

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation



Sandy High School track coach Randy Hutchinson (right) helps assistant track coach Ric Ellsberry place markers on the track during a Sandy track meet held earlier this year. Hutchinson recently was named Sandy's director of athletics, but says he will not leave coaching.

Hutchinson faces challenges

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

As Randy Hutchinson takes over as Sandy Union High School's new athletic director, he is faced with an immediate problem of filling eight coaching positions.

Hutchinson recently was named to replace Mike Kostuba, who accepted a similar post at Benson High School.

"One of the biggest concerns is that we have about eight coaching positions and nobody to fill them," Hutchinson said. "It's been real difficult to fill them because there's no real teaching openings."

Sandy High School has eight openings for coaches and only three teaching openings. That presents a challenge, since education is the prime concern in hiring teachers. Athletics are secondary.

"We're kind of in a little bit of turmoil," Hutchinson said. "We're running out of time, but at the same time, we're not in any immediate danger."

The eight positions that need to

be filled are: head and assistant varsity volleyball coaches; assistant varsity and head and assistant junior varsity wrestling coaches; head and assistant skiing coaches; and assistant varsity softball coach.

Hutchinson, who will be entering his 14th year in education this fall, has been Sandy's track and field head coach for the past 12 years. He says he will not give up coaching.

"I absolutely love coaching, especially track," he said. "I see great things on the horizon for the track team. I'm going to hang in the program because I keep seeing good athletes come up."

For the past 10 years, Hutchinson has been the high school's department head in health and physical education. Last year, he taught five classes. This year, he will teach two.

"I love teaching and I think that's the part I'll miss the most," Hutchinson said. "I went into education because I like teaching kids."

He said he would one day like to be an administrator in the school

district. In fact, Hutchinson, who has a master's degree in education at Lewis and Clark College, is continuing his studies this summer in the college's principal program.

"I think eventually, I would like to become a school superintendent," Hutchinson said, adding jokingly: "Either that or win the lottery."

"I enjoy education and I think it deserves some attention," he added. "I read somewhere that 80 or 90 percent of superintendents are going to retire because that's their age. I suppose (an administration position) is in the back of my mind all of the time."

But for now, Hutchinson must concentrate on his athletic director duties, which include the budgeting, scheduling and marketing of Sandy athletics.

In his 14 years as Sandy High's director of athletics, Kostuba had earned a reputation for good systematic skills.

"I think Mike did a good job of organizing," Hutchinson said. "I would like to continue that

organizational process he's developed."

Hutchinson said he would like to see an increase in community involvement. He also would like to bridge the gap between elementary school athletics and high school athletics.

"We need to sell our program a little more to the community and I'd like to develop a systematic K through 12 program," he said. "If I had an ultimate goal, that would be it. But it won't happen for some while."

Hutchinson added he would like to foster a close-knit coaching staff and to be given a little more support from the community in his athletic director career at Sandy, which will continue for some time, he said.

"As long as the support's there, I'll be there," he said. "I like the Sandy area."

"In this first year, we're going to try to make the transition as smooth as possible," he said of his immediate goals. "I look at this as a move upward."

Softball team nabs 4th place

Sandy's Clackamas County Bank softball team last week claimed the Clackamas District Championship title, but lost in the semifinals of the state championship tournament last weekend in Banks.

The team, coached by Rex Brittle, lost to the Eugene Bandits in the semifinals 5-4, after playing four consecutive, no-rest games Sunday.

CCB had a slim lead on the Bandits in the top of the first inning, as short-stop Shannon Baker hit a single, driving home third baseman Melinda Kai, who had previously reached on a walk and had stolen second.

But Eugene claimed three runs in the bottom of the second, to take a 3-1 lead.

Sandy countered in the top of the third by regaining the lead. Kai led off with a single to center field and moved to second when catcher Konnie Jones walked.

Then Baker drilled a single, scoring Kai and Jones, evening the score 3-3. CCB's Kim Riggs then grounded into a fielder's choice, but Baker managed to score the go-ahead run, as Sandy led, 4-3.

