

Wolves: WOU faces Wildcats

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Highburger, a linebacker, has been a top performer for the Wolves on defense. He leads the team in tackles (58) and tackles for loss (10). He also has two sacks and a fumble recovery.

His mix of energy, strength and quickness makes him difficult for opposing offenses to keep track of, and, when he sets his sights on a ball carrier, Highburger is ready to pounce.

"It's like you're a rabid dog and they're dangling a piece of meat in your face," Highburger said. "You just go for it."

What makes him so dangerous is learning to balance that aggression with intelligence.

"It takes a level of intelligence to play well," Highburger said. "You have to keep your composure and understand what's going on

in front of you and next to you."

Western Oregon (3-3 overall, 2-2 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) has seen its composure put to the test. The Wolves have wins against a Division I opponent (Sacramento State) and a nationally ranked team (Humboldt State), but also three losses, each by 21 points or more.

Saturday's win over Simon Fraser could be the spark the team needs to turn the corner this season, and Highburger is ready to lead the way.

"Our team has been up and down this year," he said. "I think the key is really just realizing we are facing adversity and fighting through it. We can build on this. We have to keep doing what we're doing, making sure everyone is on the same page. We can keep the train rolling."

All-American



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central senior Marlon Tuipulotu, center, was honored on Monday morning. Tuipulotu received his jersey for the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, which will be held Jan. 7 in San Antonio. The annual game invites 90 of the nation's best high school football players to compete.

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Football beats South Albany

Itemizer-Observer staff report

ALBANY — Dallas' football team bounced back from its first loss of the season by beating South Albany 35-14 on Friday.

Running back Tanner Earhart rushed for 201 yards and two touchdowns.

Running back Tristan Evans ran for 71 yards and two touchdowns, and quarterback Caedmon Blair added 45 yards and a touchdown.

Dallas (5-1 overall, 2-1

Mid-Willamette Conference) hosts Corvallis Thursday at 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER TIES LEBANON: Dallas' boys soccer team tied Lebanon 2-2 on Oct. 4 before falling to Crescent Valley 7-1 on Thursday.

Dallas lost to Corvallis 8-0 on Monday afternoon.

The Dragons host Silverton Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before playing at Central Tuesday at 6 p.m. Dallas entered the week with an 0-2-1 mark in league play, tied with Silverton and Lebanon for

fifth place with four matches to play. The top six teams advance to the postseason.

GIRLS SOCCER DROPS TWO: Dallas' girls soccer team lost a pair of conference matches last week. The Dragons fell to Lebanon 5-2 on Oct. 4 before losing to Crescent Valley 9-1 on Thursday. Dallas lost to Corvallis 8-1 on Monday afternoon.

The Dragons play at Silverton Wednesday (today) before hosting Central Tuesday at 4 p.m.

State: Mountaineers can clinch state berth

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"When they do what we tell them to do, teams can't move the ball on us," Cook said. "When they think they know better or they take the easy way out, that's when bad things start to happen."

A loss won't mean the end of the season for Falls City, which closes out the regular season with a non-league game at Yoncalla on

Oct. 21, and a state playoff berth would still be possible, but a victory would serve as validation that everything the Mountaineers have been building toward.

"If we're not getting it done in year three, maybe I'm not doing a good enough job," Cook said. "That's the way I'm looking at it."

The Mountaineers will have another chance to get back to the state playoffs. Cook hopes his team is ready to embrace the challenge.

"I'm tired of not getting to the state playoffs," Cook said. "It's right there in front of them. We're excited and it's that time of the year where you have to put your big boy pants on and get out there."

Dragons: Dallas gets ready to host Central

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Just don't tell the Dragons that.

"We need to stay positive," Classen said. "We need to talk more, be louder and encourage each other. We know we have nothing to lose. We have to play as a team."

Lavier isn't ready to give up on the season either. She

may be scrambling to find new lineups and rotations to use, but Thursday gave her hope that her players can rise to the challenge.

"We have some really good players from JV we can bring up," Lavier said. "We have to focus and figure out what we're going to do. It's something you can't anticipate happening, but we'll

just have to mix up our lineup. They now know what they're capable of and the importance of playing with heart."

Dallas' volleyball team is about to see just how much heart it has.

"They could have rolled over and they didn't," Lavier said. "It's just something you had to see to believe it."

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Mountaineers drop two

Itemizer-Observer staff report

FALLS CITY — Falls City's volleyball team dropped a pair of matches last week.

The Mountaineers fell to Perrydale 22-25, 25-16, 25-14, 25-17 on Thursday before losing to Alsea 25-15, 25-19, 25-16 on Friday. Despite the losses, coach Roxi Barnhart said the Mountaineers made significant strides.

"They really played up against Perrydale at home," Barnhart said.



Houghtaling

and just recovering, so they didn't have the stamina to work that hard for an entire match."

Jamie Shaw had seven kills to lead the Mountaineers. Amara Houghtal-

ing and Anna Lammers had 19 and 15 serves, respectively.

Falls City played Willamette Valley Christian Tuesday after press time. The Mountaineers close out the regular season by hosting Cross Hill Christian Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and playing at Jewell on Tuesday.

