



Photo by Dave Magnuson

Clackamas County Bank's Kim Riggs fouls off a pitch Monday in the team's district championship triumph at Boring Grade School.

Softball team claims title

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

BORING — It took 10 innings, but Sandy's Clackamas County Bank softball team defeated Canby 5-4 Monday in the Clackamas District Championship softball tournament, earning the district title and a berth to the state tournament this weekend at Banks.

The game, played at Boring Grade School, went into extra innings. And, after a scoreless eighth inning, the "international rule," which gives teams the right to place a runner on second base even before any batter takes a single swing, went into effect for both CCB and Canby.

Due to the international rule, the second-base runner scored in three of the four half-innings following: the top and bottom of the ninth and the top of the 10th. Sandy then held on in the bottom of the 10th to earn the one-run triumph.

Canby's Panthers got out to an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning on a shot hit to deep center field. The batter raced around the bases and scored on the solo home run.

The Panthers maintained that lead through the second inning, but in the top of the third, Sandy first baseman Tricia Waybel reached first and then moved to second base on an overthrow error.

After Waybel moved to third on a wild pitch, she then scored on a passed ball by the Canby catcher, tying the score 1-1.

Pitcher Sheri Brittle then struck out all three

Panther batters in the bottom of the third.

In the top of the fourth, after CCB shortstop Melinda Kai singled to center field and stole second base, catcher Connie Jones sacrifice bunted to the Canby catcher, sending Kai to third.

Then, on another passed ball, Kai crossed the plate to give CCB the 2-1 advantage.

Canby nearly scored on a freak play in the bottom of the fourth. With two Panther outs and the bases loaded, Canby's batter drilled a grounder to Sandy second baseman Karyn Leas.

Leas fielded the ball properly, but before she could pull the ball out of her glove and make the routine play to first, the Canby runner from first collided with her.

It was a unique situation, but the runner was called out after a moment's deliberation by the field umpire. Neither player was seriously hurt.

Then in the top of the fifth, Sandy added to its lead, as infielder/outfielder Kim Riggs singled to left. After stealing second and third bases, Riggs scored on a wild pitch, to up CCB's lead to 3-1.

CCB could have added to its lead in the top of the sixth, as both Brittle and Kai singled, putting runners on first and second.

But Jones then hit into a fielder's choice to the Canby second baseman, who stepped on her base, getting Brittle out. The Canby infielder then promptly heaved the ball to the catcher, who tagged Kai out at the plate. Jones, meanwhile, was safe at first, but Sandy committed its third out to end the half inning with the score at 3-1.

In the bottom of the sixth, Canby got base runners on second and third with two outs. A Panther player then hit a deep shot to right field, which probably would have been a three-run homer had right fielder Riggs not thrown the ball so accurately to the Sandy infield. The Canby hitter had to settle for a two-run triple, tying the score 3-3.

She then was picked off at third on a heads-up play by the catcher Jones, who fired the ball to Kai, recently shifted to third from shortstop.

Neither team could score in the seventh inning, making Riggs' pinpoint throw from right field the eventual game-saver for CCB.

After a scoreless eighth, Leas, who was placed on second as the international rule base runner, stole third and later scored on an error committed by Canby's second baseman off the bat of Waybel. Sandy took the 4-3 lead.

But Canby evened the score on an infield single, sending the Panthers' international rule runner across the plate. After the ninth, nothing was settled, as the game was again tied, 4-4.

In the 10th, however, Sandy left fielder Melissa Woods, who was the international rule runner, advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt credited to shortstop Shannon Baker.

Woods later scored on a passed ball, giving CCB a 5-4 lead.

After Canby got the third out, it could not generate any offense in the bottom of the 10th, thanks to two fine stops at first base by Sandy's Waybel.

Sports director leaving Sandy

Mike Kostrba takes post at high school in Portland

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

Mike Kostrba, Sandy High School's athletic director for the past 14 years, will turn his attention to Portland's Benson High School after being named that school's athletic director on Monday.

Kostrba, who replaces Bart Chase at Benson, said he hopes the change will be refreshing.

"Last year, for the first time in my 20 years of teaching, I did not want to get up in the morning to go to work," Kostrba said Tuesday. "There had been some differences of opinion in Sandy's (school) district as to whether (athletics are) important or not."

