

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14
Boys Basketball: Dallas at Woodburn, 7 p.m. South Albany at Central, 7 p.m.
Wrestling: Woodburn at Dallas, 6 p.m. Central at South Albany, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 15
Boys Basketball: Falls City at Livingstone Adventist, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball: Falls City at Livingstone Adventist, 5:30 p.m.
Women's Basketball: Western Oregon at Western Washington, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 16
Boys Basketball: Central at Dallas, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Western Mennonite, 7:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball: Falls City at Gaston, 3 p.m. Perrydale at Western Mennonite, 6 p.m. Dallas at Central, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17
Wrestling: Dallas at Parkrose Tournament, 9:30 a.m.
Men's Basketball: Saint Martin's at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.
Women's Basketball: Western Oregon at Simon Fraser, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 20
Boys Basketball: Santiam at Perrydale, 7 p.m. Jewell at Falls City, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball: Santiam at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m. Jewell at Falls City, 5:30 p.m. Dallas at South Albany, 7 p.m. Crescent Valley at Central, 7 p.m.
Swimming: Dallas at South Albany, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21
Boys Basketball: South Albany at Dallas, 7 p.m. Central at Crescent Valley, 7 p.m.
Wrestling: Dallas at Crescent Valley, 6 p.m. Silverton at Central, 6 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

WOU junior earns conference honor

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon redshirt junior Andy Avgi was named Great Northwest Athletic Conference men's basketball Co-Player of the Week on Monday.

Avgi averaged 20.5 points per game in wins over Northwest Nazarene on Thursday and Central Washington on Saturday. Avgi scored a team-high 18 points against Northwest Nazarene.

Against the Wildcats, Avgi scored 23 points, 16 of which came in the second half. He ranks second in the conference in total points, points per game, total offensive rebounds and offensive rebounds per game. Avgi shared the honor with Momir Gatari of Montana State Billings.

STAT SHEET

7 The number of times Central's boys basketball team scored more than 50 points during its non-league season. The Panthers went 6-1 in those contests.

CLASS 5A PREP WRESTLING

Passing the torch

Brunner helped build Invitational from the ground up

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — If there's one thing Janet Brunner misses the most, it's the dimming of the lights.

"I have many (fond memories), but probably one of my favorites is sitting at the tournament table with all of the lights off except for the mat light, watching the finals of the only district tournament we have hosted for the past 25 to 30 years," Brunner said.

For two decades, Brunner served as tournament director of what was then the Dallas Booster Club Wrestling Tournament. Her dedication helped turn the event into an annual tradition that Dallas High is proud to present.

Taking over

It was 1993 when Brunner officially became tournament director of what is now the Brunner Invitational.

But the circumstances were far from simple.

"Steve Lander was in his first year as our head coach after the death of longtime coach Paul Olliff," Brunner said. "It was a very emotional year for all of us. Losing Paul was difficult and we all pitched in to make the transition as easy as possible on both the wrestlers and Steve."

"I had some experience in running some pretty big baseball tournaments, so heck, why not a wrestling tournament?"

In addition to the emotional struggles, figuring out if Dallas could even host a tournament was a big challenge.

"We had so many people who said we didn't have the facilities to do it," Brunner said.

Through the use of both gyms at the high school, Dallas found the space.

There was just one thing missing — volunteers.

Extended family

Planning for the Brunner Invitational begins long before the wrestling season starts.

"The tournament process starts in September and builds up to the tournament, held the second Saturday in January," Alice Bibler, current tournament director, said.

From the invitational's first year, Brunner knew it would take a community effort to pull off this event.

The community didn't disappoint.

See **TORCH**, Page 11A



Janet Brunner may no longer be running the Brunner Invitational, but she still volunteers and visits with old friends during the annual Dallas wrestling tournament.

Dallas Wrestling

- Dallas finished second at the Brunner Invitational, behind Crook Class 4A state powerhouse Crook County.
- Freshmen Noah Sickles (113 pounds) and Treve Earhart (152) placed first.
- Read more on **Page 12A**.



CLASS 2A PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Finding some attitude

Coach wants junior to get aggressive



Brant Barnes (22) looks for an opening against Regis on Friday night. Barnes finished with seven points.

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — Junior Brant Barnes doesn't fill up the stat book. Yet, he's one of Perrydale's most important players — and most respected leaders.

"Any of our starting five is hard to replace, but with Brant in the middle, he battles, gets rebounds and alters shots," Pirates coach Mike Lowry said. "He's just a great kid."

Barnes, a 6-foot-1 wing on Perrydale's boys basketball team, may not be the threat opponents focus on. But the Pirates are working on changing that and letting him unleash his skills.

Barnes isn't much of a talker. He's more likely to pull teammates aside than show a burst of emotion during a game.

"I probably should (talk more)," Barnes said. "I just never know what to say."

He more than makes up for it with his play on the court.

See **ATTITUDE**, Page 11A

CLASS 5A PREP GIRLS SWIMMING

Finding her peace

CHS senior feels at home in water

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — While growing up, the water had always been an escape for senior Sabrina Cedillo.

Now, as a captain for the Central High girls swimming team, she's out to share that feeling with as many people as possible.

Cedillo's love for swimming started early.

"When I was younger, I actually taught myself how to swim," Cedillo said. "I was a little fish and it was hard to get me out of the water. I would go to the pool twice a day, every day, every summer."

By the time she was 5, she passed her local pool's swim test to be able to go in the deep end — without ever taking a formal lesson.

"Water is my home," Cedillo said. "When I am in a pool or in water at all, I un-

Up Next
 • Central's swim teams are off until Jan. 22, when the Panthers compete in the Dallas Mini-Invitational. The event will be held at the Dallas Aquatic Center.

wind and find myself at a level of peace that I have yet to find anywhere else."

As she entered high school, the pool threatened to become something else entirely.

"My first year of swim team, I was very shy and generally kept to myself," Cedillo said. "I often felt uncomfortable, especially in my swimsuit."

The mix of swimming competitively for the first time and meeting a new group of people she wasn't comfortable with meant the pool was no longer her sanctuary.

"I was just following everyone," Cedillo said. "I didn't understand anything."

See **PEACE**, Page 11A

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