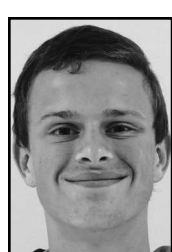


DALLAS ROUNDUP

Cross takes first at Lebanon

Itemizer-Observer staff report

LEBANON — Dallas boys cross-country runner Trevor Cross placed first in Lebanon on Oct. 12.



Cross



Rocak

...the boys team, which finished fourth in the team standings. Gavin Grasso (eighth, 17:53.41), Kenny Sutton (18th, 18:42.03), Ryan Bibler (19th, 18:47.36), Antonio Barrientos (20th, 18:52.89), Oron Knudson (21st, 19:32.35) and Grady Gagner (24th, 19:48.84) rounded out the boys varsity finishers.

The girls squad finished third. Sophomore Bekah Rocak led the girls with a 15th-place finish in 23:43.86,

followed by senior Anne Van de Ven (16th, 23:46.48), sophomore Kelsey McIntosh (18th, 24:10.29), senior Leah Miller (19th, 24:43.69) and freshman Allyson Abel (20th, 26:23.57).

Dallas will host South Albany, Corvallis and Crescent Valley Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before competing at the Mid-Willamette Conference Championship in Gervais on Oct. 26. Races begin at 2 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER FALLS TO SILVERTON

Dallas' girls soccer team fell to Silverton 6-2 on Oct. 12. Olivia Dalke scored both goals to lead the Dragons. Dallas (1-9 overall, 0-4 MWC) played Central Tuesday after press time. The Dragons entered the



Dalke

week in a three-way tie for sixth place in the league standings with Woodburn (3-7-1 overall) and Central (1-8-1 overall). The top six teams in the MWC advance to the postseason. Dallas closes out the regular season at Woodburn on Thursday and at South Albany

on Tuesday.

BOYS SOCCER DROPS THIRD STRAIGHT

Dallas' boys soccer team lost its third-straight match, falling to Silverton 3-0 on Oct. 12. The Dragons played Central Tuesday after press time. Dallas (1-9-1 overall, 0-3-1 MWC) began the week tied for seventh place in the league standings with Lebanon and trailing Crescent Valley (6-4-1 overall, 1-3 MWC) for sixth and Silverton (4-3-4 overall, 1-2-1 MWC) for fifth. The Dragons host Woodburn Thursday at 6 p.m. and South Albany Tuesday at 4 p.m. to end the regular season. The top six teams in the league advance to the postseason.

VOLLEYBALL LOSES TO CENTRAL

Dallas' volleyball squad lost to Central 25-14, 25-19, 22-25, 25-19 on Oct. 12. The loss dropped the Dragons, which played Woodburn Tuesday after press time, to 4-13 overall and 2-10 in MWC play. Dallas entered the week in seventh place behind South Albany (6-13 overall, 3-9 MWC). Dallas ends the regular season at South Albany Thursday at 6 p.m. The top six teams advance to the postseason with the third through sixth-place squads earning a spot in the play-in round, scheduled to take place on or before Tuesday.

Herrera: Central has a chance for league title

Continued from Page 12A

“He helps us a lot in the air, winning balls up there,” Rincon said. “He’s a team player who wants everyone to be a part of the play the team creates. We can dominate the offensive side when he’s on the field. He gives us that extra fire power we need.”

Herrera’s success comes as little surprise. Soccer has come to define the Herrera family. His father got him hooked on the game. His older brother, Gregorio, played for the Panthers, and it’s a Herrera tradition to discuss matches.

“We always talk after a game about what (my dad) sees and what we can do better,” Herrera said. “Then I come back the next day and share with my team.”

His willingness to take criticisms and his desire to help make him an integral part of the Panthers’ success.

“He is the heart of the team and a good leader,” Orozco said. “He’s a great team player, communicates



Rincon

Boys soccer

• Central defeated Lebanon 4-0 on Oct. 12 before falling to McNary 3-0 on Friday.
• Tony Rincon scored twice against Lebanon, including less than 30 seconds into the match, to lead the Panthers. Brandon Lopez and Juan Ortiz also added goals. The Panthers play at Corvallis on Friday before hosting Woodburn on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

well and is well-respected.”

Part of being a leader was helping Central’s communication evolve.

Last season, when a player made a mistake, he was met with frustration from teammates.

Herrera wanted to change that.

“Instead of just telling them what they did was wrong, we try and help them out, tell them it will work better next time and keep encouraging to keep playing at a high level,” Herrera said.

Central entered the week with a 3-0-1 mark in league play, good for second place behind Woodburn and ahead of Corvallis.

The Panthers end the

regular season at Corvallis on Friday before hosting Woodburn on Tuesday at 6 p.m. with major postseason implications. The top two teams in the Mid-Willamette Conference advance automatically to the first round of the state play-offs, while the third through sixth seeds advance to a play-in game.

With two of the toughest challenges the Panthers have faced, Herrera is ready to give it his all in hopes of a deep playoff run.

