

The Sandy Post

Sports and Recreation

Pioneers' season ends with overtime loss

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

Sandy Pioneers football coach Mike Funderburg went out in style Friday night, as the visiting Barlow Bruins barely escaped the Pioneers' grasp in a double-overtime 34-28 triumph at W.E. "Pop" Rannow Stadium.

Funderburg announced a few weeks ago that he would resign as Sandy coach, a job he has held for four years. He has coached 36 games at Sandy, and his final one against Barlow should provide a distinct memory.

The Bruins were heavily favored going into the game, but the Pioneers proved the spread wrong by forcing the game into overtime and employing strong defense in overtime, despite the loss.

Barlow got on the board first with three touchdowns, the first of which was a 53-yard reception by Tim Osburn from quarterback Doug Greene, who amassed 149 yards passing for the evening. All of the Bruins' three touchdowns were scored less than 8 minutes into the game.

Prior to a 23-yard breakaway touchdown run by Sandy fullback Rob Barrett with 6:19 to go in the second period, Barlow owned a 21-0 lead. After a missed point-after attempt by Pioneer kicker Randy Wheeler, that lead was cut to 21-6.

The Pioneers were starting to come alive at that point, cutting Barlow drives short and holding the Bruins scoreless until the half. But Sandy was unable to put any more points on the board in the second quarter, and the halftime score remained 21-6.

At the beginning of the third quarter, the Pioneers' kickoff was returned into Sandy territory. Soon after, however, Sandy defensive end Tony Hale intercepted a Greene pass at the 43-yard line and then sprinted for the touchdown with 10:35 to go in the quarter. Wheeler then faked a

point-after try and found Hale in the end zone for a 2-point conversion pass. Sandy trailed 21-14.

Barlow then played slow-down offense. Starting at their own 30-yard line, the Bruins meandered 60 yards in nine plays, taking about 4 minutes off the clock. Then, with 6:18 to go, Greene connected with a diving Osburn in the end zone for the 10-yard touchdown reception. Greene kicked the extra point and Barlow upped its lead to 28-14.

The Bruins held their 14-point lead for the remainder of the third quarter and through 8 minutes of the fourth.

But with 3:59 to go in regulation time, Hale again intercepted a pass and again ran it the distance for a touchdown. It was a 55-yard return. Wheeler's point-after attempt looked good from the sidelines, but the official called it wide right and the Pioneers settled at a 28-20 deficit.

Immediately after, Sandy regained the ball on a successful on-side kick attempt. After a Barlow punt-team lineman touched the ball, Pioneer Todd Tracy recovered it at the 50-yard line.

The Pioneers were then pushed back into a fourth-and-15 situation and decided to go for the first down since only 2½ minutes remained.

On the fourth down, Sandy quarterback Andy Funderburg took the snap, handed off to Barrett, who reversed to Wheeler, who tossed the ball 35 yards into Hale's arms for the first down. It was perhaps the most beautiful play of the Sandy season.

Funderburg then completed a 19-yard pass to Wheeler, which set up a 1-yard touchdown plunge by Barrett with 2:04 to go.

Still, Sandy was down 28-26 after the touchdown and had to go for the two-point conversion. Once again, Hale was the hero, taking a handoff from Funderburg and running it past the goal line, tying the score 28-28.

Then, with 1:23 to go, Sandy linebacker Ken Burchett intercepted a pass at the Pioneer 48. But Sandy



Sandy defensive tackle Erik Zimmerman (75) and guard Curt Reynolds (72) grab a hold of Barlow quarterback Doug Greene on a keeper play.

penalties hindered the Pioneers' effort to get into field goal range. Time expired and the game was sent into overtime.

In Oregon high school football overtime periods, the Kansas Plan is utilized. Each team starts at the opponent's 10-yard line and has four downs with which to achieve the best possible score.

Sandy won the coin toss and elected to play defense on the first attempt. Barlow managed just three yards

before a fourth-down pass attempt from Greene to Matt Takahashi was incomplete in the end zone.

The Pioneers then had their shot. Sandy also managed just three yards before Wheeler was brought out for the field goal. Prior to the snap, Barlow was penalized for being off-side. The Pioneers declined the penalty because Wheeler felt more comfortable kicking a 24-yard field goal than a 20-yard attempt.

Unfortunately for the Pioneers,

Wheeler's kick was unquestionably wide right, sending the game into its second overtime.

