

Swing: Seniors expect title run

Continued from Page 10A

Among the improvements, his backhand is more consistent. It was also a moment that helped Cable focus on staying positive during matches and not letting one bad shot turn into a lost game.

"I need to stay consistent," Cable said.

But Cable isn't the only player with state aspirations this season.

No. 2 singles player Edoardo Sanna looks to join Cable in his pursuit of state. Sanna is a senior exchange student from Italy who arrived in July.

"I know that he loves tennis and his exact first words after his first competition were, 'this is fun,'" Youngren said.

Sanna defeated Dallas' Michael Friesen 6-0, 6-0 on Thursday, the first of what he hopes is numerous victories this spring.

"I have to take things step by step," Sanna said. "My top goal is to win state."

For Sanna, this season is about more than just playing tennis. It's a chance to learn about a new culture.

"I love this place," Sanna said. "I get along with everyone. I love them. I've been here since July and have been waiting for tennis season since I got here. I love the connection with people. I love playing such a good sport, a pure sport, without any violence. I think it's very healthy."

Their biggest advantage will be getting the chance to push each other to their limits, Youngren said. She also has a secret weapon to help Cable and Sanna.

"Them having the oppor-



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Central senior Edoardo Sanna talks with Dallas' Michael Friesen prior to their match on Thursday at Central. Sanna won 6-0, 6-0, but Central dropped the match 5-3.

tunity to play each other and hit against (Central tennis alumni) Alejandro Echeverri, who is volunteering this year, will keep them at the top of their games," Youngren said.

The Panthers, who lost to the Dragons 5-3, look to build depth to go along with Cable and Sanna. Youngren is happy with the progress she's seeing from her team.

"The guys played with more confidence this week than before spring break," she said. "That helped them anticipate where the ball was going and get set up better. Spring break and a week of rain is costing us valuable practice time. It's early, and we kept up with our competitors well on the courts last night. There were really no blow outs."

Up Next

• Central's boys tennis team hosts Lebanon Thursday at 4 p.m. before playing at South Albany on Monday. The Panthers then host Silverton Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Central returns to the court to host Lebanon Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

PREP TENNIS ROUNDUP

Dragons earn pair of wins

Dallas sees depth throughout its lineup

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — Thanks to some strong performances up and down its lineup, the Dallas girls tennis squad earned a pair of wins against Woodburn and Central.



Brewen

The Dragons opened the week with a 7-1 defeat over the Bulldogs on April 1. Marissa Brewen, Savanna Poston, Lynn Gumpinger and Alison Hirshi swept singles play.

The doubles teams of Abigail Garber and Amelia Poston, Megan Floyd and Megan Ronco, and Molly

Ingram and Morgan Bateman also earned victories for the Dragons, who began the match on March 31, before being delayed by weather.

Against the Panthers, the team's lone defeat came when Hirshi fell to Patience Teague 6-2, 6-3 in the No. 4 singles spot.

The Dragons play at Corvallis Thursday at 4 p.m.

DALLAS BOYS DOWN
CENTRAL: Dallas' boys tennis team earned its first victory of the season, defeating Central 5-3 on Thursday.

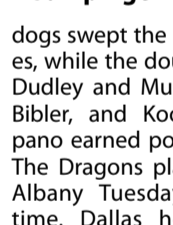
Ryan Bibler earned a singles point, while the doubles pairs of Josiah Gillette and Cameron Gumpinger, Josh Dudley and Randy Mullins, Caedmon Blair and Cole Oace, and Honnario Calipano and Eli Koons earned victories for Dal-

las against the Panthers. The Dragons opened the week by falling to Woodburn 5-3 on March 31. The Bulldogs swept the singles matches, while the doubles teams of Dudley and Mullins, Blair and Bibler, and Koons and Calipano earned points for Dallas. The Dragons played at South Albany Tuesday after press time. Dallas hosts Corvallis Thursday at 4 p.m.

CENTRAL GIRLS FALL TO
DALLAS: The Central girls tennis squad dropped a 7-1 match to Dallas on Thursday. "Dallas had better technique than we did and were much more consistent," Panthers coach Dave Eble said. Patience Teague earned the team's lone point in the No. 4 singles match. "Patience moved the ball around very well and really made her opponent work. This match was more one-sided than the



Bibler



Gumpinger

Rivarly

• Dallas and Central's boys and girls tennis teams faced each other for the first time as Mid-Willamette Conference foes on Thursday afternoon.

• The Dragons won both contests.

• Dallas' girls team plays at Corvallis on Thursday. The boys squad hosts Corvallis, while Central's girls team plays at Lebanon.