“It pumps everyone up,” Herrera said. “We’ve been building up this season. It boosts morale to know we can take league if we can beat them. It gives us extra motivation.”

Panthers: Central in a tie for third place in MWC

Continued from Page 12A

The match against Dallas served as a microcosm of the team’s season so far — a few great plays and missed opportunities — including two service errors coming out of a timeout and one service error on game point.

“We have to play better

and be consistent,” Mendazona said. “We have some things we need to be more disciplined on and reduce our unforced errors. Those are important points that we have to get on the court.”

With time quickly running out to fine tune, the

Panthers are no strangers to having to make changes on the fly.

“I’m very proud of our team from where we came from at the beginning of the season. It was a little bit of a struggle,” Dowdell said. “We had certain rotations that didn’t go as well as we

thought they would. We had a new setter about five games into the season and had to figure out what hitters can work with her the best.”

Those adjustments allowed the Panthers to clinch a spot to the play-in round.

Central’s wins over Dallas

and Philomath may not have been perfect, but did show how the Panthers can find ways to pull out a victory.

Tapping into that energy on a consistent basis will determine whether Central’s trip to the postseason is a long one.

“It’s been a little bit of a roller coaster,” Mendazona said. “When the ride gets tough, sometimes our girls really compete well. Other times, things kind of snowball. Those are the times we have to learn to dig our way out and not get buried.”

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Boys XC places first at Lebanon

Itemizer-Observer staff report

LEBANON — Central’s boys cross-country team placed first out of four teams in Lebanon on Oct. 12.

Senior Matt Raines took second overall in 17 minutes, 14.11 seconds to lead the Panthers. Jaydon Aydelotte (fifth, 12:32.89), Caedmon Whisenhunt (10th, 18:04.04), Jonathon Brown (11th, 18:04.56), Jaime Cantu (12th, 18:05.58) and Maynard Dewitt (13th, 18:05.88) rounded out the Panthers’ varsity runners.

The girls did not have enough competitors for a team score.

Beatriz Trujillo finished 11th in 21:49.44 to lead the girls team. Naomi Vega took 13th in 22:19.83, and Aliza Camero placed 17th in 24:08.85.

Central will compete in Lebanon Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before taking part in the Mid-Willamette Conference Championship on Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. in Gervais.

GIRLS SOCCER FALLS: Central’s girls soccer team lost to Lebanon 2-1 on Oct. 12. The

loss dropped Central’s record to 1-8-1 overall and 0-4 in league play. The Panthers entered the week in a three-way tie with Woodburn and Dallas for sixth place. The top six teams advance to the postseason.

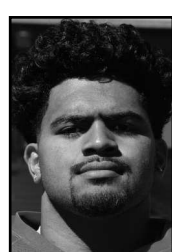
Central played Dallas Tuesday after press time. The Panthers host Corvallis Thursday at 6:30 p.m. before closing out the regular season at Woodburn on Tuesday.

FOOTBALL FALTERS AT LEBANON

Central’s football team lost to Lebanon 32-6 on Thursday.

The Panthers jumped out to a 6-0 lead after quarterback Peter Mendazona hit receiver Nikolai Wolfe for a 14-yard touchdown, but Lebanon scored 32 unanswered points to end the game.

Senior Marlon Tuipulotu had 10 tackles, including one sack, to lead the defense. Central (4-3 overall, 3-1 MWC) hosts Silverton Friday at 7 p.m. in the team’s final home game of the season.



Tuipulotu

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

Wolves loses five-set thriller

Itemizer-Observer staff report

BILLINGS, Mont. — Western Oregon’s volleyball squad lost to Montana State Billings 17-25, 25-23, 25-17, 21-25, 15-13 on Saturday.

Paige Orth led the Wolves with 14 kills. Amanda Short added 13 kills and Alisha Bettinson recorded 12 kills and 21 digs. Maddie Mehcz had 51 assists in the losing effort.

WOU (6-11 overall, 3-7 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) also fell to Con-



Orth

cordia 25-18, 25-19, 25-4 on Oct. 11.

The Wolves host Saint Martin’s on Thursday and Seattle Pacific on Saturday.

Both matches are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

WOMEN’S SOCCER FALLS TO WESTERN WASHINGTON

Western Oregon’s women’s

soccer team fell to top-ranked Western Washington 2-0 on Thursday afternoon. The match was moved to Central High School because of weather conditions.

The Vikings held the Wolves (4-7-0 overall, 1-7-0 GNAC) to five shots. WOU played Concordia Tuesday after press time. Western Oregon hosts Simon Fraser Saturday at 11 a.m. and Saint Martin’s Tuesday at 3 p.m.

FOOTBALL SHUT OUT: Western Oregon’s football team was held to 35 total yards in the

first half as Central Washington cruised to a 35-0 win on Saturday. The Wolves trailed 21-0 at the half. WOU’s best chance at scoring in the second half came when WOU drove to the Central Washington four before a tipped pass led to an interception by the Wildcats.

Bo Highburger had 11 tackles to lead the defense.