This time, Barlow won the flip and Sandy started. On the Pioneers' first play, Funderburg's pass was intercepted by Bruin safety Tim Ragina, ending the Pioneers' attempt.

On Barlow's first play, Greene was sacked by Sandy defensive end Art Skipper for a loss of 10 yards.

But, after an incomplete pass,

Greene found split end Craig Reasor in the end zone for the game-winning touchdown.

The loss was both heartbreaking and heartwarming for Sandy, as its record dropped to 2-7 overall, finishing the season.

"I think this was a good game to end our season on, with a positive note," said Hale.

"It wasn't a downer for us (but) I wish we would've gotten it."

Spikers avenge an earlier loss

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

TROUTDALE — It was a rebuilding season for the Sandy Pioneers volleyball team. Just ask the Columbia Chargers, whom the Pioneers defeated 15-10 and 15-5, in the final Mount Hood Conference match of the season last Thursday.

Earlier this season, the Chargers had defeated Sandy in an MHC match played on Oct. 6.

But the Pioneers, who had greatly improved since that time, surprised the Chargers Thursday with their alert passing and hitting, much to the delight of Warren Johnson, who wrapped up his first season as Sandy's head coach.

"It's nice to finish up with a win and I think that's really what our goal was," said Johnson, whose Pioneers finished 6-10 in MHC matches. "We did a lot of things right out there. I was real happy with how we played and it feels good to win."

Columbia started off the first game with a 1-0 lead, but it was the Chargers' only lead of the game, as Sandy's consistency and strong hits powered the Pioneer attack. Sandy earned service on a spike by Jenny Sah. Then junior hitter Renae Aschoff slammed back-to-back spikes, giving the Pioneers a 2-1 lead.

Sandy pulled out to a 6-1 lead, with good hits coming from Trixie Meier and Tanya Schwartz.

The Chargers then cut Sandy's lead to 6-4, taking advantage of Pioneer errors. Despite the errors, Sandy had a good save by Sandy Edgren and Lake, as Edgren kept alive a low-hit ball and Lake dug it out of the net, making a seemingly unplayable ball playable.

After Sandy got service back, Schwartz earned three straight points for her team on her acute kills and blocks.

The Pioneers then rallied another trio of points, getting out to a 12-4 lead.

The Chargers pulled back to 12-8. Later, Schwartz served an ace that was followed by two more Columbia points, as Sandy led 13-10.

Aschoff then tipped a ball which landed in fair Columbia territory, earning a Sandy side-out. She then sizzled a ball past the Charger defense and spiked one with a little less intensity as the Pioneers won the first game, 15-10.

Sandy had less trouble in the second game, despite being down 3-2 in the game. But with freshman Michelle Buckner serving, the Pioneers rallied five consecutive points, including two aces.

The teams battled to a 8-5 Sandy lead before Lake served for another five straight points. Aschoff earned three points on her hitting prowess, while Lake served a short, blooming ace.

After Columbia regained the serving duties, Sandy's Kate Clift spiked one to give the Pioneers side-out.

With Aschoff serving, Columbia could not return a Pioneer hit and Clift again came through, with a match-point stuff of a Chargers' hit. As Sandy won the second game 15-5, the Pioneers earned their third win in four matches.

"It really does feel good to win," Johnson said. "I'm real excited about next season. I learned a lot and I plan to continue that process."

"We'll have a better team next year, in terms of knowledge and experience. It would be nice to be playing in the playoffs and I expect to do that next year."



Sandy's Sandy Edgren concentrates on serving the ball at Columbia High School last Thursday.

Coach says many lessons learned this season

What easily could have been a distressing season for a new volleyball coach turned out to be a triumphant one in the area of education.

The Sandy Pioneers finished 6-10 in the Mount Hood Conference season, which proved that the 1987 season was a transition season from the 1986 year that included a second-place finish in the MHC.

But many players from the 1986 team were not on the 1987 squad, thus creating an inexperienced team. And, since Sandy coach Warren Johnson was a first-year coach,

he could have been placed in a negative spotlight.

But the result was quite the opposite, as Johnson helped the team to learn how to be competitive and to learn, as the axiom goes, that "winning isn't everything."

"Hindsight, like they say, is 20/20 and I learned that with experience, you learn a lot," Johnson said. "As a coach I feel I've learned a lot."

One of the lessons to be learned concerned teamwork.

