

Pioneers get their first win

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

The Paola's Pioneers not only got their first win of the season Wednesday, they got the victory against the Oregon class AA state champions.

Paola's, Sandy's Junior State team, defeated The Dalles, the class AA champs, but could not manage the same feat against Barlow Friday and Hood River Monday.

Still, a win against a state champion is a major accomplishment, says Pioneer coach Bob D'Abo.

"I think it was good for the kids that we beat a team that won the AA tournament," D'Abo said. But he added that The Dalles was not quite the same team that won the high school championship this spring. "About half their kids played on the varsity last year."

In Monday's game against Hood River, Paola's was behind by 12 runs going into the final two innings. The Eagles boasted a fine left-handed breaking ball pitcher, who pitched five innings of scoreless ball, sending the Pioneers' record to 1-10.

Not only was Hood River's pitching effective, but so was its fielding. Several of Hood River's players had played on the high school varsity team, while only one Pioneer player — Ken Ouderkirk — had logged steady varsity experience.

After 5½ innings, Hood River had a 12-0 lead.

Robby Barrett led off the bottom of the sixth for Paola's with a right-field single. Wes Kelley then reached first and Barrett advanced to second on an infield error.

As Kelley was forced out at second on a fielder's choice play hit by Robert Rising, Barrett moved to third. Pete Rusaw then walked, loading the bases.

After a fly out, Mike Senn drilled a single to left field, scoring Barrett from third, as Paola's struck for the first time in the game.

Later, in the seventh, Doug Cassidy singled to left and moved to



Third baseman Ty Beckley (left) readies himself at his base while shortstop Pete Rusaw dives in vain to make a play in Paola's Junior State 12-2 loss to Hood River Monday.

second on a passed ball. As Ty Beckley singled to left, Cassidy traveled to third.

Then Ouderkirk hit into a double play, pitcher to shortstop, covering second, to first. Cassidy made it home to bring the final score to 12-2.

"The frustrating thing is that we have individual breakdowns from time to time," said Mike Vanoudenhaegen, assistant coach. "When the guys come and believe in themselves, they play well. We've just had a couple of

breakdowns."

Against Barlow Friday night, Sandy played in a game D'Abo called "terrible," losing to the tough Bruins, 11-1.

The triumph that gave the Pioneers their first win came last Wednesday against The Dalles. Jason Nall's pitching and the team's timely hitting carried Paola's to a 7-3 victory.

Nall pitched the entire seven innings and "was in control the whole game," D'Abo said. "The

guys got the hits and the key plays when they needed to."

The Indians got out in front of Paola's early with a 2-0 lead after an inning and a half. But the Pioneers retaliated with three runs in the bottom of the second.

Rusaw led off with a single, followed by a single from Nall, sending Rusaw to third. Senn grounded into a fielder's choice, getting Rusaw out at home, but sending Nall to second.

After eighth-grader Tyler Wallace loaded the bases with a walk, Rod Schilperoort walked Nall home from third. Beckley then singled Senn home, getting Beckley out at second but scoring Wallace. Paola's took the lead, 3-2.

The big hit of the game was a two-run double by Rising in the fourth. Rising doubled home Beckley and Ouderkirk, giving Paola's a 5-2 advantage. The Pioneers scored twice more in the sixth.

Daniels plays key role in Metro-State

Sandy girls basketball star Shanna Daniels led late rallies at the Metro-State high school basketball series Friday and Saturday in Salem and Portland.

Daniels, who played for the Metro team, scored 18 points in Friday's game at Willamette University and 15 in Saturday's game at Portland State University.

Metro swept the two-game series, winning the first 76-60 and the second 70-67.

State took a 14-3 lead six minutes into the game, while the Oregon State University-bound Daniels and Long Beach State-bound Lisa Reslock of St. Mary's Academy sat on the bench.

After Daniels and Reslock entered with 14:14 to go, Metro was able to pull back to 30-27 at halftime.

A dozen of Daniels' team-leading 18 points came in the first half, as Metro dominated the second half, en route to the win, 76-60.

In the second game at PSU, Daniels was a key player in Metro's second half. At halftime, State was down by four points, but, with 10:49 to go in the game, took a 43-42 lead.

Daniels then bounce-passed the ball to Wilson's Jennifer Ballenger, who scored on a layup. Soon after, Daniels sank two free throws to give Metro the 46-43 advantage.

Metro held its momentum and won the game, 70-67.

Sandy head coach John Smith was coaching assistant to Oregon City's Brad Smith for Metro.

Wrestler places

Gary Richards of Sandy, an 80-pound wrestler in the 9-10 age group, finished third at the Western Regional National Tournament in Newberg last weekend.

The WRNT is a competition composed of wrestlers from 13 Western states.

"He did really, really well," said Larry Topliff, coach of the Triple Crown Wrestling Club, of which Richards is a member. "It's pretty hard to place that high your first year."

