

Baseball team ends 14-game losing streak

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

Heaven knows what was going through the minds of Sandy High School's baseball players when the home plate umpire showed up late for their home game against Barlow Tuesday afternoon.

But, at the end of the game, it was obvious that the players felt happiness and joy after winning their first conference victory of the year and snapping a 14-game losing streak. The Pioneers edged past the Bruins 9-8 in Mount Hood Conference competition.

The Pioneers' first win was a well-earned one, as they turned a three-run disadvantage into a three-run advantage early in the contest. But Barlow would not give up any ground, tying the score late in the game before Sandy finally got the go-ahead and game-winning run in the bottom of the sixth.

Barlow got three runs in the top of the first inning, giving Sandy something to shoot at in the bottom of the inning.

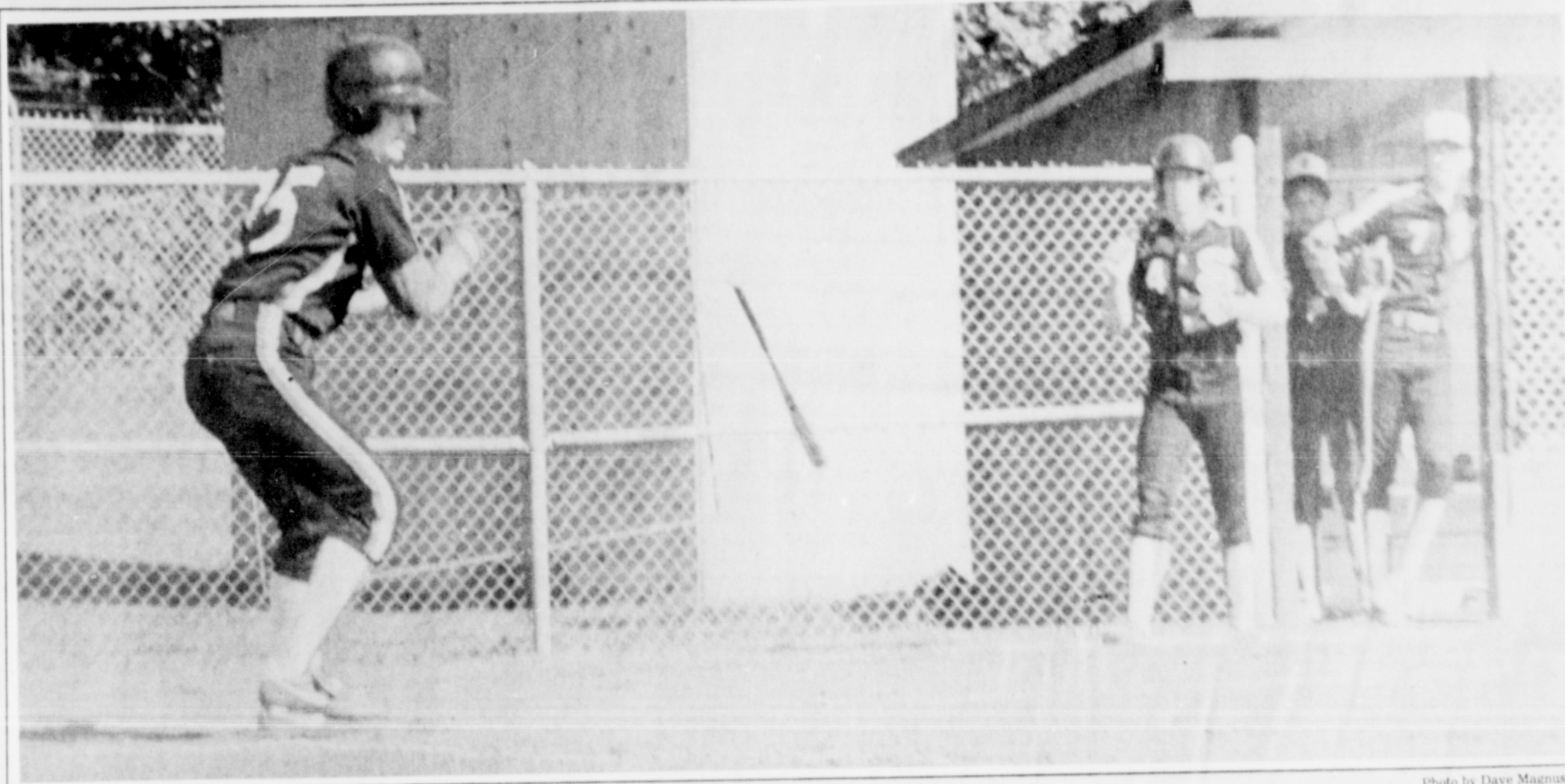
Unfortunately for the Pioneers, they could not answer the Bruins in that inning, despite being walked twice.