Eugene again tied the game in the bottom of the sixth and, after a scoreless seventh inning, the game went into extra innings with a 4-4 deadlock.

Unfortunately for Sandy, Eugene scored another run in the bottom of the eighth, claiming the 5-4 triumph and moving on to the final game against Milwaukie. Sandy, meanwhile, had previously lost to Four Seasons and left the double-elimination tournament with a fourth-place showing.

"We worked together as a total team and I was just super pleased with their performance," Brittle said. "We had several parents and folks who came from other teams tell us what a pleasure it was to play a team like ours, which says a lot about their sportsmanship."

Included in those compliments about the Sandy team were specific individual praises of Baker at short-stop and pitcher Sheri Brittle.

CCB finished the tournament with a 4-2 record. All of Sandy's victories were shutouts. On Saturday, CCB defeated Forest Grove 3-0 to earn a spot on the winner's bracket. The team's first defeat came later Saturday against Four Seasons, a 3-1 loss.

Then at 7 a.m. Sunday, CCB defeated the Tualatin Thunderbolts 7-0. Immediately following that win, Sandy defeated St. Helens, 18-0, advancing to face Gladstone in the quarterfinals. CCB defeated Gladstone 6-0, advancing to the semifinals and losing to Eugene, the fourth straight game of the day for Sandy.



Photo by Dale M. Peterson

I've got it!

Carol Norgard, third baseman for Paola's Pizza Barn's American Softball Association class D team, makes a catch in the Tualatin Hills Softball Tournament, in

which Paola's took first place. Paola's lost its first game in the double-elimination tournament, but came back to win seven straight to win the eight-team tournament.

Paola's season ends on high note

The season for Sandy's Junior State baseball team, the Paola's Pioneers, came to a close Tuesday night with a welcome triumph.

Paola's did not get a chance to play Prairie, Wash., Tuesday at Pop Rannow Stadium, because Prairie did not show up. Thus, the Pioneers claimed the win by forfeit.

With the forfeiture win, the Pioneers' season came to an end with a 5-19 record. Two of those wins came by forfeits by Prairie.

But Paola's did travel to Hood River Monday night and finished its game-playing season with a moral victory, although it lost the game 4-3.

"I thought we played our best game of the year," said Bob D'Aboy, Paola's coach. "We had only one pop-up, and that was in the seventh inning. All the others were hard grounders."

"I think that was a great game to end the season because we finally put everything together, both offensively and defensively."

Although the Pioneers had just five hits, the team's defense was able to keep it a close contest.

Right-hander Jason Nall struck out seven Hood River batters, while walking just one.

"I think that was the key to the game, making it a good game, was allowing only the one walk," D'Aboy said.

The Pioneers struck first in the top of the first inning, when, with one out, Rod Schilperoort got aboard with a walk. After two consecutive infield errors, Schilperoort moved to third, with Robby Barrett at second and Wes Kelley at first.

Jason Nall hit into a force play, as Schilperoort scored, giving Paola's a 1-0 lead.

Hood River evened the score in the bottom of the first, then scored once in the second and twice in the third, to take a 4-1 lead over the Pioneers.

In the fifth inning, Paola's scored twice, when, with one out, Schilperoort singled. As Barrett walked, Schilperoort moved to second. Wes Kelley then hit into a fielder's choice, as Schilperoort scored his second run of the evening, moving Barrett to third.

After Nall struck out, Aaron Knotts singled, scoring Barrett and pulling Paola's to within one, 4-3.

But the Pioneers could not muster any more offense and Hood River held on for the win.

Schilperoort claimed two hits, scoring twice. Barrett had one hit and one run scored, while Knotts went 1-for-1 with a run batted in and Doug Cassidy went 1-for-2.

On Friday, a home game between Paola's and Barlow was rained out.

Last Wednesday, Paola's traveled to The Dalles and "played the worst game of the year," according to D'Aboy.

