

Sandy High athletes shine in meet

Girls place fifth, Skipper sets record in javelin event

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

Although taking fifth place in a statewide-acclaimed track meet is of great importance to the Sandy girls team, the biggest news Saturday came from one member of the boys team.

Sandy was one of 52 high schools represented in the 23rd Annual Centennial Invitational, a mid-season look at some of the state's finest athletes.

Only the top two athletes from each school in each event were invited to participate in the invitational.

In the invitational, the Pioneer girls finished fifth place overall, thanks to the strong finishes of seniors Wendy Coleman, in the discus and shot put, and Shanna Daniels, in the javelin.

Coleman and Daniels each took second place in the three events, boosting Sandy to a fifth-place tie with Crescent Valley.

But the strongest finish for the boys was a decisive first-place throw of the javelin by Pioneer junior Art Skipper.

The second-place finisher in the boys javelin was Jason Lile of Newberg High School with a toss of just under 199 feet.

All of Skipper's six throws were over 200 feet, his best measured at 218 feet, 8 inches, which broke the Sandy High record by one inch.

The previous record holder? Skipper's brother, Scott.

"I called him and he was pretty glad. He didn't mind (that the record was broken)," Art Skipper said Tuesday. Scott Skipper still throws the javelin for the University of Oregon.

The throw of 218-8 is also a state best this year, breaking Skipper's previous best, 212 feet. The Sandy junior is looking to beat one more record: the national record.

"With coach Hutch (Randy Hutchinson, Sandy's head coach) being one of the best coaches in the world, I think we can do it," Skipper said, adding one disclaimer: "We've got a long way to go."

The 16-year-old national record of 259-9 was set by Russ Francis, now a San Francisco 49er, in 1971, when Francis went to Pleasant Hill High

School.

In addition to Skipper's throw, best marks for the year were set in 11 other events Saturday. That number was surprisingly high, considering that the meet included only 32 events.

In the pole vault, junior Darren Buckner took fifth overall with a 12-6 jump.

Senior Brad Schnautz was sixth in the 800 meters, finishing with a time of 1 minute, 56.2 seconds.

Junior Randy Lamm ran the 400 in 51.8 seconds.

For the girls team, Coleman took second in the discus, with a 125-4 throw. She also took second in the shot, with a 39-1 measurement.

Daniels had another strong finish, leading all Oregon competitors, but took second to Fort Vancouver's Laurie Merlino in the javelin with a 138-9 toss, which is sub-par for Daniels.

"(Daniels) threw really poorly for her, which sounds like criticism, which it's not," Hutchinson said. "If she can throw that far and her technique is that poor, it's a real positive aspect to consider because that means she has tremendously more distance there waiting."

On the track, Melinda Kai had a 12.9-second time in the 100.

Abbotsford High School of British Columbia took first place with 50 points, as Roseburg led all other Oregon competitors with 49 for the girls.

Madison finished with 74 points overall, leading the boys competition. The Pioneers had 13 points and finished within the top 15 teams.

Last Thursday, Sandy hosted its first home Mount Hood Conference dual meet against Columbia and came out on top as the boys won 107-37 and the girls won 99-24.

The boys won 14 out of 17 events and had 10 second-place finishes, while the girls won 13 and came in second in 13 out of 15 events.

Notable first-place finishes against Columbia include: junior Tony Hale in the long jump (19-6), senior Dan Weaver in the 100 (11.5), junior Paul Wiese in the discus (136-4), Schnautz in the 800 (1:58.7) and Lamm in the 200 (23.5).

Skipper again passed the 200 plateau, earning a 209-8 throw,



Sandy's Heather Frank competes in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles Saturday at the 23rd Annual Centennial Invitational. The Sandy girls team took sixth overall in the meet which exploits statewide talent.

while Weaver threw the spear 186-7.

For the girls, Coleman won the discus with a 125-0 heav. Junior Kris Kruger ran the 1,500 in 5:24.8. In the 100, Kai won with a 13-second run.

In junior varsity competition,

sophomore Lance Conger won the 1,500 with a 4:40.4 mark and sophomore Kyle Schulson won the discus with a distance of 131-4.