"As a team, we've become more experienced and we began to play real cohesively and everybody

knew how to pull together," he said.

Johnson added that the team learned a few things the hard way this season.

"The 6-10 season very easily have could've been a 4-12 season or an 8-8 season," he said. "It was real exciting and a real positive experience for me."

Next year's varsity team will have more varsity experience at the beginning of the season than this year's team did.

Of course, that does not always guarantee a winning season, but Johnson leaves this season with a

good feeling.

"I'm excited for next year," he said. "Next year looks really good on the varsity level and the (junior varsity) level."

The junior varsity coach this year was Gary Curtis, who was instrumental in aiding Johnson through his first coaching assignment.

"A lot of what Gary Curtis' goal is . . . to develop players into varsity athletes," Johnson said. "I think he did a really good job of preparing those girls for varsity."

New faces coming for football team

Many new faces will show up next year in the Sandy High School football program.

One of the faces will be a new head coach, who likely will be selected from the current Pioneer coaching staff. Most of the remaining new faces on the 1988 varsity will be from this year's junior varsity.

Bob D'Abooy was the JV head coach and, along with defensive coordinator John Smith and volunteer assistant Kress Drew, he guided the 1987 JVs to a 2-7 record, a record that does not necessarily reflect the team's ability, since many of the games were close.

The Pioneers gained their first win against in a 40-7 romp. Later in the season, the Pioneers shut out the Clackamas Cavaliers, 13-0, in a non-league game.

But there were three losses during the season that were decided by a touchdown or less. In the first week, Reynolds won 12-8 and one of the Lancers' scores was a 75-yard interception return.

Midway through the season, David Douglas beat Sandy 14-12. The Pioneers had the ball on the Scots' 1-yard line three times during the game but could not punch it through.

The third close game was the final one last Thursday at Barlow, where

the undefeated Bruins won 19-13.

"We just came up short in those games," D'Abooy said. "They kept their positive attitude and it showed in our last game against Barlow. We can play with some of our big boys."

As far as the impact on next year's varsity, of course only time will tell.

"There will be a lot of inexperience on the varsity, in terms of not having a lot of varsity players," D'Abooy said. "But they want to learn, they want to improve and, if they spend some time in the off-season, it's going to make for a promising year."

Some of those players who show promise on offense are: tackle Darren Van Nevele; the backfield trio of Danny Rodriguez, Eric Reynolds and Charlie Zulauf; quarterback Cory Anderson; and receivers Jesse Schiel and Jeff Spanier.

Defensively, D'Abooy was pleased with the season performances of noseguard Derrick Hager, tackle Rich More, defensive end Steve Amstad, defensive backs Roger Moore and Pete Rusaw and linebacker Chris Brewster.

"The defense came together as a unit and really played well as a defensive unit," D'Abooy said. "Defense was really our strong point."

Sandy runner finishes year with state meet

Kris Kruger, a senior at Sandy High School, ended her prep cross country career Saturday on a high note, competing in the OSAA-U.S. Bank girls state championship meet at Eugene's Lane Community College.

Kruger finished 67th out of 131 individuals in the meet. She covered the 3,000-meter course in 12 minutes, 20 seconds.

Although she did not earn a place in the championship meet, just making it to state fulfilled a goal.

"I didn't really expect it," Kruger said of making it to the state meet. "It was nice after working so hard

during the season. I really needed it."

During the regular cross country season, Kruger was the Sandy Pioneers' leading runner for the girls when she wasn't busy nursing injuries and fighting ailments.

She qualified to compete at state by finishing seventh in the Mount Hood Conference district meet, held Oct. 28 at Blue Lake Park in Fairview. In that meet, Kruger finished in 11:52.

"Realistically, I knew I wasn't a state contender for a place, so just making it was what I wanted," Kruger said.

Softball clinic organized

Eight- to 18-year-old girls interested in participating in a fast-pitch softball clinic can attend a pre-clinic meeting Sunday, Nov. 15, at 1 p.m. at the Sandy Union High School gymnasium.

The format for the clinic will be discussed at the meeting. On the Sundays following the meeting, the clinic will run from noon to 2 p.m. and 2

p.m. to 4 p.m.

In the Boring area, there will be a meeting at the Boring Grade School gymnasium at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 18. The same items will be discussed.

Further information may be obtained by calling Gary Sandblast at 663-3439.