"It kind of became apparent that (the district) didn't need my 15 years of experience. They weren't going to use me," he said. "That's when you start looking seriously at other options."

Although he said he was not necessarily pleased with the district administration recently, Kostrba said he wants the move to Benson to benefit all parties involved.

"I hope this will be good for both of us, like a trade in baseball," he said. "I hope it's good for everybody."

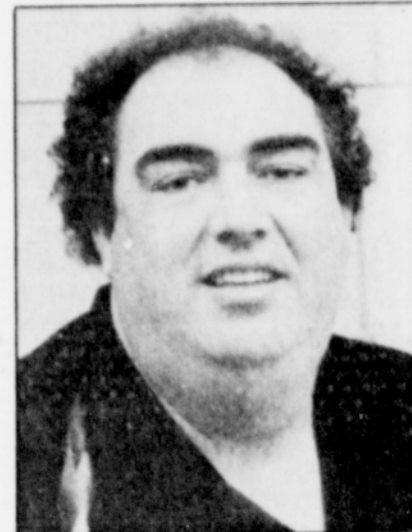
Among his achievements during his 14-year tenure as athletic director, Kostrba said the most memorable was the blossoming of girls athletics at Sandy High School.

"There was none when I first was here," Kostrba said of the girls program, adding that he plans to help boost the girls program at Benson. "I hope to build the women's area next year. We have 500 girls this year (at Benson) and last year there were 400."

Kostrba said he faces many challenges at Benson.

"The most obvious challenge is going from one district to the biggest district in the state," he said. "I think the makeup is different. Twenty-six or 27 percent (of the student body) are minorities at Benson. I'm going from a very homogeneous school to a very heterogeneous school."

Kostrba first contacted the Benson school district about two years ago, but "it wasn't my time back then,"



Mike Kostrba

he said. "This time, the timing was right for me."

At Benson, Kostrba will encounter different types of problems than he has at Sandy.

"The problem isn't how many people we have on the team, but (instead) what do we do with the people we do have?" he said. "That's a different kind of problem."

In the 16 years he has worked as a teacher, assistant football coach and athletic director at Sandy, Kostrba has come to know thousands of students, and they are the primary reason for his love of his job.

"I've seen a lot of good athletes, a lot of not-so-good athletes (and) a lot of kids who tried like hell at everything," he said.

Kostrba's replacement will be Randy Hutchinson, Sandy's track and field coach for the past 13 years. Hutchinson was named Sandy's athletic director Monday night at a board meeting.

"I'm excited about it," Hutchinson said Wednesday. "I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Hutchinson's response was practically an echo of Kostrba's reaction to his appointment at Benson. But anything new and unfamiliar can prompt mixed feelings, and Kostrba is no exception.

"One the one hand, I don't feel comfortable about it, but on the other hand, it's exciting."

Fisher places in Coors 100

Sandy resident Terry Fisher competed Friday in the Coors 100 at Portland International Raceway, finishing fourth overall after leading

for 18 laps.

Coming up for Fisher are two races at the beginning of August.

Athletes win place at national meet

Members of River Hawks qualify for championship in five events

Sandy athletes in five events qualified for a national meet during the Northwest Regional Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships at Spokane, Wash., last weekend.

The National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships will be held July 21-26 at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Individuals who qualified for nationals were Ryan Vollans in the pentathlon, Darnell Arthur in the long jump and Denise Toyooka in the high jump.

Additionally, the Sandy River Hawks' bantam (competitors born in 1977 or 1978) and midget (1975 or 1976) boys 400-meter relay teams also qualified to compete in the National meet.

Twelve River Hawks families traveled to Spokane to see their competitors take part in the regionals, which included athletes from Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

On Friday, Vollans and Jake Simonis represented Oregon in the pentathlon, an event consisting of the 80-meter hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot put and 1,500 meters. Vollans finished third overall, while Simonis claimed fifth.

On Saturday, both the bantam and midget boys 400-meter relay teams finished third to qualify for nationals. The bantam team of Marc Vollans, Scott Schamberger, Aaron O'Meara and Jon Mehl finished in 1 minute, 6.5 seconds.

The midget team of Ben Maddock, Lance Schamberger, Simonis and Arthur finished with a time of 56.9

seconds, behind two teams which were flirting with the national record.