The freshman mile relay team of Jeff Sanders, Fernando Hodgson, Colton Archer and Joe Bureau broke the freshman record for the

third time this year with a mark of 3:43.9.

Next for the Pioneers is the second home dual meet of the year Thursday against David Douglas, a team Hutchinson says is "the best" he's seen in his 12½-year career.

Golfers continue winning

As the Sandy golf team found itself in the busiest — and toughest — part of the schedule, it also has found scores low enough to defeat six opponents in five days.

On Tuesday, the Pioneers hosted a triangular Mount Hood Conference match against Reynolds and Gresham at Mountain View Golf Course and came away a winner. Sandy shot its lowest match of the season, a 150, while Reynolds shot 160 and Gresham 183.

It was the first time the Pioneers had met up with last year's fourth-place team, Reynolds, this year. Sandy coach Dan Brisbin was mildly worried that the Lancers might surprise the Pioneers.

"I was a little bit concerned with Reynolds," Brisbin said. "They shot a 160 on our course, which isn't bad."

Senior Ron Seyler and junior Russ Loomis each shot an even-par 36, while seniors Scott Shields and Tony Jensen added scores of 38 and 40, respectively.

"The kids are continuously getting better all year," Brisbin said. "We played some pretty good golf and had a good score."

In a head-to-head MHC match with Centennial Monday at Mountain View, Shields shot a 35, while Seyler shot 36. Jensen scored a 39 and Loomis a 44, as the Pioneers beat the Eagles 154-163.

At Rippling River Friday afternoon, Sandy met up with Beaverton in a non-league contest, just slipping past the Beavers, 167-168.

Seyler led the Pioneers with a 39. Loomis had a 40, while Shields and Jensen each shot 44s.

"I was more interested in playing on a little different course," Brisbin said, pointing out that the emphasis was not on winning. "I was more interested in how they responded to (the course)."

Last Thursday, Sandy played in another MHC triangular match with Centennial and Parkrose at Glendoveer Golf Course. The Pioneers scored 156, while the Eagles and Broncos each scored 162. Parkrose earned second-place honors because its No. 5 player scored lower than Centennial's No. 5 player.

Shields shot a 36 as Seyler and Jensen each had 39. Senior Casey Beaudoin rounded off the scoring four with a round of 42.

Sandy and David Douglas are tied for first place in the MHC, but that tie will be broken Thursday, as both the Pioneers and the Scots will take on Columbia at Gresham Golf Course.

Pioneers start strong, but lose to Gresham

by DAVE MAGNUSON
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The game started off as well as it could be hoped, but Sandy's baseball team faced the same nemesis it has faced all year long: the inability to find the big hit at critical times.

On Monday, that inability left the Pioneers winless in Mount Hood Conference action, losing their 10th to visiting Gresham, 4-1.

With Robb Spanier on the mound for the Pioneers, Sandy got out of the top of the first quickly, allowing just one base runner who would later be stranded.

Sandy lead-off batter Gerald Hale pounded a stand-up triple to center field, getting the Pioneers off to a strong start.

Third baseman Jeff Ulmen then followed suit with a single to center,

scoring Hale as Sandy took an early 1-0 lead.

Ulmen later would be stranded on third base as the Pioneers made their third straight out and maintained their one-run lead.

The Gophers squared the score in the top of the third on a fielder's choice play, scoring one runner from third.

Sandy managed one hit in the bottom of the third but could not regain the lead as the game remained tied, 1-1.

Then in the fourth, Gresham left fielder Mark Scales smashed a shot over the fence in left field, as the Gophers took the lead for the first time, 2-1. The Pioneers got out of the inning, leaving two Gresham runners on base.

In the fourth and fifth innings, Sandy went three-up, three-down.

The Gophers, meanwhile, scored two players in the top of the fifth.

With one out, Gresham's Sean Christian walked and then stole second. Christian then scored on a right-field single by Gopher first baseman Geoff Williams.

Scales then struck out, but Williams later scored on a double to left field hit by Manley, as the Gophers led 4-1.

