

Girls work on mental errors

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

Sandy's softball team, despite being plagued by a nine-game losing streak, may be on a new streak — a moral victory streak.

Pioneer coach Gary Curtis said none of the girls on his team made any mental errors Tuesday afternoon at Centennial, but the Eagles still managed the win, 5-2, in Mount Hood Conference competition.

"They played pretty well," Curtis said, "and that's what I was looking for."

The two teams finished with seven hits, one strikeout and zero walks. But Centennial took advantage of Sandy's youth behind the plate.

Three runs were scored by the Eagles on Pioneer passed balls. Sandy's regular starting catcher was not able to play, due to disciplinary measures, Curtis said.

So Curtis had to start a newcomer behind the plate, which proved to be the difference in the game.

Curtis said that what happened was not unexpected and that the new catcher was not to blame. He added that his team was alert and ready to play the game.

"We hit the ball pretty well and the girls did not make any mental errors," Curtis said.

The Pioneers were out to a 2-0 lead after two innings, as outfielder Monica Merrill slammed a two-run double to right field, scoring shortstop Shannon Baker and pitcher Katie Clift.

But the Eagles came back in the third inning with three runs of their own and later added to their lead with two more runs in the bottom of the fifth, winning the game 5-3.

"The other team, being smart, was able to take advantage of our 'rookie' catcher's passed balls and win," Curtis said.

"Centennial is a good-hitting ball club and I was pleased to see us staying in there and not hanging our heads."