Sandy bicyclist wins two first-place medals

Mike Sheppard, a 21-year-old bicycle racer from Sandy, earned two gold medals June 11-13 at Portland's Alpenrose Velodrome, an oval bike track with banked corners of 46 degrees.

Sheppard took first in the kilometer and points races, while taking second in the four-kilometer pursuit race.

In the kilometer race held that Thursday, Sheppard claimed a personal best with a time of 1 minute, 14.78 seconds, beating his old

time by more than a second.

Friday's pursuit race was a troubling one for Sheppard, whose racing forte is the pursuit, as he missed first place by one second, finishing with a 5:17.3 time. Sheppard has completed the pursuit in five minutes flat, he said.

On Saturday, Sheppard won the points race, which is a competition based on points, not times. After every 10 laps, the bicyclists are awarded points for their positions on the

track.

Sheppard lapped the field of bikers three times in the 120-lap, 20-mile race, en route to the gold-medal finish.

Sheppard, who graduated from Sandy Union High School in 1983 and attended the University of Oregon, is aiming to make the national team to compete in pursuit racing in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Sheppard said an earlier accident may have hindered him during the Alpenrose

Velodrome pursuit race, resulting in the second-place finish.

"I guess I would have to blame it mostly on the crash," Sheppard said. The Sunday prior to the Alpenrose race, Sheppard was motor-pacing on Sauvie Island and crashed on a turn at about 45 mph.

When using the motor-pacing technique, a racer rides behind a car or motorcycle, which creates a wind-resistant pocket and gives the racer a safer ride.

Unfortunately for Sheppard, when he hit a turn, he came upon some gravel and "the tires went out" from under him.

Sheppard managed to come away from the accident without too serious an injury. He had scrapes from head to toe on the right side of his body. But they did not keep him from racing later that week.

Sheppard will be trying for the national team and will compete in the tryouts held at Trexlertown, Pa.

World champion gives his advice to Sandy children

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

It was only 370 days ago that Mychal Thompson was sent away from the Portland Trail Blazers and shipped to the San Antonio Spurs in exchange for Steve Johnson.

This past season, the trade seemed to make both the Blazers and Thompson happy. Johnson helped the Blazers by filling in for an injured Sam Bowie. He helped Portland to a 49-33 record, nine games better than the previous year. Johnson also was named the Blazers' Most Valuable Player.

Thompson, however, took a more round-about journey to find his happiness. The Spurs' hierarchy dealt Thompson to the Los Angeles Lakers in February.

But it was a trade that has since produced obvious advantages for Thompson: On June 14, the 6-foot-10 nine-year NBA veteran became a world champion for the first time in his life.

But Thompson's ride to the top did not hinder him from remembering his commitments. On Thursday, just four days after helping the Lakers win the NBA title, Thompson was in Sandy, assisting the Second Annual Jerry's Suburban Ford Basketball Clinic at the Sandy High School gym.

While other LA players still were celebrating the victory, Thompson was speaking to a group of youngsters at the clinic.

Clad in a purple and gold Lakers cap, a pair of strange blue sunglasses, an LA Lakers championship T-shirt and a blue Suburban Ford T-shirt tucked into his sweatpants, Thompson fielded the

youngster's questions, which dealt with life in the NBA, money, the championship, the Lakers, the Spurs and the Blazers.

Thompson spoke for about 30 minutes before signing autographs. While he signed, he made his way out of the gym and into the 80-degree Oregon sunshine, which, the 32-year-old Thompson said was a relief of LA's infamous ozone.

"I can breathe fresh air again," Thompson said, adding that LA's smog is not the only problem he finds in that city.

"LA's too crowded for me, babe. I will never complain about traffic in Oregon again — not (after) the freeways in LA."

Thompson spent eight years driving his black Mercedes convertible in Oregon during his stay with the Blazers. While here, he had earned a reputation as being a practical joker, a seemingly lackadaisical player and a lover of Portland's fans.

Partially in appreciation for the fans, Thompson said he would have liked to have helped bring an NBA championship trophy to Portland while he was here, but he said he was "on top of the world" after winning the title in Southern California.

Still, Thompson has not forgotten the single most important aspect in his life — his faith.

"You've got to keep it all in perspective and realize that God is the reason that all this has happened," Thompson said of winning the championship, his past NBA career and his NBA future, which will last another four years if Thompson stays healthy.

Thompson, in his nine years in the league, has acquired the glamour and wealth accompanying life in the NBA. These are cer-

tainly desirable things and Thompson said he feels blessed that they have been bestowed upon him. But the former Trail Blazer added that those things will pass.

"You've got to realize that this is all just superficial and materialistic," Thompson said. "All this stuff is going to end someday — the fame and the championship feelings — it'll be gone before long."

"But, to me, God remains forever," he said. "God will be the focal point in my life long after my career in the NBA is over with."