Fortunately for the Pioneers, however, they did manage a quite productive second inning, as six players crossed home plate, giving Sandy a commanding 6-3 lead.

With one out and the bases occupied by Mike Heckard on third, Darren Pullen on second and Stacey Pearson on first, Sandy's Gerald Hale ripped a long single to right field, scoring Heckard and Pullen and sending Pearson to third. On the attempt to pick off Pullen at the plate, Hale advanced to second.

After Jeff Ulmen struck out, giving the Pioneers their second out in the inning, Randy Gifford hit a grounder to the Bruins' shortstop, who was unable to come up with the ball. Hale advanced to third on the error.

Sandy left fielder Nick Phillips then hit a memorable home run over the left-center field fence,



Sandy's Randy Gifford jettisons his bat after being walked in the Pioneers' first Mount Hood Conference win of the year.

Photo by Dave Magnuson

about a 340-foot shot, scoring himself, Hale and Gifford.

But later, in the fourth, the Bruins scored two more, as Pioneer starting pitcher Pullen walked four players in the inning. Pullen was pulled and replaced on the mound by Jeff Simons.

Simons helped get Sandy out of the inning and maintain a 6-5 lead.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Pioneers scored twice more, as Phillips and Robb Spanier scored on a Pullen double to left field. At the end of five, Sandy had an 8-5 lead.

Barlow was not about to give up. The first three batters in the

Bruins' sixth inning hit two doubles and a single, scoring two runs.

Then Barlow's Brad Joy hit a line-hugging double to right field, scoring teammate Matt Brady from second base, tying the score 8-8.

Once again Sandy managed to get out of the inning and left Bruin base runners on all three bases.

In the bottom of the sixth, Pearson beat out an infield single shot to the Bruins' shortstop.

Pearson then stole second and was later awarded third base on a balk call. With Pearson on third and Hale at bat, Hale was given the green light for the long hit.

Unfortunately, Hale was unable

to connect with the ball and struck out.

Ulmen then laid down a beautifully executed bunt up the third base line, where no Barlow player could get to the ball in time, scoring Pearson from third.

After Gifford struck out, Sandy regained the lead, 9-8.

The Bruins had one last chance to tie or go ahead in the top of the seventh. Barlow had reached base in each of the six previous innings, perhaps giving Sandy something to think about.

Hale made an outstanding diving catch to rob Barlow from a lead-off single in the inning. He later caught

a pop-up.

Then, with two outs and nobody on, Barlow's Brady hit a shot to deep left field. The ball fell into Phillips' glove, ending the game and giving the Pioneers their first MHC triumph.

Ulmen, who batted in the game-winning run, said the squeeze play was routine and, if he had thought about it too much, the results would not have been the same.

"My heart kind of sped up about 40 jumps," Ulmen said about how he felt after being given the bunt signal from D'Abo. "You just have to think of it as another bunt. If you

get nervous, you're going to screw up for sure.

"I thought (the win) would never come. I'm really happy," Ulmen said.

"We stayed tough the whole game and really played together as a team," D'Abo said, who earned his first MHC win of his career as head coach. "It showed that we're finally coming together and playing together."

The win gave Sandy a 1-12 record in the MHC and 4-16 overall.

On Monday, Sandy lost a tough close MHC game at Centennial, 8-6 in eight innings.

Track teams show strength



Photo by Dave Magnuson

Senior Wendy Coleman spins en route to throwing the discus against David Douglas last Thursday.

Going into last Thursday's track and field meet against visiting David Douglas, Sandy coach Randy Hutchinson's goal for his boys team was to hold the Scots to under 100 points.

Not only did the boys team hold David Douglas to under 100 points, it also challenged the Scots and, with six events to go, was only down by 10 points.

When it was over, however, the boys lost their meet 82-59. Meanwhile the girls team gave a good showing in their field events en route to an 80-47 win in the cold and rainy conditions.

"Other than the weather I felt great," Hutchinson said. "Our kids really competed well. The coaches did a really good job of preparing for the meet and the kids came through."

For the boys, there were only five first-place finishers. But the Pioneers stayed in the contest most of the way with strong second- and third-place finishes.

Taking first were sophomore Eric Sarich in the pole vault (10 feet), junior Randy Lamm in the 400 meters (51.8 seconds), senior Brad Schmautz in the 800 (2 minutes, 2.4 seconds), junior Scott Walker in the triple jump (41 feet, 3 inches — a personal best) and consistent junior Art Skipper in the javelin (210-1).

"They just had great efforts all the way around," Hutchinson said. "With that weather and to still have personal bests, it's a great accomplishment."

The girls had great showings as well. Eight events were won by the Pioneers, including 1-2 finishes in the discus and 1,500.