• Start time is 4 p.m. for all matches.

score indicated." Eble was also pleased with No. 3 singles player Andrea Garibay and the doubles team of Camille Bliss and Kylie Smith. "Andrea played well and very consistently," Eble said. "Camille gets a hustle award. She was all over the court and returned many balls I didn't think she would be able to get." Central plays at Lebanon Thursday at 4 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

DHS track chowder feed on April 20

DALLAS — The Dallas High School track and field team will hold a chowder feed and silent auction on April 20. The event begins at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Cost is \$10 and includes clam chowder, bread and a shrimp salad. All proceeds will support the Dallas track and field program. Donations are being accepted for the silent auction. If you would like to donate items, contact Michelle Nelson, 503-881-0594.

Dallas Mat Club begins fundraiser

DALLAS — The Dallas Mat Club is selling A's Nursery hanging flower baskets for its annual fundraiser. Through the end of April, 10-inch baskets will be sold for \$20 and 12-inch baskets for \$30. All proceeds support youth and middle school wrestling programs in Dallas.

Baskets will be delivered in time for Mother's Day.

For more information: kerriann@live.com or contact a Dallas Mat Club or a LaCreole Middle School wrestler.

Wolves' pitchers earn weekly honor



Williams

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon seniors Jourdan Williams and Jesse Pratt earned Great Northwest Athletic Conference's softball and baseball Pitchers of the Week on Monday.

Williams held league-leading Saint Martin's to a single run during a 6-1 WOU victory on Saturday. Williams held



Pratt

the Saints to seven hits. She also led the Wolves at the plate, batting .462 during the team's four games last week.

Pratt also threw a complete game, a 10-0 shutout win against Central Washington on Friday. Pratt retired the first 10 batters he faced and gave up just a single hit. He struck out eight batters in the seven-inning game.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Western Oregon pitcher Alyson Boytz prepares to throw against Western Washington on Thursday afternoon.

Perfect: WOU hits final stretch

Continued from Page 10A

Western Oregon entered the week in second place in the conference standings behind Saint Martin's (8-2 GNAC).

Boytz said, while this season may be more difficult than they anticipated, she's ready to take her game to the next level. That includes more than refining her pitches. She needs to trust her teammates to make plays to help her out.

"I just try and get ground balls hit to my teammates," Boytz said. "I want to get as many strikeouts as I can and

remember I have my defense there to back me up."

As the Wolves begin the final month of the regular season, Boytz hopes the turning point for the team leads to more wins.

More importantly, Boytz looks for her teammates to continue to show the belief that they can play with the best teams in the conference and beyond.

"We have to eliminate those little errors and know that we're better than that," Boytz said. "When we do make those mistakes, we have to shake it off quickly."

You're Out!



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Tanner Earhart tags a runner out on second and looks to complete a double play against Lebanon on Wednesday afternoon. The Dragons defeated Lebanon 10-0 before dropping the series finale 6-3 on Friday. Dallas entered the week with a 2-1 record in league play.

PREP BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Rech throws no-hitter

Riddell hits a pair of home runs against Woodburn

Itemizer-Observer staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Central pitcher Chris Rech threw a no-hitter, and the Panthers' baseball team swept Woodburn to open Mid-Willamette Conference play. Central opened the series with a 6-0 win on March 31. Wes Riddell earned the win on the mound.

Rech would be up next on Thursday, where he



Rech

threw his no-hitter. Riddell hit a home run and a double, while Luke McBeth, Luis Amador and Ruben Martinez also recorded doubles during the 8-0 victory.

Central won the final game of the series 13-0 on Thursday.

Riddell hit his second home run of the series, while the Panthers scored seven runs in the bottom of the fourth.

The Panthers (5-1 overall, 3-0 MWC) play at Silverton Wednesday (today) before hosting the Silver Foxes Friday at 4:30 p.m.

DALLAS WINS TWO OF

THREE: The Dallas baseball team finished its three-game series with Lebanon, defeating the Warriors 10-1 on April 1 before falling 6-3 on Friday. Pitcher Logan Hatley threw a complete game, giving up just two hits on Wednesday's game. Dallas (4-4 overall, 2-1 Mid-Willamette Conference), which was scheduled to host Woodburn Tuesday after press time, plays the Bulldogs on the road on Wednesday (today) before hosting Woodburn on Friday. First pitch is at 4:30 p.m. for all games.

PIRATES THROW NO-HITTER: Pitchers Keenan Bailey and David Silver combined to throw a no-hitter against Crow, as the Pirates baseball team cruised to a 13-0 win on



Silver

Thursday. Bailey threw seven strikeouts in four innings. Hunter Johnson went two for two with five RBIs at the plate, including hitting a grand slam in the first inning. Perrydale opened the week losing a nonleague thriller to St. Paul 6-5 on March 31. It was the Pirates' (5-1 overall) first loss of the season. Perrydale was scheduled to open league play at Country Christian Tuesday after press time. The Pirates host Western Menonite Thursday at 4:30 p.m.