

Sandy team heads for state playoffs

Division II squad wins tie-breaker to gain spot in Eugene tournament

Sandy's Division II Junior State team is bound for the state baseball playoffs this weekend in Eugene.

Sandy, sponsored by Gresham Ford, finished its regular season tied for second place in its conference with Aloha's Reedville, each with a record of 11-4.

The team qualified for the state tournament Friday by defeating Reedville in a tie-breaker contest at Sandy, 12-2.

Sandy scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning. With one out, Pete Rusaw and Rickey Wheeler each singled. After Aaron Knotts walked, the bases were loaded.

Ty Wallace then nailed a fly ball to left field which was dropped and Rusaw scored on the error, giving Sandy a 1-0 lead.

Mike Senn then singled, driving in Wheeler and Knotts and upping Sandy's lead to 3-0.

Jeff Spanier grounded out to the shortstop, but Wallace scored on the play. Following an out, Sandy led 4-0.

Reedville scored once in the top of the third, cutting Sandy's advantage to 4-1.

But, in the bottom half of the inning, Sandy picked up a trio of runs on two hits, including a triple by Knotts, and three Reedville errors. It upped its lead to 7-1.

In the fourth, Mack Jernigan led off with a single and a stolen base. Reedville then walked three Sandy batters and committed a pair of errors, allowing Sandy to score four additional runs en route to the 12-2 triumph.

Sandy played "outstanding" defense, said coach Clyde Rusaw. The team committed just one error.

Wheeler was Sandy's starting pitcher and was relieved in the third inning by Ty Beckley. Both pitchers were effective against Reedville, allowing just the two runs.

In this weekend's state tournament at Eugene's Sheldon Meadows, Sandy will play Springfield Friday at 3:30 p.m. Dependant upon scheduling, Sandy will play Saturday either at 10:30 a.m. or 4:30 p.m.

During the regular season, Sandy's team won five of its last six games, each game being played against the league's top three teams.

Knotts won the team's triple crown, leading Sandy in batting average (.432), home runs (2) and runs batted in (16). He also had an on-base average of .672, leading the team.

In addition to Knotts, Pete Rusaw, Jesse Schiel, Wheeler and Wallace also had seasons of batting .300 or better.



Staff photos by Dave Magnuson

Participants in the Black Attack Football Camp take part in an offense drill Tuesday at Pop Rannow Stadium. The camp is a week-long experience that is designed to help young players hone their football skills.

Football camp stresses fun

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

About 30 young football players are taking part in the Black Attack Football Camp this week at Pop Rannow Stadium.

The players participating in the camp will be entering the sixth through ninth grades this fall. Each participant received a camp T-shirt and will receive, in all, about 30 hours of instruction and drills. The cost of the camp is about \$1 an hour.

The camp is a 3- to 3½-hour daily workout, sponsored by the Sandy High School football program. It started Monday and will continue through Friday.

According to the camp brochure, the purpose of the camp is to "create an enthusiastic environment for the learning of good football fundamentals. Skills, technique and fun will be emphasized."

Camp coordinator and Sandy football coach Mike Funderburg would be the first to say that the camp is strictly fun and very little, if any, business.

"We're not really looking for any specific talent," Funderburg said. "The kids are upcoming freshmen and we want to get them pumped up. If they have a positive experience, they can tell their friends how much fun it was, (and) we can get them out for football."

Funderburg is aided by some members of Sandy's coaching staff, who are on hand to help the players. Also helping out are some of the players from the high school, who play a key role in the camp, Funderburg said.

"It helps to always have a few of the older kids down here," Funderburg said. "It kind of gives (the younger athletes) the chance to be around those kids and not feel so intimidated when they actually start football (at the high school level).



Sandy assistant football coaches Greg O'Meara and John Rohr share a laugh in the camp, which emphasizes fun.

"Without us having a junior high football program, there's a little intimidation factor and I think we overcome a lot of that by going (to

the camp)."

Learning how to play the sport of football is obviously important at the camp. But what are some of the

lessons of life the young athletes are finding out about?

"First of all, being around coaches, learning a little bit of the discipline: when the coach talks, pay attention; some of those things," Funderburg said.

Again, Funderburg wants to emphasize that, although this is a football camp, there's more to life than football. Football can be used as a parallel and a tool to use throughout life.

"I always try to talk a little bit about the things about attitude. Not necessarily just football, but if you want to be a winner in life."

"I try to prepare them a little bit for when the school year starts, too, because the kids are going to be freshmen. It's a big change from junior high coming to high school, and it's real easy to get lost in the shuffle," he said.

Funderburg says he has fun with the camp because the object is neither to scrutinize the players' abilities nor to recruit. Little coaching actually is done; it is mostly teaching.

He said that the teaching can be humorous because the younger players' talents are not as developed as the players on his high school team.

For example, when they are put on the spot at quarterback, some players forget that it is "Hut, hut" that comes after "Ready, set."