Senior Wendy Coleman won the discus (127-2) with junior Julie Crampton in second (102-0). In the 1,500, junior Kris Kruger had a lifetime best, crossing the tape in 5:44.2. Freshman teammate Julie McCann finished the same race just two-tenths of a second behind Kruger.

Sophomore Melinda Kai won both the 100 and 200 short sprints. In the 100, she finished with a 13.3 clocking. In the 200, she also took first with a 27.7 time.

Sophomore Denise Toyooka won the 400 (1:03.8), junior Heather Frank won the 300 intermediate hurdles (35.9) and freshman Robyn Jones won the 3,000 (3:32.2).

Also in the 3,000, Sandy swept the event. Following Jones were sophomores Kim Yankauskas and Michelle Clousner.

In the javelin, senior Shanna Daniels showed that rain could not dampen her throwing ability, winning the event with a toss of 146-3.

"It was projected to be a close meet," Hutchinson said of the girls' win. "It wasn't close at all — the girls went right to them. They trounced them."

On Thursday, Sandy travels to Centennial to take on the Eagles. This meet is expected to be as tough as the meet with the Scots.

"We're underdogs and it would be a major upset for us to win it," he said, adding that the Pioneers' spirits are high.

Sandy golfers lose to Reynolds team

At Glendoveer Golf Course Tuesday afternoon, Sandy shot a low score, but came up a little short, as Reynolds defeated the Pioneers in Mount Hood Conference golf action, 148-152.

Ron Seyler shot an even-par 36 to lead Sandy, while Scott Shields had a 37, with Russ Loomis and Tony Jensen shooting 39 and 40, respectively.

"We played well, but it wasn't well enough," said Sandy coach Dan Brisbin, who saw his team drop to 11-3 in MHC competition. "We had the opportunity to give ourselves quite a bit of room over Reynolds and Centennial (the No. 3 and No. 4 teams in the MHC)."

The Pioneers are in second place in the MHC behind David Douglas. David Douglas has a four-point edge over Sandy, which equals two league wins.

Reynolds' No. 3 golfer surprised the Pioneers, shooting a 34.

"We were ahead after our first two men," Brisbin said. "But the third man for Reynolds proved to be the difference. We were even or ahead at all other positions."

District competition begins next Wednesday at West Delta Golf Course. Sandy probably will finish regular season competition in second place, but after the district finals, on-

ly two teams from the conference will go on to compete at the state tournament.

"In a two-day tournament, a lot of things can happen," Brisbin said, adding that he is unsure of how well his team will do at district.

Last Thursday, Sandy participated in a triangular match with David Douglas and Columbia, losing to David Douglas, but beating Columbia.

The weather played an important role in the contest held at Gresham Golf Course, the Chargers' home green. With the rain falling, the scores were climbing.

Seyler, who was even par after eight of the nine holes, lost his ball, penalizing him severely. He finished with a 41.

Shields finished with a 38, leading all Sandy scorers.

"We didn't play as well as we could have," Brisbin said. "It would have been nice to pick up those two points on (David) Douglas."

Following the Pioneers' final meet of the season, a triangular against Barlow and Central Catholic on Sandy's own Mountain View Golf Course on Thursday, the district meet will be the team's top priority.

"District is the important thing right now," Brisbin said.

Swimmers receive awards

On Friday, the Blue Marlins Aquatic Club held its 13th Annual Awards Banquet at Sandy Grade School.

At the banquet, Nikki Hanson and Derek Spires were awarded Swimmers of the Year for 1987. It was Spires' first reception of the award, while Hanson won her second in three years.

Most Valuable Swimmer awards were given to athletes in each of the five age groups for both boys and girls. This year's winners were: Shawna Stewart, Nikki Hanson, Stacey Stewart and Robyn Hayball for the girls and Blake Smith, Beau Knight, Jason Smith, Derek Spires and Troy Hilstad for the boys.

Other awards include Most Improved Swimmers, Janine Williamson and Scott Drill, and Outstanding First-Year Swimmers, Tammy White and Mike Malchow.

During the year, 14 girls and 10 boys made it to the "Minute Club," which is an honor earned by those swimmers who have improved their cumulative times by 60 or more seconds in the year.

Shawna Stewart, Blake Smith, Nikki Hanson, Janine Williamson, Jason Smith, Scott Drill, Robyn Hayball and Stacey Stewart each broke BMAC pool records this year and five relay teams also broke pool records this year.

The team opened its spring/summer season Saturday in Oregon City for a BC short course swim meet.

These swimmers achieved 18 personal best times at the meet, while also achieving 16 new "B" times, which are pre-determined times.

The Blue Marlins are holding a bake sale at the Sandy Thriftway Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.