

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15
Baseball: Dallas at Crescent Valley, 4:30 p.m. Central at Silverton, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at St. Paul, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Dallas at Woodburn, 4:30 p.m. South Albany at Central, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Western Menonite, 4:30 p.m.

Track and Field: Lebanon, Corvallis, Silverton at Central, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
Baseball: Silverton at Central, 4 p.m.

Track and Field: Perrydale at Gervais, TBA.

Boys Tennis: Lebanon at Dallas, 4 p.m. Central at Corvallis, 4 p.m.

Girls Tennis: Dallas at Lebanon, 4 p.m. Corvallis at Central, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17
Baseball: Western Oregon at Montana State Billings (DH), noon. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Silverton at Central, 4:30 p.m. East Linn Christian at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

Softball: Saint Martin's at Western Oregon (DH), 2 p.m. Central at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.

Boys Tennis: Central at South Albany, 4 p.m.

Girls Tennis: South Albany at Central, 4 p.m.

Track and Field: Western Oregon at Mt. Sac Relays, Walnut, Calif., TBA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
Baseball: Western Oregon at Montana State Billings (DH), noon.

Softball: Central at Crescent Valley, noon.

Track and Field: Western Oregon at Oregon Relays, Eugene, TBA. Central at Oregon Relays, TBA.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
Baseball: Western Oregon at Montana State Billings, 11 a.m.

Softball: Central Washington at Western Oregon (DH), noon.

MONDAY, APRIL 20
Baseball: Perrydale at Regis, 4:30 p.m.

Softball: Perrydale at Regis, 4:30 p.m.

Boys Golf: Dallas, Central at Mid-Willamette Conference Tournament, Tukwila, Woodburn, 10 a.m.

Boys Tennis: Silverton at Dallas, 4 p.m. Central at Woodburn, 4 p.m.

Girls Tennis: Dallas at Silverton, 4 p.m. Woodburn at Central, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
Baseball: Dallas at Silverton, 4:30 p.m. Central at Crescent Valley, 4:30 p.m. Santiam at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

Softball: South Albany at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Crescent Valley at Central, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Regis, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
Baseball: Silverton at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Crescent Valley at Central, 4:30 p.m. Santiam at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

Softball: Dallas at Corvallis, 4:30 p.m. Central at Lebanon, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Central Linn, 4:30 p.m.

Boys Tennis: Dallas at Woodburn, 4 p.m.

Girls Tennis: Woodburn at Dallas, 4 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Softball team to look for players

POLK COUNTY — Central softball coach Kendra George is searching for 14U players for youth tournaments in June and July. For more information: Kendra George, kgeorge@central.k12.or.us.

CLASS 5A PREP GOLF

Senior enjoys time on the course

Brinton not letting a late start stop him from exceling for Central

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer



Brinton

INDEPENDENCE — Central senior Collin Brinton wasn't swinging a golf club by the time he could walk. Nor was he draining putts by the time he was in grade school.

Brinton was, in fact, a late arrival to golf.

"For my 15th birthday I got a set of golf clubs," Brinton said.

ton, 17, said. "My dad wanted to take them out, and I started to really get into it."

Those first days saw the seeds of Brinton's skill being planted. It didn't make his learning curve any easier.

"I had the basic dynamics down, but I could never hit the ball where I wanted to," Brinton said.

After lessons from various golf pros and lots of practice, Brinton's game improved. As his skill level grew, so did his love for the game.

"Once I started hitting good shots and good scores, that's when I started to enjoy it a lot more," Brinton said.

From there, golf has be-

Up Next

• Central's golf team will compete at a tournament at Tukwila in Woodburn on Monday. Play begins at 10 a.m.

will play all year long as long as there's nice enough weather."

Brinton is one of seven returning players on Central's golf squad.

With nine new members at the start of the season, Brinton finds himself as one of the Panthers' most experienced players as Central looks to grow up on the course.

See **COURSE**, Page 12A

CLASS 2A-1A PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Hurdling over expectations

Junior's switch to track and field proving to be a success

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — Perrydale junior Taylor Price loves softball. As a sophomore, she started for the Pirates. Many of her friends were her teammates.

This spring, however, Price made an unexpected choice — she joined the track and field team.

"I wanted to try something new," Price said. "In softball, I always felt like I was the one messing up. I was a starter, but I had that feeling that if I messed up, everyone was going to hate me."

Price, who had never competed in track and field, didn't come in with the highest of goals. She has been defying expectations ever since.

"I thought I was going to suck," Price said. "Our first meet (Jim Barks/Grizzly Bear Open) had all these amazing athletes from these big schools and here comes our tiny school on this mini bus. There were all these girls jumping in the high jump at seven feet, and I was hardly making four feet at the time."

Yet, she had already made



BRIAN EVANS/for the Itemizer-Observer

Perrydale junior Taylor Price (center) recorded one of Class 2A's fastest 300-meter hurdle times so far this season.

a big impression on Pirates coach Brian Evans.

"When I started her out on the high jump, and she easily cleared the girls

starting height in practice with raw form, I knew we had a natural athlete," Evans said.

Price added the 300-

meter hurdles on April 2 after Evans signed her up to give the event a try.

"I wasn't fully committed to it until the day before

when coach told me I was still doing it," Price said. "I had a friend help show me how to do it."

See **HURLING**, Page 11A

CLASS 5A PREP BOYS TENNIS

Gumpinger, Gillette form successful pair

Dallas duo settles into Dragons' No. 1 doubles team position this spring



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Josiah Gillette awaits a return on Thursday.

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — When Dallas tennis doubles players Cameron Gumpinger and Josiah Gillette step onto the court, they are no longer just friends.

They are two parts of a whole, who have complete trust in each other.

That kind of rare chemistry is part of the reason the

Up Next

• Central's boys tennis team gets set for a pair of road conference matches. The Panthers play at Corvallis Thursday before facing Woodburn on Monday at 4 p.m.

duo is the Dragons' top doubles pair this spring.

"The first thing we're al-

ways looking for in a doubles team is controlled aggression," Dallas coach Caleb Gillette said. "To win in doubles, the team has to be aggressive — this is an absolute must, especially when we play stronger teams."

Gumpinger and Josiah Gillette may have lost their doubles match to Corvallis on Thursday, but the pair made strides.

See **PAIR**, Page 12A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Cameron Gumpinger prepares for a point.

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