

Changes expected for Charger game

Pioneers get ready for Columbia following loss to Central Catholic

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

In an effort to solidify the Sandy Pioneers football team's front line, Sandy coach Mike Funderburg has been busy this week making some changes.

Those changes, he hopes, will be effective in stopping the winless but scrappy Columbia Chargers, who travel to Sandy Friday to take on the 1-2 Pioneers in Mount Hood Conference football action.

Funderburg said he is adding, subtracting and maneuvering some bodies around on the offensive line because of its performance against the visiting Central Catholic Rams Friday night, when Sandy was defeated 33-0.

The poor performance of the line was reminiscent of two weeks previous, when the Reynolds Lancers dismantled the Pioneer line en route to victory.

"Our offensive line played like they did two weeks ago, they just stunk," Funderburg said Tuesday. "Our backfield didn't have a chance. They went one step and (were) tackled, no matter what play we ran, just about."

"We're capable of running our offense really well, when we want to," he added. "The kids were in the trenches this week. I don't care who you had; you could've had Joe Montana at quarterback and Walter Payton at tailback and it wouldn't have mattered, when the line doesn't block."

"There'll be some people at some new positions on the line this week," he said. "You can't have that type of performance."

The Rams came to Sandy undefeated and definitely showed it. Central Catholic showed that the elements were no problem, as the rain came down by the gallon. But it was all sunshine for the Rams, as they proved their statewide recognition by shutting out the Pioneers.

Combined, the two teams' passing performance was as ugly as the weather. Out of 28 combined attempts, just four wet passes were caught, therefore giving the Rams the advantage. Central Catholic is unquestionably a running team, while Sandy is a pass-oriented squad.

Ram running backs Vic Rust and Matt Jones provided three-quarters of Central Catholic's 153 rushing yards. Sandy accumulated just 12 yards on the ground.

And even those 12 yards were hard-earned. The team's rushing savior

was a fourth-quarter 24-yard gainer by junior tailback Rob Barrett, highlighting the Pioneers' day.

Everything else, however, was easily forgettable.

Rust and Jones each scored two touchdowns, while Central Catholic's Scott Gilsdorf ran in a 30-yard interception return for the score. Ram kicker Mike Hill made three of five point-after-touchdown attempts, giving the Rams their 33 points.

"To give 33 points and for us to not score anything was unbelievable," Funderburg said. "My guess is (the Rams) will be league champs. But I think we made them look better than they are. I was really disappointed in our play."

The game against the Rams was the worst defeat Funderburg has been associated with. But the Pioneers' job now is to put the past aside and focus on the Chargers.

"We can't dwell on last week. Now we've got to get ready for Columbia," Funderburg said. "We need to take them one game at a time."

Columbia is winless, but to date has been the league surprise by holding tough to three of the league's toughest. In their first game, the Chargers lost to defending MHC champs Barlow 14-12. The following week, they lost to always-tough Gresham 20-16. And last week, Columbia fell to Reynolds 6-3. In three games, they are losing by a field goal a game.

"Columbia's 0-3, but geez, they've played everybody tough," Funderburg admitted. "They could beat us. If we don't play well, they'll beat us. If we play well, it'll be a good game."

Columbia boasts a fine option-running team, which is equally good rushing and passing. According to Funderburg, the Chargers have been employing a newly developed wishbone offense, which utilizes the talents of Columbia running back Keith Crocker.

The Chargers are coached by Dan Baker, a Sandy resident.

Following the game against Central Catholic, it was learned that Pioneer tailback Darren Buckner was lost for the season with a knee injury sustained in the game.

At the beginning of the season, Buckner was projected to be the team's No. 1 rusher. With the injury, running duties will fall upon Barrett and Robert "Flea" Rodriguez, with Nick Phillips helping out.



In vain, Tanya Schwartz (left) and Kate Cliff try to block a Centennial hit last Thursday evening.

Sandy trips Parkrose in volleyball

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

It was a long time in coming, but the Sandy Pioneers volleyball team Tuesday won its first match in 2½ weeks by defeating the Parkrose Broncos in Mount Hood Conference action.

