

## Pioneers show potential for winning ways

### Sandy drops a close one to Lancers, beats Eagles

by DAVE MAGNUSON  
Staff writer

TROUTDALE — The Sandy Pioneers are giving other baseball teams in the Mount Hood Conference something to think about.

Sandy came close to knocking off the state's No. 9-ranked team, the Reynolds Lancers, Tuesday, but lapses gave Reynolds a come-from-behind win.

The Pioneers' almost-win against the Lancers, coupled with a 4-1 triumph at Centennial Monday, has elevated Sandy to a higher status in the MHC. And the team is on the verge of putting together the successful season that has eluded so often in the past.

"We're so close to where we're supposed to be," said Pioneer coach Bob D'Abo.

Where is Sandy supposed to be? "(Reynolds) is in second place in league. Potentially, that's where we could be and should be."

Sandy has never been known as a baseball powerhouse, which is something D'Abo would love to see changed.

"Winning is so much an attitude," he said. "Once we believe we can win, it'll happen."

In the game against Reynolds, Sandy, behind the pitching of Mike Senn, jumped out to a 5-1 lead through 4½ innings. In the top of the third inning, Pete Rusaw scored on a single by Ty Beckley. Then, after the second out had been called, Nick Phillips pounded a single, scoring Beckley, and the Pioneers were up 2-0.

After Reynolds had scored a run Wes Kelley hit a solo home run over the left field fence in the fourth inning.

Then, in the fifth inning, Rusaw got on with an error and Tony Hale knocked the game's second round-tripper. Sandy held a 5-1 lead.

But in the bottom of the fifth, Reynolds scored three runs, then threatened to score again, leaving the bases loaded at the end of the inning.

However, it didn't take the Lancers long to load the bases again in the bottom of the sixth. Then, Reynolds' Louie Nasuta hit a single to shallow left field, which was followed by two Pioneer errors. Three Lancers scored, giving Reynolds a 7-5 lead.

Sandy had its chance in the top of the seventh, loading the bases, but could not come up with the clutch play, and Reynolds managed to hold on to the win.

"We should've won that one," D'Abo said. "Mike Senn went out and pitched a good four innings, as is our plan. Our relief pitching just didn't do the job."

**SANDY 4, CENTENNIAL 1:** The Pioneers got their first MHC win Monday by surprising the hosting Eagles.

"We've always played well against Centennial," D'Abo said. "Our defense played really well and Tony Hale pitched seven strong innings."

In the third inning, after Ken Ouder Kirk and Senn walked consecutively, Rusaw hit a sacrifice fly and Ouder Kirk scored, lifting Sandy



Sandy first baseman Tony Hale puts the tag on Doug Greene of the Barlow Bruins Friday.

Photo by Dave Magnuson

to its fragile lead.

Then, in the fourth, Kelley scored on a Rob Barrett single with two out, upping the Pioneers' lead to 2-0.

In the fifth, Senn, who was on second base, moved to third on a Beckley single. Beckley then stole second and the ball from the cat-

cher was overthrown. Senn scored on the error and Beckley moved to third.

Beckley then scored on a passed ball and Sandy held on to win the contest, 4-1.

Of their four runs, the Pioneers had just one RBI.

**BARLOW 7, SANDY 1:** The

Bruins, who had been struggling to find the hits earlier in the season, evidently decided to take it out on the Pioneers by one-hitting host Sandy.

Barlow had a 7-0 lead through 6½ innings before the Pioneers scored on a freak play.

Sandy's one hit was a screaming triple to right by Barrett in the seventh. With two out, Sandy's Sean Peterson struck out, but the Bruin catcher dropped and lost sight of the ball. Peterson made it safely to first and Barrett managed to cross the plate on a play that should have been the final out.

## Marks fall at Sandy Invitational

Traditionally, the Sandy Invitational track and field meet has been a showcase of athletic talent. The marks don't lie, as athletes in Saturday's event preserved tradition by setting nine state and two national bests this year.

Also traditionally, Sandy Pioneers Coach Randy Hutchinson has enjoyed putting on the invitational.

This year, he said he broke with tradition. "We tried to get the invitational together in two days. For 32 teams, it went off better than I ever hoped it would," Hutchinson said, adding that because of the averted teachers strike, which would have canceled the invitational, getting preparations made for the meet was a frustrating task.

"I'm really glad the meet is over with," he said. "It's always been a fun thing for the kids and it's always been real enjoyable for me. I can't really say that this year. The most enjoyable part for me was when it was over."

Still, the nationally recognized marks can help to bring back some of that enjoyment.

Half of the "Gray" sprint sensation from David Douglas, Bob Gray, tied a 1988 national mark in the 110-meter high hurdles, with a 13.7-second clocking. Also, Aloha's Alan Foster claimed a U.S. high in the 1,500-meter run, finishing the race in 3 minutes, 52.1 seconds.