"We played our worst game of the year and our best game of the year, back to back," he said.

In the game, shortened to just four innings because of the 10-runs-in-an-inning rule, The Dalles clobbered Paola's 16-2 as the Pioneers committed nine errors and allowed 15 unearned runs.

In addition, the Paola's pitching staff combined to allow nine walks in those four innings.

The Pioneers had just four hits, two from Knotts and one apiece from Barrett and Robert Rising. Rising highlighted the Pioneers' scarce offense with a 390-foot triple that was just a short hop away from clearing the fence.

D'Aboy said he wasn't displeased with his team's season and sees some good things for the future.

"We could have easily won three or four more games if we had the experience and had made the key plays," he said.

Football camp slated at Sandy High stadium

Applicants are being sought to participate in the Black Attack Football Camp, which will be held Monday through Friday mornings at Sandy High School's Pop Rannow Stadium.

The camp is a non-contact, fundamental skill camp open to male athletes who will be entering the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grades in the upcoming year.

Those interested in participating may sign up Monday at 9 a.m. at the stadium. Cost of the program is \$30 per person. The camp features the

Sandy High football staff, headed by head coach Mike Funderburg.

Participants will be furnished a camp T-shirt. They need to report in practice shorts and either football or tennis shoes. All other equipment will be furnished.

The purpose of the camp is to create an environment in the learning of football fundamentals.

The camp runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will include drills, guest speakers and awards.

Junior team from Welches to play at state playoffs

Cox Auction of Welches, an Oregon Junior American League baseball team, will compete at the state level this weekend after winning the district playoff tournament last Thursday at Rockwood.

The team, coached by Ron Banzer and Bob Knudsen, defeated Lynch 6-4 in the district playoffs, with strong relief pitching from Matt Tenhonen and a home run by Ryan Barker.

Cox Auction also beat Rockwood II 10-8 in the Wednesday game.

The Welches team had some "excellent clutch pitching" from Jason Banzer and Andy Barker, said Dan Barker, team spokesman. Tenhonen hit a grand slam home run in the game to help Cox Auction win in come-from-behind fashion.

The team's record went to 15-5 overall. With the wins in the district playoffs, Welches earned the right to compete in the Oregon Junior American State Championship in Cornelius.

Large chinook run expected

Upriver chinook — The best fall chinook run in 40 years will enter the Columbia River beginning in August, biologists with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife predict.

Leading the charge will be chinook bound for the upper Columbia. These fish, known as upriver brights, could number more than 400,000 — the best return since the late 1940s.

Lower river hatchery chinook, called tules, also are showing a big recovery. Biologists forecast a run of almost 300,000 — the biggest since the 1950s.

The sport salmon fishing season

starts Aug. 1 from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upriver to the Oregon/Washington border, but fish are not expected to enter the river in sizeable numbers until later in the month.

Fishing begins in the lower river below the bridge Aug. 16. By that time, the vanguard of a 750,000 chinook run should be heading in. Anglers at Buoy 10 on the Columbia bar will enjoy a 30,000-chinook catch quota, in effect from Aug. 16 through Sept. 6. That limit is three times greater than the 1986 quota. Catch quotas will be dropped beginning on

Labor Day (Sept. 7), and the sport harvest should continue to rise.

There will be no limit on the coho salmon harvest for the Buoy 10 fishery this year. Biologists expect the catch to reach 90,000 fish.

Ocean anglers off the Washington coast are already seeing the effects of the big chinook run with catches that are almost too good. Washington fishery managers have tightened angling regulations north of Leadbetter Point to slow down the chinook harvest and prolong the sport season.

Chinook catches in ocean waters off the Columbia River between Cape

Falcon, near Manzanita, and Leadbetter Point in southwest Washington have also been better than average. No immediate regulation changes are planned in that fishery zone, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Once they enter the river, fall chinook do not have the reputation as good biters on sport tackle, other than in the Buoy 10 area. But the sheer number of fish available should bring better than usual catches in upriver areas this year, says Oregon