Falls City entered the week in fourth place in the league standings.

The Casco League tournament begins Oct. 22.

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Volleyball earns pair of wins

Itemizer-Observer staff report

PERRYDALE — Perrydale's volleyball team defeated Falls City 22-25, 25-16, 25-14, 25-17 on Thursday and Damascus Christian 17-25, 25-22, 25-22, 13-25, 18-16 on Saturday before falling to North Douglas 25-18, 25-22, 25-14.

Nathalie Juarez had 11 aces against Damascus

Christian, while Jackie Juarez added 36 digs.

"(Beating Damascus) was a big accomplishment for us to be able to win a five-set match," coach Denise Dickey said. "I feel we are improving in all areas. ... I like having these tough matches because it helps to develop them faster, which is what

we need."

The Pirates close out the regular season at Jewell Wednesday (today) and at C.S. Lewis on Tuesday.

FOOTBALL WINS BIG OVER ONE: Perrydale's football team defeated lone 40-6 on Friday night.

The Pirates play at Sherman on Friday.

Oberg: Wants to travel the world after high school

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"On defense, he wants to make the tackle every single play," Falls City coach Laric Cook said. "Sometimes he gets a little bit too excited out there and gets a little

out of position, but I want every one of my players to have his level of excitement out on that field."

Once he graduates, Oberg plans to travel the world.

"I want people to realize that the United States isn't the only place in the world," Oberg said. "There's so much more out there and they should have big dreams and travel and see the world."

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Girls soccer hopes for quick turnaround

Itemizer-Observer staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Central's girls soccer team has seen its share of difficulties this season. The Panthers lost to South Albany 2-0 on Thursday and Crescent Valley 9-0 on Monday — extending the team's losing streak to six matches.

Starting goalkeeper Lupita Campos will miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL, but players are hopeful they are close to turning a corner.

"I'm feeling pretty good," coach Veronica Lepe said. "Everything we have been working on will be put to the test, but we are improving."

Communication will be key going forward, Lepe said.

That communication means putting aside worries about upsetting teammates.

Central, Woodburn and Dallas entered the week without a league win and tied for sixth place in the Mid-Willamette Conference. The top six teams advance to the postseason.

The Panthers host Lebanon Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before playing at Lebanon on Tuesday.

BOYS SOCCER DEFEATS SOUTH ALBANY: Central's boys soccer team snapped a two-match losing streak last week. The Panthers tied Silverton 3-3 on Oct. 4 and defeated South Albany 3-1 on Thursday. Central also defeated Crescent Valley 2-1 on Monday.

to lead the Panthers against Silverton, while Jose Herrera added one goal.

Sebastian Diaz, Brandon Lopez and Rincon scored one goal each against South Albany.

"Overall I think we played a good match," coach Joe Orozco said. "Our passing game was pretty accurate and our defense has been playing well."

The Panthers play at Lebanon Wednesday (today) before hosting McNary Friday at 7 p.m. and Dallas Tuesday at 6 p.m. Central entered the week in third place in the league standings.

FOOTBALL DOWNS RAIDERS: Central's football team remained unbeaten in Mid-Willamette Conference play after defeating Crescent Valley 27-20 on Friday.

Quarterback Peter Mendazona threw for two touchdowns and added one rushing touchdown. Tight end Jackson Holstad also added a rushing touchdown.

Receiver Peter Mendazona had three catches for 91 yards and two touchdowns.

Holstad led the Panthers on defense with 11 tackles, while David Negrete added two sacks.

VOLLEYBALL DEFEATS SOUTH ALBANY: Central's

volleyball team defeated South Albany 25-21, 25-22, 25-17 on Oct. 4 before losing to Crescent Valley 25-8, 26-24, 25-18 on Thursday. The Panthers also lost to Lebanon 25-18, 25-18, 25-21 on Monday.

Central plays at Dallas Wednesday at 6 p.m. and at Philomath Thursday at 5 p.m. before hosting Corvallis Tuesday at 6 p.m. The Panthers close out the regular season at Woodburn on Oct. 20. Central entered the week with a 6-5 mark in league play, tied for fourth place with Crescent Valley.

CROSS-COUNTRY COMPETES AT INVITATIONAL: Central's cross-country team competed at the Ash Creek Invitational No. 2 Saturday in Monmouth. No team scores were kept. Zachary Meyer finished 10th in flight three of the boys, completing the 5-kilometer course in 17 min-

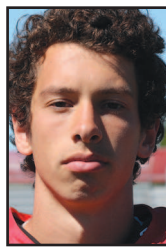
utes, 48.7 seconds to lead the boys. Matt Raines took 11th in 17:48.8, while Jaydon Aydelotte finished 13th in 17:58.2.

Baillie Hartford finished eighth in flight three of the girls with a time of 20:41.3. Beatriz Trujillo placed 16th in 23:05.8 and Bethanie Altamirano took 119th in 24:04.0.

The Panthers will compete at Cheadle Lake Park in Lebanon Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m., the George Fox Classic in Brooks on Saturday, and at Willamette Mission State Park in Brooks on Oct. 19 — the team's final meet before the MWC Championship on Oct. 26.



Rincon



Mason



Hartford