

SCHEDULE

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.

THURSDAY, JAN. 22
Swimming: Dallas/Central Invitational, 3 p.m.
Men's Basketball: Western Oregon at Simon Fraser, 7 p.m.
Women's Basketball: Seattle Pacific at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 23
Boys Basketball: Dallas at Corvallis, 7 p.m. Perrydale at St. Paul, 7 p.m. Willamette Valley Christian at Falls City, 7 p.m. Central at Lebanon, 7:15 p.m.
Girls Basketball: Perrydale at St. Paul, 5:30 p.m. Willamette Valley Christian at Falls City, 5:30 p.m. Corvallis at Dallas, 7 p.m. Lebanon at Central, 7:15 p.m.
Wrestling: Dallas at Reser's Tournament of Champions, Liberty High School, Hillsboro, 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 24
Wrestling: Dallas at Reser's Tournament of Champions, Liberty High School, Hillsboro, 10 a.m. Elmira, Rex Putnam, Sheldon, Gladstone, Jefferson at Central Duals, noon.
Men's Basketball: Western Oregon at Western Washington, 7 p.m.
Women's Basketball: Montana State Billings at Western Oregon, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 26
Swimming: Silverton at Dallas, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 27
Boys Basketball: Falls City at Country Christian, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Kennedy, 8 p.m.
Girls Basketball: Falls City at Country Christian, 5:30 p.m. Perrydale at Kennedy, 6:30 p.m. Dallas at Crescent Valley, 7 p.m. Silverton at Central, 7 p.m.
Swimming: Central at Lebanon, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28
Boys Basketball: Crescent Valley at Dallas, 7 p.m. Central at Silverton, 7 p.m.
Wrestling: Dallas at South Albany, 6 p.m. Woodburn at Central, 6 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Hedrick to take part in showcase

BOISE, Idaho — Boise State quarterback Grant Hedrick has been selected to compete in the College Gridiron Showcase on Jan. 31.

The postseason all-star football game will be held in Arlington, Texas.

Hedrick, a Central High graduate from Independence, led the nation in completion percentage (70.8 percent) and helped the Broncos (12-2 overall) to a Mountain West Conference title and a Fiesta Bowl victory over Arizona this past season.

Hedrick received second-team all-Mountain West honors in 2014. He ranked ninth in the nation in passing efficiency (157.2) and 13th in passing yards (3,696). The showcase features players from all divisions of college football. Players will be split onto two teams, the Wranglers and Desperados. Hedrick will compete for the Wranglers.

For more information: www.CollegeGridironShowcase.com.

CLASS 5A PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

In the driver's seat

Central guard becoming an all-around threat

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — For nearly as long as she's been playing basketball, Central High junior Kylie Nash has leaned on one move.

"I live off the drive," Nash said. "I have ever since I was little."

Nash would always be on the lookout for a lane to the hoop. But this season, Nash is adding a new dimension that is allowing her game to reach new heights and makes the Central girls basketball team a dangerous threat.

As the Panthers' starting point guard, Nash has the physical attributes to run Central's offense effectively. But it's her non-physical traits that have set her apart this season.

"She has improved her decision-making and worked all offseason to increase her shot range," Central coach Julie McDonald said. "She sees the floor very well and is one of our better shooters."

Nash is still a threat to drive to the hoop, but she no longer sees it as her first and only option.

"I understand better that we won't (always) hit (shots) and be on target every game," Nash said. "But other players will and I have to get them the ball when they are on and (I have to) understand when to take the shot, when to drive and when to pass it out to teammates."

That change in mentality has seen Nash evolve into one of the Panthers best all-around players.

Nash entered the week averaging more than 12 points, five rebounds, five



Central junior Kylie Nash looks to pass against Dallas on Friday night. Nash averages more than 12 points per game for the Panthers.

AARON YOST/for the Itemizer-Observer

assists and 2.5 steals per game.

She is shooting 43 percent from the field and 40 percent from beyond the 3-point line.

Nash's skills were on full display as Central opened Mid-Willamette Conference

play last week.

Nash led the Panthers with 11 points in Central's 59-25 league win over South Albany on Jan. 13. She poured in 19 points in Friday's 51-36 league home win over Dallas.

See DRIVER, Page 12A

CLASS 5A PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Huey is coming up big

Dallas senior improving fast

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — There was a moment when Dallas senior Brad Huey was ready to walk away from basketball.

After finding out he was left off the fifth-grade traveling squad, Huey faced a difficult choice.

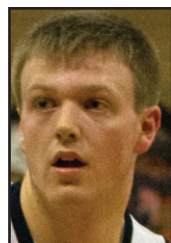
"I was so mad at myself that I almost quit basketball outright," Huey said.

Huey decided to give basketball one last chance.

Since then, basketball has grown into something more than just a game.

Living in Polk County, Huey had many positive influences in his life. Among them was former Dallas police officer Lee Ingram, a mentor whom Huey said he learned countless lessons from.

See HUEY, Page 11A



Huey

Up Next

• Dallas hosts South Albany Wednesday (today) at 7 p.m. and plays at Corvallis on Friday at 7 p.m. as the Dragons continue Mid-Willamette Conference play.



CLASS 5A PREP WRESTLING

Meza ready for final shot at state

Senior introduced to the real world of competitive wrestling

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — As a young child, Beto Meza loved to watch wrestling. But he wasn't watching Olympic wrestling — or even high school wrestling.

"I liked the WWE a lot," Meza said. "... The guys were big and strong and just throwing guys everywhere. I liked it, my friends liked it and everyone liked it."

It was more than a small surprise, then, when he began wrestling competitively in sixth grade and learned that things weren't quite like how he imagined.

"It's not the same as on

Central Duals

• Central will host the Central Duals Saturday at noon. The Panthers will face Elmira, Rex Putnam, Sheldon, Gladstone and Jefferson.

TV," Meza, a Central High senior, said. "It's a lot more of a commitment than you realize."

Meza's freshman year didn't go as smoothly as he hoped.

Meza soon learned new techniques, the ins and outs of cutting and maintaining weight and the dedication it takes to succeed.

But Meza was hooked. See MEZA, Page 12A



Central senior Alberto Meza competes in an exhibition match at the Central Four-way on Jan. 9. Meza was 4-0 at the Oregon Wrestling Classic in Redmond on Friday and Saturday.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

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