State marks, obviously, also were set those two events, as in the boys 200, 3,000 and high jump and in the girls 400, 1,500, javelin and long jump.

On the local end, Pioneer shot putter Marc Malek set a new Sandy High School record, with a throw of 53 feet, 5½ inches. Malek broke his own record set a couple of weeks ago.

Thrower Art Skipper, who has earned some national renown for his performance in the javelin, took third in the shot (52-0) and not surprisingly first in the javelin, with a throw of 239.9. Malek was sixth in the javelin at 170-7.

Skipper's high this year is 244-4, which is the fourth-best all-time throw in the nation and the best this year.

In the discus, Malek and Paul Weise took fifth and sixth, respectively. Malek threw the disc

148-9 while Weise went 145-2.

Skipper, Malek and Weise combined to score 30 points for the Pioneer boys team, which was good enough for eighth in boys team scoring. David Douglas shocked nobody by winning with 80 points.

"We scored about as many points as I thought we were capable of, so I'm pleased with our performances on the track," Hutchinson said. "They're starting to get competitive and that's where we've been hurting a little bit. It's exciting to see those kids starting to get after it."

On the girls end, Sandy managed just 7 points, which was only a 14th-place showing. The Beaverton Beavers won the girls competition, scoring 75 points.

In the 200, Melinda Kai was fifth with a 27.9-second finish. Janet King was fifth in the shot put at 32-10 and the Pioneers' 400 relay team was also fifth, with a time of 53 seconds flat.

The long jump was won by Oregon City's Karen Alcorn, who set a state best with an 18-9½ leap.

## Softball team falls victim to no-hitter

by DAVE MAGNUSON  
Staff writer

Words are hard to come by after an opposing pitcher hurls a no-hitter in softball, one batter shy of tossing a perfect game.

Coach Gary Curtis knows the feeling, as his Sandy Pioneers were blanked by Becky Hoddevick and the Reynolds Lancers Tuesday, 7-0 at Sandy in Mount Hood Conference action.

"They hit the ball," Curtis said plainly. "We didn't."

Accurately put, no matter how simply. Hoddevick walked just Pioneer catcher Chris Lopez in the third inning and that was the extent of her downfall. Hoddevick struck out 10 of the 22 Sandy batters.

Reynolds scored three runs in the top of the third inning, including a two-run triple to left field by Leslie Preiss.

In the top of the fifth, Reynolds scored three more and had a hard-to-overcome 6-0 lead on the Pioneers.

Reynolds scored once more and contained the win. The Lancers had five hits.

Perhaps the highlight of Sandy's game was in the first inning, when Pioneer second baseman Shannon Baker made a major-league diving stop of a ground ball and managed the put-out at first.

Also, first baseman Monica Merrill made two tough catches and third baseman Tricia Davis had two difficult put-outs from across the diamond.

So, all puns aside, Sandy has all the bases covered. The outfield is fast,

but inexperienced. Only one starting outfielder has any varsity experience — Jami Brittle — and she had been a pitcher regularly at the V-level.

"I've got footspeed, but I don't have the experience in the outfield," Curtis said. "Bu we're not going to fold up our tent and sneak away at night. We're learning from our mistakes."

**'We're not going to fold up our tent and sneak away at night. We're learning from our mistakes.'**

— Gary Curtis

The Pioneers lost to Centennial in a home game Monday, 11-2, scoring both runs in the bottom of the seventh.

It was certainly one of the most forgettable games in Curtis' career, which started when Sandy integrated softball into its spring sports offering.

After scoring one run and with players on second and third, Baker hit a sacrifice fly to center field, scoring Kelli Portinga.

On Friday, Sandy played at Barlow and lost to the Bruins, 3-2. Each team had four hits, but Barlow edged past Sandy for the victory.

The Pioneers travel to face Central Catholic Friday at Normandale Park.

## No wins recorded in tennis

It's been a difficult time for the Sandy Pioneers boys tennis team, as it has lost every Mount Hood Conference match so far this season.

The Pioneers have given up two matches to forfeit — because of the aborted teachers strike — but they also lost four others as well.

Could it be that Sandy isn't progressing as planned?

"Well, I don't know. I thought we were," said Pioneer Coach Wes Williams. "A lot of it now is the point where you've got to prove to your players that it's more important to improve than it is to win."

Sandy suffered its sixth MHC loss of the season Monday at Centennial, being shut out by the Eagles five games to none.

However, in second singles, Ben Fisk went to split sets against the Eagles, who had to come from behind, 6-3, 5-7, 1-6.

Sandy's first doubles team of Volker Henjes and Steve Klaus also split sets, losing to Centennial, 7-5, 3-6, 5-6.

The second doubles team of Mike Hogen and Chris Stone, playing the first time at second doubles, played a tough match but lost in straight sets.

