.

A \$1 donation per person is requested to help defer the cost of the gym rental.

For more information, call the department at 668-5569.

Dave Magnuson

Baseball requires use of all senses

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

If, of the five senses, you only had your primary sense — sight — which sport would you least want to attend in person?

I found out Monday that baseball is the sport that I would least enjoy if vision only was employed.

Monday was the league-opener for the Sandy baseball team, as it lost to the David Douglas Scots 15-4. But more important than the score were the different senses I experienced.

When I arrived to cover the game Monday afternoon with my friend Ted, and even before I made it to the baseball diamond, I noticed a somewhat familiar aroma.

"Ted," I said, inhaling the slight fragrance, "it smells like baseball."

Now Ted, who is an avid, if not

obsessed, baseball fan, knew exactly what I was talking about, so he refrained from giving me a quizzical look. He too knew the smell of baseball. It is a favorable odor that is impossible to describe.

"Baseball is the only sport I can think of that has a distinct smell," I said, walking to the diamond.

As we made it to the diamond, the next sense experienced was, of course — sight. Ted and I saw the baseball players doing their warm-up tosses.

Merely watching these guys throw and catch the ball was not exciting enough. To get the right effect, it was necessary for us to hear the sounds as well.

There is nothing like the sound of a ball caught right in the pocket of a

leather glove (which, incidentally, has its own distinct smell, too).

We later made our way to the bleachers. As we sat down, we both recalled the uncomfortable feeling of baseball. In itself, sitting on bleachers is quite uncomfortable. But, when sitting on bleachers and watching baseball, a person seems to forget how uncomfortable bleachers actually are. At least Ted and I do.

Vision came into play again. The game was starting. But as soon as vision came into play, so did hearing.

The chatter from the stands and from each of the dugouts was fantastic. As we saw batters at the plate, pitchers on the mound and defenders in the field, we also heard the sounds of the ultimate support and friendly camaraderie:

"C'mon, babe, you can do it!" said one teammate to a batting player.

"Let's get a hit, kid!" Coach Bob D'Abov cried out to his batter.

"Nice pitch, No. 7!" said the same coach to his starting pitcher, Darren Pullen (who wears No. 7, of course).

These quotes, along with periodical claps and whistles, make up chatter. Baseball chatter. There is nothing like baseball chatter. It's what helps to make baseball fun.

Baseball chatter is heard year-round. It is heard during football and basketball games when the cheerleaders shout out praises for their team to the crowd. The only difference is that baseball chatter uses male voices and is directed not to the fans, but to the players themselves.

Baseball chatter is extremely con-

tagious, too. It doesn't take much for a person to be afflicted with this crazy disease. Even outside the baseball realm, I find myself calling people "babe" more often than Babe (Ruth) had homers.

The final sense I encountered Monday was taste; I sat in the bleachers and sipped on my soft drink, tasting the cola and feeling it slide down my throat in its effervescent coolness. It helped to quench the thirst I had in the 72-degree sunshine.

So after drinking my Coke, I had realized I had experienced each of the five senses — all because of baseball.

Just like everything else, there are unfortunate aspects as well and they can linger on longer than the game.

After covering Monday's game, I discovered an itchy tingle in my upper arm: a mosquito bite.