

Coach resigns wrestling post

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

It has been nearly three decades since Ron Calhoun has devoted his winters to anything but wrestling.

But, come December, he will undergo his first winter with wrestling out of the picture. Calhoun, Sandy's wrestling coach for the past 16 years has resigned.

The last time Calhoun experienced a winter without some type of wrestling commitment was in 1958, when he started wrestling at Clackamas High School.

December will be a welcome time for Calhoun and his family.

"Right now, I'm going to catch my breath and maybe regenerate my batteries," the 44-year-old Calhoun said. "We're in the process of buying some more property, maybe build a house closer to town."

Along with his diploma, Calhoun graduated from Clackamas with a state championship in the 130-pound weight division.

After high school, Calhoun went to Portland State University and earned his bachelor's degree in education. At PSU, Calhoun was a four-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics district champion.

He has since earned his master's degree and has received a certificate in counseling.

While still in college, Calhoun began his coaching career, helping out with Reynolds High School's wrestling program.

From there, he went to Franklin High School and coached there for three years.

In 1971, Calhoun came to Sandy and replaced Zel Gernhart when Gernhart took a year's leave of absence to go back to college. Calhoun has been the Pioneers' head coach since then.

During his 16-year tenure, Calhoun has helped to produce 42 state class AAA tournament qualifiers and has had 16 individual state champions — an average of one a year.

From 1981 to 1983, Sandy teams finished fourth, sixth and second in the state. The 1983 season, in which the Pioneers made it to No. 2 in the state, was the high point in Calhoun's career.

That year, Calhoun was named Coach of the Year by the Oregon High School Coaches Association. Also in 1983, one of his players, Chuck Kearney Jr., was named Oregon's Wrestler of the Year.

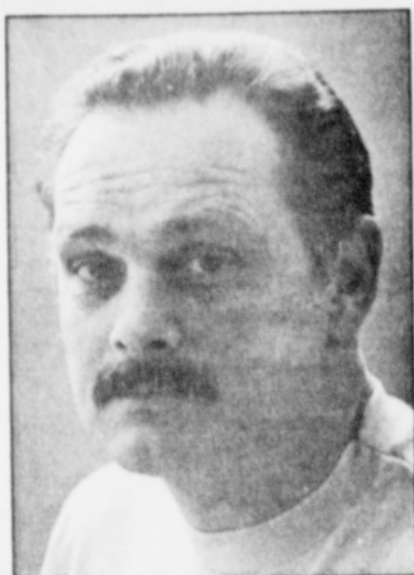
Although Calhoun has a great love for the sport, he said he has reached a point where he needs a break from it.

"I've been coaching for 20 years and every winter since 1958, my winters have been totally filled with wrestling," Calhoun said. "For once in my life, I'm going to have a winter of my wife, my family and myself."

"That's 29 years of having every winter totally dominated by the sport of wrestling, which I love," he added.

In his 16-year Sandy career, he has had eight wrestlers in the state finals. He also has coached 18 individual district champions.

During his 16 years, he has taken many wrestlers on trips across the globe. Calhoun and his teams have gone to West Germany, Hawaii and Salt Lake City. He has taken several



RON CALHOUN
Leaves wrestling.

trips with his wrestlers to Tacoma, Wash., to compete in the Cardinal Classic Tournament.

But the most memorable moment of his career was in 1983 when Sandy won the Oregon City Tournament, which is considered to be the state dual meet championship.

"We were ranked second in state most of the season," Calhoun recalled. "We ended up meeting the No. 1 team in the finals (Pendleton), and we beat them. So that gave us our true ranking that year as the No. 1 dual meet team in the state."

As for Calhoun's coaching philosophy, he said he never wanted to push an athlete to do more than he was capable of doing. He wanted to draw the wrestlers' capabilities out, not force them out.

"I like to help a kid to reach his highest goal," Calhoun said, "but I don't want to make him."

"I'm not a terribly pushy coach. I'd rather help somebody than make somebody."

In addition, Calhoun believes it is possible to be triumphant without triumphs.

"The feeling I've tried to convey was: as long as you tried your best, you're a winner," he said. "The score of the match does not really indicate the winner. It's whether or not you can do the best you can do."

Calhoun's philosophy should carry over through the next few seasons, as his coaching replacement is Chuck Kearney Sr., who has been Calhoun's assistant for six years.

"(The wrestlers) are in good hands," Calhoun said. "Chuck and I have really complemented each other over the years because of his tremendous organization and promotion of the sport."

"He has really helped my style of coaching, which is very loose and casual," Calhoun said of Kearney.

Calhoun will devote his time at the high school to the counseling office, where he has been for nine years.

Although he is leaving coaching, Calhoun said he will always stay close to the wrestling program. But he is not making special commitments yet.

Would he eventually like to return to being a wrestling coach?

"Yes, someday I'd like to," Calhoun said.

But that day won't come at least until Calhoun has caught his breath and recharged his batteries.



Sandy Junior State shortstop Pete Rusaw takes his base after drawing a walk Monday.

Paola's can't get the hits

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

Coach Bob D'Aboy was the first to admit Monday night that the Sandy Junior State baseball team had a few rough spots in its home game against David Douglas.

After being bombarded by seven runs in the third inning, Sandy, sponsored by Paola's Pizza, was looking for anything its bats could conjure up.

But nothing materialized, as David Douglas defeated Sandy, 11-0. Paola's managed just one hit and that came in the first inning.

D'Aboy said his team's performance was "not very good."

"We didn't play defensively how we are capable of playing," he said.

David Douglas, sponsored by Stark Street Pizza, got out to a 3-0 lead after the first inning.

Sandy starting left fielder Robert Rising led off Paola's first inning with a nice, sizzling hit up the middle past the pitcher and between the second baseman and shortstop.