"We need to work on some things," Williams said. "We need to be brave at the net in doubles and we need to do more volleys in practice."

On Friday, the Gresham

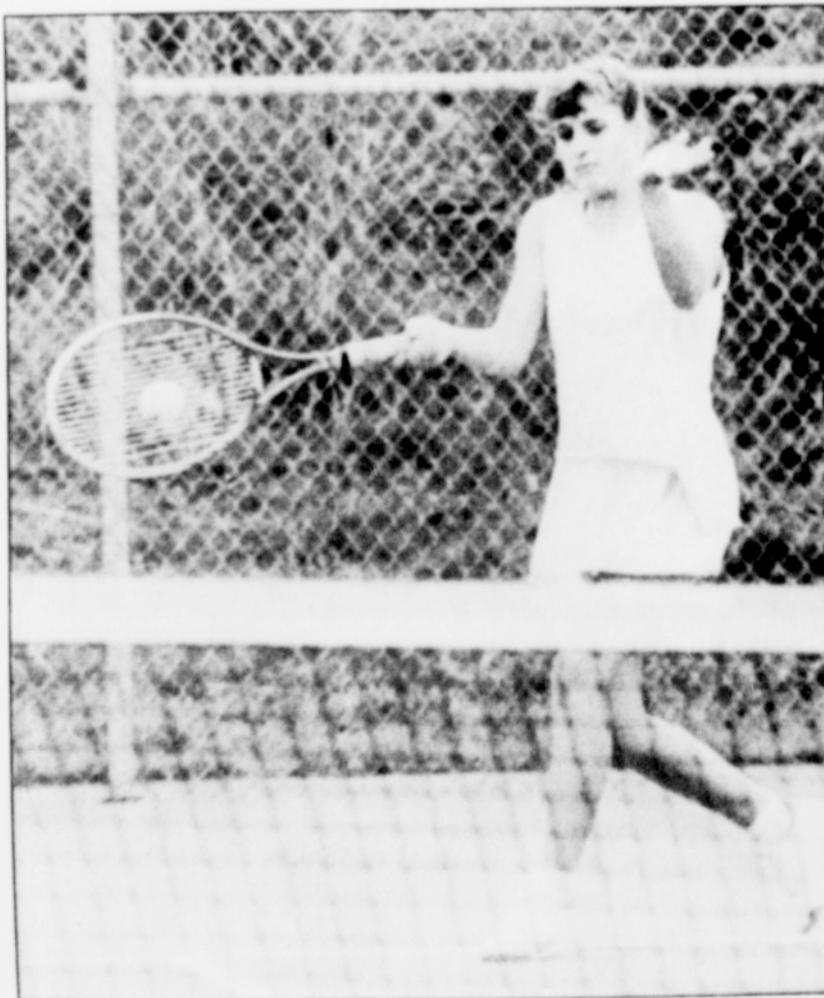


Photo by Dave Magnuson

Second singles player Tracy Buss returns a volley in Monday's contest against Centennial.

Gophers shut out the hosting Pioneers. In first singles, Zoltan Dubrawsky lost after having a one-game advantage, 6-3, 3-6, 6-7.

"It's more important to develop a good, sportsmanlike attitude and to improve," Williams said. "Otherwise, you become defeatist. So that's what we're working on at the moment. We've got nothing to

lose."

Said Dubrawsky: "We'll have a strong second half of the season because, right now, we don't have the right combination."

Sandy's girls team lost Monday to the Eagles, 5-0, but defeated Gresham Friday and Columbia last Wednesday by the same 3-2 score.

## Swimmers take part in meet

Three swimmers representing the Blue Marlin Aquatic Club competed April 7-10 at the 1988 Far Western Short Course swimming championship in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Robyn Hayball, Derek Spires and Jason Smith represented the BMAC in 14 events.

Hayball, in the 15- to 18-year-old age group, beat her previous best in the 200-yard breaststroke by three seconds, finishing in 2 minutes, 37.44 seconds. Hayball also competed in the 100 breaststroke.

Spires, 13-14, was entered in five events, the 200 individual medley, 200 breaststroke, 100 breaststroke, 100 butterfly and 50 freestyle. He received personal-best times in 100 breaststroke while placing fourth in the finals with a time of 1:03.36.

Spires also bettered his time in the 100 butterfly, finishing in 58.61 seconds.

Smith was entered in seven events, setting a new personal-best time in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.4) and placed fourth in the 50 backstroke and 10th in the 100 backstroke.

Only the top eight swimmers in each of the 55-participant events made it to the finals.

"Our swimmers swam extremely well in this high-caliber championship meet with the temperature ranging around the high 80s," said Mark Smith, coach of the Blue Marlins.

The Kiwanis Club of Sandy, the Sandy Optimist Club and the Blue Marlins Parents Group each supported and assisted the trio's trip to California.