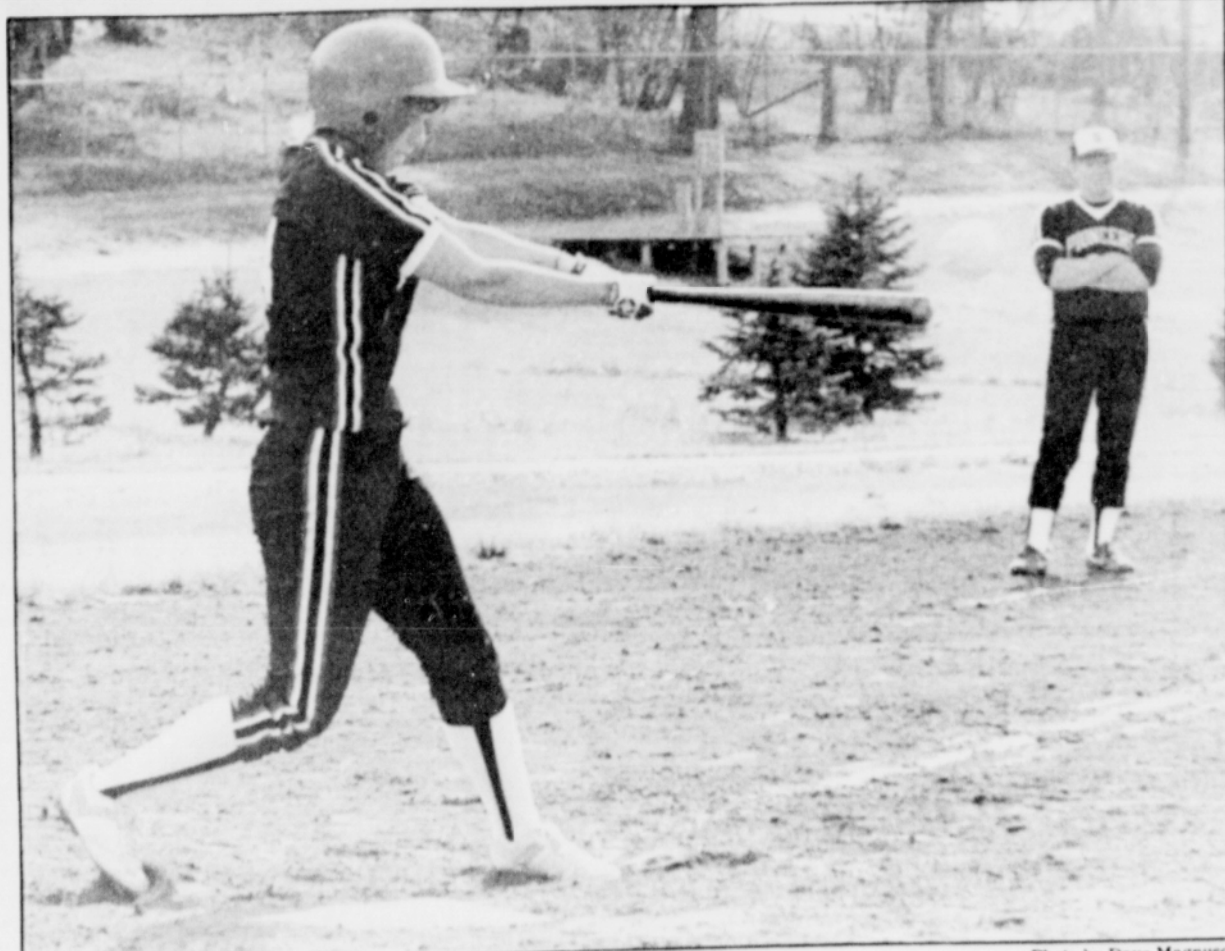


Photo by Dave Magnuson

Sandy right fielder Kelli Portinga makes a solid connection on the ball against Columbia Monday, while Pioneers' coach Gary Curtis (arms folded) appraises her technique. Columbia scored the game's only run in the top of the sixth inning.

The loss dropped the Pioneers to 1-7 in the MHC and 5-9 overall. Sandy's last triumph dates back to March 30, when the Pioneers outlasted hosting David Douglas in 10 innings, 1-0.

Since then, however, Sandy has lost to every other MHC team and dropped a non-league double-header to St. Mary's Academy. After starting with a five-game undefeated string, the Pioneers have not been able to score a winning run.

On Monday, the Pioneers allowed just one too many runs against

visiting Columbia.

Unfortunately for Sandy, only one run was scored in the game, as the Chargers slipped in a sixth-inning run on an extremely shallow single.

The hit was so shallow, the catcher, again not the regular starter, had to chase it down to try and get the third out at first.

But she could not throw out the hitter as the sole run crossed the plate, scoring from third. The player with the game-winning run batted in was soon after called out due to illegal base movement.

But the damage was done and Columbia won, 1-0.

The Pioneers left 10 players on base, which is both good and bad. Sandy got on base, but could not cross the plate when it needed to.

"The 1-0 (score) doesn't bother me nearly as much as the mental mistakes," Curtis said. "We're still not very smart on the base paths and we're still making some mental boo-boos in the field."

Sandy did not have any throwing errors and the combined pitching of starter Jami Brittle and reliever Clift seems to be getting stronger.

MHCC loss snaps seven-game streak

Lane Community College snapped Mt. Hood Community College's seven-game baseball winning streak as the Titans blanked the Saints 4-0 in the opening game of a double-header Tuesday in Gresham.

But MHCC bounced back to win the second game 7-5. The double-header split gives the Saints a 12-8 overall record and 9-3 mark in Region IV play.

The Saints meet Linn-Benton Community College in a 1 p.m. Thursday double-header in Gresham in a battle for first place. The Linn-Benton games were rained out Saturday.

The usually potent Saint hitting attack disappeared in the first game Tuesday as two Titan pitchers combined to hold the Saints to only three hits. Lane scored two runs in the fourth inning and added one each in the fifth and sixth for the win off of pitcher Rich Karp.

"Not bad," said MHCC coach Dale Stebbins about the Titan pitchers. "We didn't swing the bats very well."

In the second contest, the Saints collected just six hits, but made them count. They tallied twice in the first, once each in the second and third, and added three runs in the fifth.

Bob Peterson smashed a solo homer in the first, his fifth of the season. Greg Kastell ripped a solo shot in the second for his first home run of the year.

The Saints took advantage of two walks and a couple of hits to tally three times in the fifth inning.

MHCC travels to Civic Stadium today to meet the Portland State University junior varsity in a 2 p.m. double-header. The Saints host Linn-Benton Thursday and host the Pacific University junior varsity Saturday.

Timberline ski tickets will be sold at discount Sunday

Lift tickets at the Timberline ski area will roll back to the 1955 price of \$4 each on Sunday, in honor of the retirement of two "classics" at the ski resort.