Keith Hutchinson ran in two events. In the 1,500, he finished with a time of 5:47.3. Hutchinson also ran the 800 with a 2:57.69 clocking.

In the 80-meter hurdles, Arthur tumbled over a hurdle and fell. However, he later came back to capture first place and earned a berth to the national meet in the long jump with a leap of 15 feet, 4 inches.

In the intermediate division, Toyooka ran the 200 meters in 28.12 seconds.

Saturday's activities came to a close with the bantam and midget boys mile relay teams both finishing fifth. The bantam team of Mehl, Marc Vollans, O'Meara and Hutchinson finished with a 5:24.41 time.

The midget team of Simonis, Schamberger, John Dixon and Ryan Vollans earned a relay team best with a time of 4:42.7.

On Sunday, Toyooka had a climb of 5 feet in intermediate high-jump competition, claiming a position in the national event.

In the 3,000, Dixon earned fifth place with an 11:58.5 clocking.

As the regionals came to a close, so did the River Hawks' season. In all, 32 athletes competed for coach Harry Simonis this season.

"With the ages of the team members varying from 6 to 18, it's very interesting to watch the team camaraderie develop," Simonis said.

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Pioneers win on, off field

Team takes two victories in past week, gains forfeit

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

The Paola's Pioneers, Sandy's Junior State baseball team, scored two victories on the field and one off the field in the past week.

Paola's won two of three games played in the past week, defeating Gresham and Fort Vancouver, while losing at Centennial.

The Pioneers also found out that a game they lost in Prairie, Wash., on June 25 has now been forfeited to them because Prairie used an illegal player. The Pioneers originally had lost that game 16-0.

On Monday, the Pioneers traveled to Vancouver, Wash., to take on Fort Vancouver and defeated the Washington team 5-3 in a come-from-behind effort.

Paola's committed three errors in the first inning, aiding Fort Vancouver's early 3-0 lead.

But the Pioneers came back to score twice in the third and fifth innings and once in the sixth, while holding Fort Vancouver scoreless.

In the third, Doug Cassidy scored on a Robby Barrett triple, while Barrett later scored on a Ken Ouderkirk single, pulling Paola's to within one, 3-2.

Then in the fifth, Robert Rising led off with a single. On an Ouderkirk sacrifice, Rising moved to second. Jason Nall then reached first on an error, sending Rising to third. Rising then scored on a wild pitch, tying the game.

After Mike Senn singled, sending Nall to third, Aaron Knotts hit into a force play, as Nall crossed the plate to give the Pioneers the 4-3



Photo by Dave Magnuson

Paola's shortstop Rod Schilperoort makes a routine throw to first base while third baseman Ken Ouderkirk abandons his back-up play in last Wednesday's Junior State game against Gresham at Sandy. The Pioneers defeated Gresham, 6-4.

lead.

Cassidy scored on a Rising single in the sixth, and Paola's claimed

the triumph, 5-3, boosting the Pioneers' record to 4-17 overall.

"After that first inning, we

dominated the whole game," said Bob D'Abo, the Pioneers' coach. "We're starting to play a lot better. Jason Nall did a super job."

Nall pitched all seven innings, surrendering five walks and seven hits, but striking out 11 Fort Vancouver batters, while offensively collecting two hits and scoring once.

On Friday, the Pioneers were blitzed for six runs in the fourth inning at Centennial, which shattered Paola's momentum, thus giving the Eagles the wedge they needed en route to the 9-1 win.

Centennial scored three more runs in the fifth before Nall scored on a bases-loaded walk in the top of the seventh and the Eagles took the easy win.

Last Wednesday, the Pioneers played host to Gresham, representing Abby's Pizza. Each team had enormous offensive explosions, but Paola's had the lead, 4-3.

After Nall singled to left field in the bottom of the second, he stole second then moved to third on an error. Then Ouderkirk hit an infield single and Nall scored, giving Paola's the 5-3 advantage.

Knotts scored on a ground-rule double hit by Rising in the bottom of the third inning, boosting the Pioneers' lead to 6-3.

Gresham scored in the top of the sixth, but one run was all it could muster, as Paola's beat Abby's, 6-4, in the battle of the pizza parlors.

Paola's next game is at home Friday night against the tough Barlow Bruins. Game time is 6 p.m.