"You've just got to kind of stand back and remove yourself from the situation, just laugh and say: 'Hey, no problem, buddy.' The thing you've got to do is pat them on their back, keep it fun and keep it in perspective," Funderburg said.

"The kids are paying to be here to have some fun."

"Our goal isn't to come down hard on them. Our goal is just to give them their money's worth, have fun and learn some football."

Welches Little League squad finishes sixth

The Welches Junior American Little League baseball team, composed of 11- and 12-year-olds, took sixth place in the Oregon State Junior American Tournament last weekend in Cornelius.

The eight-team, double-elimination tournament paired Welches with Beaverton in the first-round contest. Welches was beaten by Beaverton 9-5, sending Welches to the losers' bracket.

Beaverton got out to a 4-0 advantage before Welches scored in the top of the third inning.

After a strikeout and two walks, Ryan Barker singled home the two players who walked, pulling Welches to within two runs, 4-2.

But Beaverton added four runs in the bottom of the third to up its lead to 8-2.

Welches countered in the top of the fourth with two runs. With the bases loaded, one Welches player walked and another was hit by a pitch, adding two runs to Welches' tally, 8-4.

In the top of the fifth, Welches' Matt Tenhonen nailed a solo home run, pulling his team to within three, 8-5.

Beaverton added another run in the bottom of the fifth and eventually won, 9-5.

"Our early game really hit us hard," said Ron Banzer, Welches coach. "We had some tough competition, there's no doubt about it."

Welches' second game was more of a success for Banzer and his crew, as the team came from behind to earn an 8-4 victory.

Hillsboro scored one run in each of the first and second innings, taking a 2-0 lead.

Tenhonnen scored on a Landon Lythgoe fielder's choice play in the bottom of the second, pulling Welches to within one, 2-1.

After Hillsboro scored another run in the top of the fourth, Welches tied up the game on runs scored by Jack Knudsen and Jason Banzer, who were driven in by a two-RBI single by Tenhonen, sealing the contest 3-3.

In the bottom of the fifth, Jesse Logan led off with a single and was followed by a home run by Adam Cox, giving Welches a 5-3 lead. Then Mike Emery singled and Ryan Barker singled as Emery scored.

Jason Banzer then doubled home Barker. Tenhonen grounded into a fielder's choice, scoring Banzer from second and adding to Welches' lead, 8-3.

Hillsboro added another run in the top of the sixth, but it was not enough as Welches stayed alive in the tournament with the 8-4 triumph.

Welches was eliminated from the tournament in a game against the host team, Cornelius. Welches had a 6-5 lead after 2½ innings, but Cornelius scored nine runs in its next three innings, winning decidedly, 14-6.

"That was the end of the rally for us," Banzer said. "I felt good about the season. I feel that when you're winning 50 percent of your games, you're doing OK."

The Welches team finished second in its league, but won first-place honors in the district tournament held July 18-19 at Rockwood. Overall, Welches was 16-7 and had a six-game winning streak going into the state tournament.

1st place

Sandy II, a Dairy Queen-sponsored Little League team in the senior American division, surrounds a trophy that the team won upon claiming first place in the Tri-County Senior American League. But, in the state tournament held at Putnam High School in Milwaukie, Sandy II lost to Tillamook in the first round, 3-1, and to Estacada in the consolation bracket, 6-4, being eliminated from the tournament. Front row from left are: Aaron Manley, Loren Schilperoord, Ty Gunesch, Paul Koch and Chad Cole. Middle row: Nolan Mitchell, Stephen Modjeski, Ben Rising and Bill Backus. Back row: Roger Schilperoord, Twyla Manley, Kristy Manley, Steve Backus. Not pictured: Aaron Knotts, Cam Meyer and Chris Ulrich.



Volleyball camp at MHCC still has several openings

A number of openings are still available for Mt. Hood Community College's summer volleyball camp, scheduled for Aug. 3-7 in the MHCC gymnasium.

The day camp, designed for ages 11 through 17, will focus on the basics of volleyball taught through drill work, game participation and individual instruction.

Leading the camp will be Lynda Johnson, MHCC women's volleyball coach. Johnson came on at MHCC this past spring after former head coach Dorian Harris stepped down. The three-time all-American excell-

ed at Portland State University and later went on to coach at the University of California, Berkeley.

Mary Shearer, the assistant volleyball coach at MHCC and a teammate of Johnson's at PSU, also will assist at the camp.

Sessions will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the week. Camp participants are asked to bring their own lunches for a meal break during the day. The cost is \$30.

For details on registration, call the MHCC athletic department at 667-7450.

Local residents win trophies

Three Sandy residents claimed trophies Sunday in a soap box derby rally race at Salem.

Eric Rolofson, 10, earned a fourth-place trophy in the junior division, while Amy York, 9, took fifth place in the junior division.

Amy Rigby, 14, took first place in

the senior division.

Since it was not an international competition, racers in the Salem derby could have been aged 8 through 72. International competition allows only 9- through 14-year-olds.

The next race in Salem will be Saturday, Sept. 19.