With the 8-15, 15-5, 15-4 triumph, Sandy's MHC record improved to 2-4. Since their last win against David Douglas Sept. 10, the Pioneers have lost games to four ranked teams, Gresham, Reynolds, Barlow and Centennial.

The victory is seen as the first win of a renewed season, says Pioneer hitter Renae Aschoff, whose performance Tuesday was instrumental in the Sandy win.

"It's a new feeling now," Aschoff said. "This is our new season, starting right now."

The Broncos pulled out to a 10-2 lead in the first game, taking advantage of defensive errors committed by Sandy. The Pioneers then managed to outscore Parkrose 5-2 with good plays by Melissa Schwartz, Tanya Schwartz and Ali Lake, pulling to 12-7.

However, Parkrose went on to win the opening set, 15-8.

In the second game, the Broncos led 5-4 before Aschoff delivered one of her almost-trademark fingertip spikes to even the game. Then Aschoff served up three aces in six serves, en route to a 10-5 Pioneer advantage.

After a Parkrose side-out, junior Kim Kennedy served for five additional Sandy points, squaring the match at one game apiece, 15-5.

In each of the games, Parkrose earned the early lead. The Broncos got out to a 2-0 lead in the third game and that was the last time in the match they had the upper hand on the Pioneers.

Sandy rallied four straight points with Lake serving before Parkrose outscored the Pioneers 2-1, as Sandy maintained the lead 5-4.

Then the Pioneers' intensity grew, as Tanya Schwartz and Lake each earned two service points and Melissa Schwartz finished the match with the six service points remaining, giving the Pioneers their first win in 19 days, 15-4.

"I don't think we played to our potential, for sure," said Warren Johnson, Pioneer coach. "Always in the past, we've had a hard time getting going on the first point and that's something we're going to be working on."

"That game starts when that whistle is blown," he said. "I think we did a good job of pulling together, playing tough when we needed to. I hated to give up that first game, though."

Next for the Pioneers is Central Catholic in a home match Thursday evening. The Rams are not ranked, but provide a difficult road to victory. Aschoff said she thinks the Tuesday win will be a boost for the Pioneers.

"We're pretty psyched up for Central Catholic," she said. "We will be ready for them and try to carry it through."

In other MHC action last Thursday, Sandy traveled to Centennial and lost its fourth straight match to the Eagles, 15-13 and 15-6.

Sandy girls tie David Douglas in conference soccer match

Nothing was settled Tuesday afternoon in the Mount Hood Conference league opener, as the David Douglas Scots battled the Sandy Pioneers girls soccer team to a 1-1 tie on Pioneer soil.

"We did real well, but we certainly couldn't get the soccer ball into the hole," said Robert Karsten, Sandy's coach. "(David Douglas was) probably 10 times better a team than I thought."

"They caught us off-guard."

The Scots took the lead in the latter part of the first half with a goal. Halftime came and went before the Pioneers claimed their kick that made it a deadlock.

Sophomore forward Erin Burke received a cross-kick pass from junior forward Melinda Kai and then booted it past the David Douglas

goalkeeper for the game-tying goal in the first portion of the second half.

Sandy had more opportunities to score than the Scots had, but it simply could not get the ball into the net, which Karsten said was distressing.

"Until we learn how to get the ball into the goal, we won't win," he said. "We have the skill and ability, but we won't do it until we're ready."

"We started off with our plan, but (the Scots) took us off our plan and it took us awhile to get back to our plan. But we should've scored more than once," Karsten said.

Karsten praised the work of Burke and Kai, along with the playmaking of junior midfielder Denise Toyooka and the defense of junior Suzee Adkins.

"Suzee Adkins played her greatest game," Karsten said. "If she

would've been backed up, they wouldn't have had a chance."

In a non-league match last Thursday at Sandy, the Pioneers competed against Marshall's Minutemen of the Portland Interscholastic League.