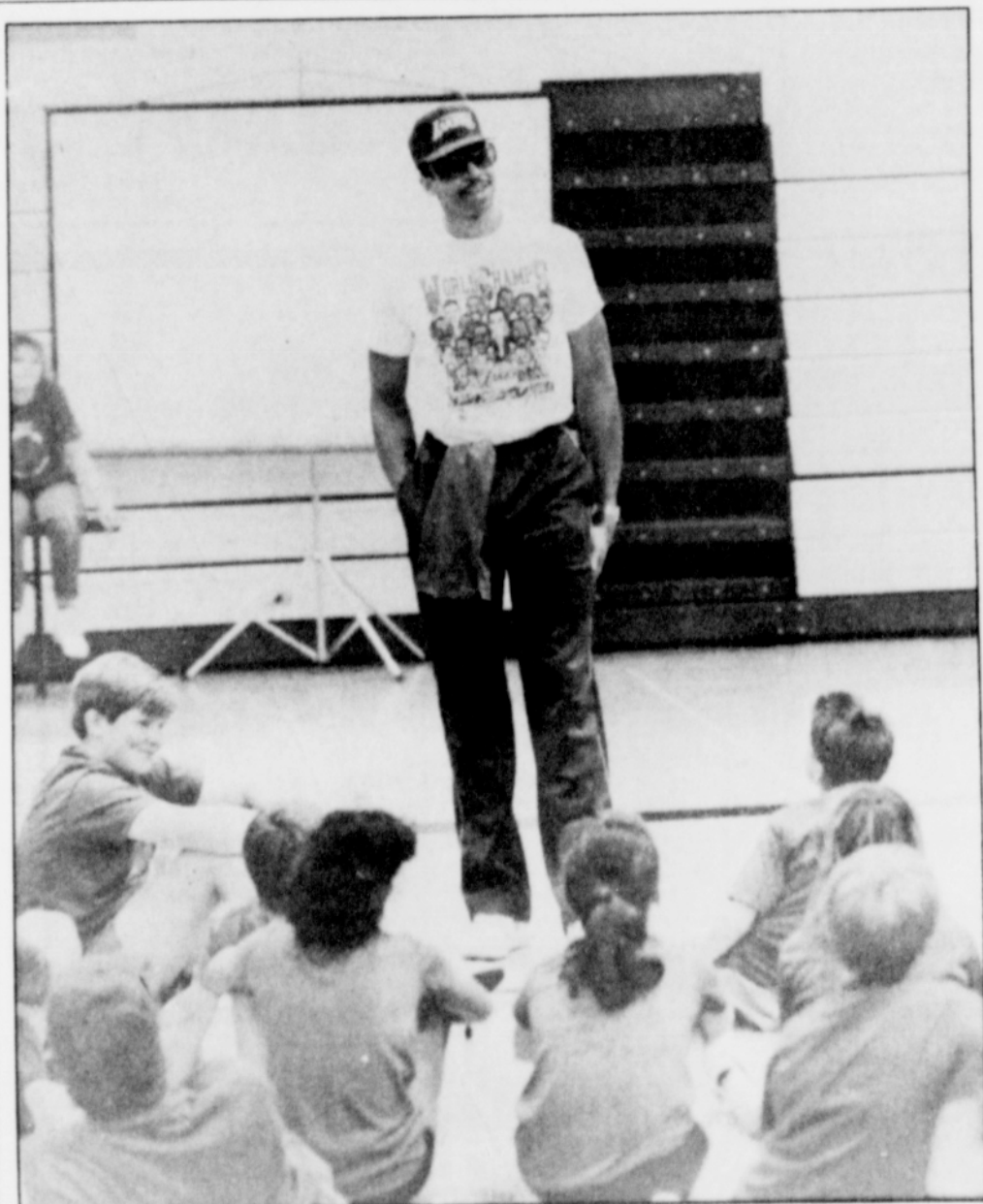
Thompson added that he belongs to no specific Christian denomination. "I don't worship a religion. I just worship Jesus Christ."

When his contract runs out with the Lakers in four years, Thompson said he will retire from basketball and go back to college to earn a degree in communications. He hopes to become a radio/TV commentator.

Another career aspiration for Thompson is to become involved with politics in the Bahamas, where he was born and raised. But when he's in the continental United States, Thompson calls Oregon home.

As a child, he wanted to be a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, "like in 'Top Gun,'" Thompson said, adding that he still would like pursue flying as a hobby. "Yeah, I'd like to be able to fly an F-16. Who wouldn't? "But, I'll settle for a Cessna right now."

Comparing the NBA to high school basketball, Thompson's quick wit was evident when he quipped: "It's probably like the difference from dissecting a frog in biology class to brain surgery."



Mychal Thompson of the world champion Los Angeles Lakers talks to a group of youngsters Thursday afternoon at the Second Annual Jerry's Suburban Ford Basketball Clinic held at Sandy High School. Thompson, who formerly played for the Portland Trail Blazers, included a few words on how he takes care of himself by eating right, exercising regularly and resisting drugs.