The Pioneers played better offense in the final two innings than the Gophers, but could not produce any runs.

Gresham was scoreless in the sixth and seventh innings, leaving only one runner on base. The Pioneers, meanwhile, stranded four in the last two innings.

In the sixth, Hale walked and, after

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Sandy took the early lead, but could not maintain it as the Gophers handed the Pioneers their 10th Mount Hood Conference loss.

Team 2-8 in conference

Sandy girls lose to Gophers

As Sandy softball players met up with Gresham's Kim Fisher, they could not help but remember the last time Fisher pitched against the Pioneers.

On April 7, Fisher not only blanked Sandy in runs allowed, but also blanked Sandy in hits allowed. It was her second no-hitter of the season.

But in Gresham on Monday, the Pioneers managed five hits against Fisher. Those were not enough, however, as Gresham made use of a productive first inning en route to the 5-1 Mount Hood Conference triumph.

Two Gresham players hit doubles in the first inning, sending four Gophers across home plate as Gresham took an early 4-0 lead.

In the top of the fifth, Sandy managed to score its lone run.

After sophomore Shannon Baker beat a throw to first, she later made her way to third by use of intelligent base running.

Katie Clift then hit a solid shot, but was thrown out at first as Baker scored from third, pulling Sandy to within three, 4-1.

Gresham then countered with another run in the bottom of the fifth and eventually won, 5-1.

The loss dropped Sandy to 2-8 in the MHC and 6-10 overall. Despite the loss to the Gophers, Pioneer coach Gary Curtis said the team has shown growth in the past few games.

"We've shown a steady improvement each game," Curtis said. "I might be giving the kiss of death, but this is going to be a second-half ball club."

"We're starting to get a little more intelligent," he added. "I just have to keep from going insane (or) die of frustration."

Last Wednesday, the Pioneers defeated David Douglas, a team that Sandy had beaten earlier this season.

In the first inning, Sandy jumped out to a 3-0 lead. Left fielder Monica Merrill got aboard with a lead-off single to left. Then Liz Krenwinkel slammed a shot to center field, scoring Merrill, as Krenwinkel made it safely into third.

Center fielder Jami Brittle then struck out, but on the third strike, the David Douglas catcher dropped the ball and Brittle made it to first safely.

With Clift at the plate, Brittle stole second. Clift then fouled out to the

Scots catcher, giving Sandy its first out.

Right fielder Kelli Portinga hit a single to right field, scoring Krenwinkel and sending Brittle to third.

Sophomore catcher Connie Jones then nailed a shot to left field, as Brittle crossed the plate, completing the trio of first-inning runs.

In the bottom of the fifth, Krenwinkel ripped a lead-off triple, this one to left field, and later scored on a fielder's choice. Sandy led and eventually won, 4-0.

Clift was impressive on both ends of the softball, pitching her way to a two-hitter and driving in one run.

Krenwinkel finished 3-for-3, including two triples, one run batted in and two runs scored.

Boys tennis team still winless in MHC

Despite being winless in Mount Hood Conference tennis play, Sandy's boys team is growing in confidence and talent, coach Wes Williams said.

The first doubles team of Zoltan Dubrawsky and Marc Schipper especially is showing improvement, he said.

"They're getting confidence in themselves on their net game, their volleys," Williams said of Dubrawsky and Schipper. "Instead of playing tentative tennis — not moving over to get that poach — now they're starting to move over and take the chance."

Dubrawsky and Schipper gave the Pioneers their only win against David Douglas Monday. The duo won their match in straight sets,

7-6, 6-3. The last time the pair met the Scots, they lost 6-2, 6-3.

The Pioneer on Monday, however, lost the other four matches that counted.

Williams added that his first singles player, senior Chris Palmer, is building more confidence and "he's got the game to beat anybody in the district. He just needs confidence."

On Friday, the Pioneers hosted Parkrose and lost, 4 matches to 1. Palmer was the triumphant Sandy player, beating his opponent, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.

Last Wednesday, Sandy was unable to win any of its five counting matches at Barlow.

The Pioneers play host to Gresham Friday afternoon.