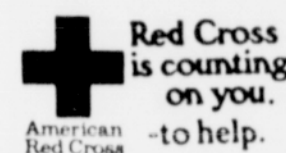
Timberline has dropped the price in remembrance of Swiss-born engineer Walt Aepli, who will end 38 years of service Sunday. Aepli sang with his accordion trio throughout the past five decades, starting in 1949.

Also retiring is the Pucci chairlift, introduced to Timberline skiers in 1955.

The Pucci lift will be succeeded in the fall by a state-of-the-art, high-speed triple chair, subject to usual U.S. Forest Service engineering approval.

Aepli will be taking his last ride on Pucci Sunday at noon.

For all skiers on Sunday only, the lift tickets will cost \$4.



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Sandy soccer club sets registration

Registration for the Sandy Cascade Soccer Club will begin Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sandy Safeway, 37061 Hwy. 26.

Interested boys and girls, aged 5 through 13, can sign up. Parents and other adults interested in coaching or refereeing youth soccer also can register.

The Sandy Cascade Soccer Club is a recreational group that plays all of its games in the Sandy area. Teams are set up so that children who live in the same area can practice close to their homes.

If unable to make the May 2 registration date, people may sign up on Wednesday, May 6, from 5 p.m. to

8 p.m. at the Sandy Safeway.

Normally, more than 400 Sandy-area children participate in the club. But the organization is looking for several more 10- to 13-year-olds.

The cost for registration is \$16 for one child, \$27 for two children, \$6 for each additional child. A late fee of \$5 per child is charged after May 30.

Registration forms are available at the Sandy Secretarial Service, 39261 Proctor Blvd., until the beginning of the season.

For further information, call Laurie Espenell at 668-5352.

Those interested in coaching or officiating should call Sue Pulliam at 668-5449.

Baseball

Continued from Page 1.

place in the conference with a 7-1 record.

Pioneer coach Bob D'Aboy was pleased with his team's effort.

"We saw the 'real' Sandy team today," D'Aboy said following the loss. "We played great in all aspects of the

game: Wheels (starting pitcher Wheeler) goes out there and pitches the best ball game of the year — he was ahead of every hitter. We made every play we had to. We turned double plays. We scored a run when we had to score a run.

"It's just too bad that two of their hits happened to be solo home runs. If they're not (home runs), we win the game," D'Aboy said.

"It's just a heartbreak to have to lose in the seventh on a homer like that," he added.

On Monday, the Pioneers lost at Columbia, 8-4, in another MHC contest.

Jeff Ulmen knocked in a run in the sixth inning, then nailed a double, scoring two more, for a three-RBI day.

Tennis

Continued from Page 1.

ponent was disqualified by his coach as he was throwing his racket.

Schipper and Dubrawsky won their match, 6-2, 6-2, giving Sandy their two wins of the day.

Fisk went to split sets, this time winning the first one and losing the

latter two, 6-4, 3-6, 2-6.

"Ben's been playing in some real close matches," Williams said.

The third doubles team of Aaron Jones and Bill Waugh also went to split sets, winning the middle set, but dropping the deciding set.

Next for the Pioneers is visiting

Parkrose on Friday. Williams said he believes that, if Sandy wins, it will be because of the fine playing of Palmer, Fisk and Schipper/Dubrawsky.

Williams added that the Broncos will be a tough team for the

Pioneers to beat, but they are beatable, he said.

"They're a good team. They've got some good players," Williams said. "They are a stronger team than Gresham and Centennial were."

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Registration forms will also be available at Sandy Secretarial Starting May 4th

Registration

No. of children	Before May 30th
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2	\$26
ea. add'l.	
Child	\$6

* Late fee of \$5 per child after May 30

For more information call:
Lauri Espenell 668-5352 or
Rhonda Schoppert 668-7153

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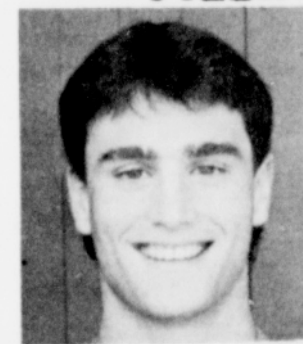
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SUHS junior Art Skipper is prep of the week.

His throw of 212 feet in the javelin is currently the best in the state. The throw earned him a first-place finish at the Sandy Invitational Track Meet. Congratulations, Art!



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