WOU returns home to play Humboldt State Saturday at 12:30 p.m. The matchup is the team’s final home game of the season and also WOU’s Homecoming game.

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Pirates ready for league playoff

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SEASIDE — Perrydale’s volleyball team overcame a slow start to defeat Jewell 14-25, 25-19, 25-23, 23-25, 15-6 on Oct. 12.

“We struggled getting started,” coach Denise Dickey said. “Jewell is a much-improved team. We were able to adjust our defense in the fifth set to win the match.”

The Pirates closed out the regular season at C.S. Lewis Tuesday after press time.

Perrydale entered the week 8-10 overall and 5-4 in

Casco League play, good for third place. The Pirates clinched a spot in the Casco League playoff Saturday at Dayton High School.

The tournament’s schedule will be set Wednesday (today) after the Casco League meeting, Dickey said. Head to www.polkio.com for the schedule when it becomes available.

Three teams from the Casco League will advance to the state tournament.

“Things are looking promising going into playoff week,” Dickey said.

FOOTBALL PREPS FOR STRETCH RUN: After a week off, Perrydale’s football team (4-2 overall, 3-1 Special District 4) returns to the gridiron to play at Sherman on Friday. Sherman enters the game with a 6-1 mark overall and 5-0 in Special District 4 play.

“Sherman is a very good team,” coach Duane Riddell said. “We need to keep improving and become faster at everything we do.”

For the Pirates to earn a victory, expect to see big games from Daniel Domes, Cooper Butler, C.J. Marsters and Haylen Janesofsky.

“Daniel has been excellent at quarterback,” Riddell said. “Cooper has been great. C.J. has been excellent and Haylen has been really good all season and keeps getting better.”

The Pirates close out the regular season at Dufur (6-1 overall, 3-1 SD4) on Sept. 28. Facing two of the league’s top teams is a tough stretch — but a challenge Perrydale is excited to tackle.

“I like the way the schedule is set up,” Riddell said. “It’s all up to us. If we win these next two games, we have a chance to at least be tied for the league title.”

FALLS CITY ROUNDUP

Volleyball falls to Crosshill Christian

Itemizer-Observer staff report

FALLS CITY — Falls City’s volleyball team fell to Crosshill Christian 25-8, 25-3, 25-11 on Thursday, but the Mountaineers remain upbeat entering the Casco League tournament on Saturday at Dayton High School.

“Going into playoffs, our keys will be keeping our emotions under control, staying focused on the game and playing every ball to our fullest ability,” coach Roxi Barnhart said.

The league playoff schedule will be officially confirmed Wednesday (today).

Falls City closed the regular season by playing Jewell Tuesday after press time.

FOOTBALL FALLS TO TRIANGLE LAKE

Falls City’s football team fell to Triangle Lake 6-0 on Friday. The loss dropped the Mountaineers’ record to 3-4 overall and 3-1 in Special District 3 play.

“We lost that game because of not blocking and tackling well,” coach Laric Cook said. “We didn’t stay on blocks and broke down in space. Tackling in space is a premium in eight-man football.”

Falls City plays at Yoncalla on Friday in a nonleague contest to close out the regular season. The two teams will likely meet again on Oct. 28

at Falls City in a league playoff game with a state berth on the line if Triangle Lake, which has won its last four games by a combined score of 212-18, defeats Maple Leaf on Friday.

If Triangle Lake loses, Falls City would play North Douglas with state seeding on the line.

With the possibility of playing Yoncalla two weeks in a row, Friday will serve more as a rehearsal for both teams.

“We’re going to be pretty vanilla,” Cook said. “I’m sure they will be doing the same thing. We want to see how we line up against their formation.”

Cook said he expects to see

Yoncalla test the Mountaineers’ defense through the air.

“They are wanting to throw it about 60 percent of the time and run it 40 percent, maybe even 70/30,” Cook said.

Falls City knows Friday’s regular season final won’t be the team’s final game, but Cook said it will be important in fine tuning for what could be a win-or-go-home game on Oct. 28.

“We are going to rally the troops here,” Cook said. “We’re not going to do anything too different. We have to get better at not breaking down in space and on the point of attack on offense. We can’t be spectators out there.”

Dragons: DHS faces Raiders

Continued from Page 12A

The game featured lots of miscues, from bobbled snaps to dropped passes.

The thrill of victory made struggling through the difficult weather conditions worth it.

“It was a blast after we won and we got to celebrate,” Blair said. “It was definitely fun because we’ve been playing on turf lately and you never know when a guy was going to slip or miss a block. It’s a fun type of football.”

Dallas (6-1 overall, 3-1

Mid-Willamette Conference) has little time to enjoy the victory.

The Dragons play at Crescent Valley Friday in a key league battle.

The Raiders enter the matchup with a 1-3 record in league play, but could present a stiff challenge.

Two of the team’s three losses came by seven or fewer points.

“We’re taking it one game at a time,” Blair said. “At Central, it didn’t work out so we know what both sides feel like.”