Rising later stole second but was tagged out at third as starting center fielder Robby Barrett hit into a fielder's choice from the pitcher to the third baseman.

After shutting out David Douglas in the second inning, Paola's had a chance to gain some ground.

Starting third baseman Wes Kelley led off with a walk but was later tossed out trying to steal second. Sandy got aboard again as first baseman Mike Senn walked with two out. But Paola's was unable to produce any offense and Senn was stranded at first.

Stark Street then produced an incredible third inning. It went through 11 batters in the third, scoring seven runs on four hits and four Sandy errors. All of the runs were unearned.

After David Douglas struck out all three of Paola's batters in the bottom of the third, it had a 10-0 advantage.

A nice defensive play was executed by Sandy shortstop Pete Rusaw in the third. With runners on

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League offers year-round experience

In an effort to increase interest in baseball at Sandy, a Junior State team was formed, headed by Sandy High School coaches Bob D'Aboy and Mike Vanoudehaegen.

With a sponsorship from Paola's Pizza Barn and Leonard Paola, the Sandy team will take on its first complete Junior State season, competing against the other 13 teams in its league, which includes Mount Hood Conference high schools Barlow, Centennial, Columbia, David Douglas, Gresham and Reynolds.

The teams in Junior State are not affiliated directly with the high schools, but the teams are composed of players who will be playing high school ball next year.

Junior State is a younger alternative to American Legion baseball. Because American Legion deals mostly with players who've graduated, many coaches felt that a summer league was needed for the high school students.

The answer was Junior State. "For the last few years, (Junior

State) has gotten a lot stronger because more (high school) coaches are going to that league in the summer," D'Aboy said, adding that the players are viewed by the coaches as the following season's varsity team.

"Nowadays there are so many (American) Legion programs, they're all-star teams from five or six different schools," D'Aboy added. "It's hard to get your (high school) team together. The Junior State program does a good job with that."

Sandy's league consists of

teams from the six previously mentioned MHC schools, The Dalles, Hood River and five teams in Washington.

The Sandy/Paola's team has played seven games thus far and plays 26 overall before the top teams in the league compete in the playoffs.

The atmosphere of playing summer ball is a bit looser than that of playing high school-oriented games in the spring. The players are shifted around the

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Swim club takes 1st in meet

The Blue Marlin Aquatic Club swam to a first-place finish in its only home meet of the spring/summer season Saturday.

Eight swimmers captured first-place finishes in the Blue Marlin B/C meet at the Sandy Aquatic Center.

Mike Malchow of the boys 15-18 age group claimed first in three races. Robyn Hayball of the 15-18 girls finished first in the 100-yard freestyle race.

Jason Smith and Scott Drill of the 13-14 boys each earned first in the 100 backstroke and 100 breaststroke, respectively. Janine Williamson of the 13-14 girls took first in three events.

Jeff Markle took first in the 11-12 boys 50 freestyle. Stacey Stewart claimed first in three events for the 11-12 girls. Nikki Hanson also took first-place honors in the 50 butterfly for the 11-12 girls.

Of the 102 events, 68 personal-best times were posted as the Blue Marlin team claimed 293 points. Kelso Swim Club was second with 240.

Three other teams received more than 100 points. Forest Grove Swim Club had 161½, Vancouver Swim

Club had 161 and the Mount Hood Swim Team scored 102.

In other recent swim team action, the Blue Marlin's claimed two regional qualifying times in the Piranha Rose Festival Open, held May 29-31.

Drill earned a berth to regionals with his 1-minute, 17.35-second performance in the 100-meter backstroke, claiming first place in the race.

Meanwhile, Smith took fourth in the 200 freestyle, but his time was good enough to go to regionals, finishing the race with a 2:37.78 time.

Of the 63 events run, 40 were personal best times. There were six first-place finishes by the Blue Marlin's.

Helping to support the BMAC are the following businesses: Taco Time, Toney's Farm Market, Janz Berryland, Sandy SENTRY, Sprouse Reitz, Prime Time Video, Clackamas County Bank, Safeway, Paola's Pizza Barn, 7-Eleven, Hydraulic Dredging Inc., Sandy Travel Service, Dairy Queen, Mountain Video and T.J.'s Restaurant.



Nicole Kilander, an 8-and-younger member of the Blue Marlin Aquatic Club, starts her swim in the club's home meet Saturday.

Heat exhaustion forces Fisher out of Trans-Am race

Heat exhaustion forced Sandy resident Terry Fisher to drop out of the 38-car Bendix Trans-Am race at Portland International Raceway Sunday.

Fisher started the race in the 38th position and had completed 25 laps when he was overcome with extreme heat exhaustion. He was in 17th place at the time.

With a body temperature of more than 106 degrees, Fisher was taken to Emanuel Hospital, where he was

treated and later released.

Fisher races as part of the Fisher Power Racing team. He has raced professionally since 1980, including the grand-prix-style Riverside, Calif., race in 1985 and 1986.

In addition to racing, Fisher designs and builds race cars.

The Fisher Power Racing team's next race is scheduled for June 21 in the nationally televised 1987 Riverside race in Southern California.

Bike maintenance clinic slated at community center

The Sandy Recreation Department is sponsoring a bicycle maintenance and safety clinic to be conducted by Joe and Karen Foggia of Mountain Sports Outfitters.

The clinic will be held Thursday, June 18, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sandy Community/Senior Center, 38348 Pioneer Blvd.

Tony Mills, a competition freestyle biker, will hold an exhibition perfor-

mance to start out the clinic.

Minor bike repairs and tune-up tips will be demonstrated and safe riding practices will be discussed.

Bicycle enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend the clinic, free of charge.

To pre-register or for further information, contact the Sandy Recreation Department at 668-5569.