Marshall played rough, Karsten said, and defeated the Pioneers 4-0.

"They were attempting to injure our players," Karsten said. "It was an ugly game. There was very little skill but a lot of abusive playing."

"Sports is not simply winning and a lot of coaches don't seem to get that."

The Pioneers are 2-2-3 overall and 0-0-1 in league competition. Their next contest is a road match against the McKay Royal Scots of the Valley League Thursday afternoon before returning to MHC play on Tuesday at Gresham.

Boys team victorious over Scots

The Sandy Pioneers boys soccer team earned a win in its Mount Hood Conference opener Tuesday night against the hosting David Douglas Scots.

"It was great. We loved it," said Lon Welsh, Pioneer coach. "David Douglas is an improved team and they gave us everything we ever wanted."

The first half went scoreless before the Scots scored a goal 11 minutes into the second half, taking the 1-0 lead.

With 16 minutes to go, junior forward Tony Stadstad took a cross pass from junior midfielder Sean Reynolds, then Stadstad kicked the ball into the net to square the match 1-1.

Later, with less than two minutes to play, the left wing Reynolds dribbled the ball across the midfield line and took the ball all the way past the Scots goalkeeper for the go-ahead

goal, 2-1.

Then Pioneer goalie Roger Edwards made some good stops at the goal, preventing the Scots from tying the match and Sandy held on to win by one goal.

Welsh said he was pleased but is not going to become overconfident in his players.

"We're not spectacular by any way, shape or form. We're lucking out our wins," he said. "It's just going to be a lot of work. Every game will be tough and we will have to fight to win the whole way."

Welsh commended the work of junior defender Paul Gunderson and senior midfielder Mike Beck.

In a non-league match last Thursday at Marshall, the Pioneers managed a 3-1 victory over the Minutemen. But Welsh said the Pioneers made Marshall a better-looking team than they were.

"Marshall's not a very strong team," he said. "We won, but we won ugly."

Reynolds, Stadstad and sophomore forward Fernando Hodgson each registered goals for the Pioneers. Team captain Bill Fisher collided with one of his teammates and sustained a cut on his nose, having to take a few stitches.

Welsh said his team's problem against Marshall was overconfidence.

"I think we were looking beyond Marshall," he said. "We tend to have those games once in a while. I hope to get those out of our system."

Next for Sandy is another non-league match at home against the Molalla Indians Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. Then Sandy hosts the Gresham Gophers Tuesday, resuming its MHC match play.



Staff photo by Dave Magnuson

Michael Estes returns a serve in backhand fashion Sunday at Rippling River Resort.

Resort holds tennis tournament

WELCHES — At Rippling River Resort, 19 area residents competed in the Wretched Wround Wrobin Tennis Tournament Saturday and Sunday, a tournament sponsored by the resort for local people and organized by Jim Williams.

"We had a good time," said Mic Eby, Rippling River's recreation director. "It was a lot of fun to watch. We really had some good competition."

In the mens singles, Murlan Grise took first place, while Michel Durelle claimed second place. Eby and partner Bill Yoder were the mens doubles champions, while Bill Holbert and Durelle were the

runners up.

Grise teamed up with Atsuko Bursett and won the mixed doubles competition, with Karla Becker and Michael Estes coming in second.

In womens competition, Erin Burke won singles, while Bursett was second. In doubles, Becker and Bursett claimed first-place honors, with Burke and Sue Jones coming in second.

Eby said the idea behind the tournament was to have fun. "I think we did that," he said.

"The whole thing was primarily designed to introduce people to each other," Eby said.

Organizers of the tournament expected 12 to 15 people to attend, so

when 19 arrived, Eby said the event was a success.

Plans for next year include holding two tournaments and forming the Rippling River Racquet Club. The resort is looking for people who want to be members of the club.

As for winning the mens doubles in the tournament, Eby said he felt uncomfortable because he originally had not planned to participate. He was only going to help with the behind-the-scenes aspect of the tournament. Then he was urged by others to play and wound up winning.

"I really feel guilty about winning it," Eby said.