

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11
Girls Basketball: Central at Dallas, 7 p.m.
Men's Basketball: Western Oregon at Saint Martin's, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12
Swimming: Dallas, Central at Mid-Willamette Conference Championships, Osborn Aquatic Center, Corvallis, noon.
Women's Basketball: Simon Fraser at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13
Boys Basketball: Dallas at South Albany, 7 p.m. Crescent Valley at Central, 7 p.m. St. Paul at Perrydale, 7 p.m. Falls City at Jewell, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball: St. Paul at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m. Falls City at Jewell, 5:30 p.m. South Albany at Dallas, 7 p.m. Central at Crescent Valley, 7 p.m.

Wrestling: Dallas, Central at Mid-Willamette Conference Championships, Silverton, 10 a.m.
Baseball: Western Oregon at Cal State Monterey Bay, 2 p.m.
Softball: Desert Stinger Tournament at Las Vegas: Western Oregon vs. California Baptist, 2 p.m.; Western Oregon vs. Cal State Monterey Bay, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 14
Wrestling: Dallas, Central at Mid-Willamette Conference Championships, Silverton, 11 a.m.
Swimming: Dallas, Central at Mid-Willamette Conference Championships, Osborn Aquatic Center, Corvallis, 1 p.m.

Women's Basketball: Western Washington at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Western Oregon at Cal State Monterey Bay (DH), 11 a.m.
Softball: Desert Stinger Tournament at Las Vegas: Western Oregon vs. Augustana, 2 p.m.; Western Oregon vs. Humboldt State, 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 15
Baseball: Western Oregon at Cal State Monterey Bay, 11 a.m.
Softball: Desert Stinger Tournament at Las Vegas: Western Oregon vs. Texas-Permian Basin, 11:30 a.m.; Western Oregon vs. Regis, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 16
Boys Basketball: Tri-River Conference Playoffs, TBA.

TUESDAY, FEB. 17
Boys Basketball: Corvallis at Dallas, 7 p.m. Lebanon at Central, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball: Tri-River Conference Playoffs, TBA.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18
Boys Basketball: Tri-River Conference Playoffs, TBA.
Girls Basketball: Dallas at Corvallis, 7 p.m. Central at Lebanon, 7:15 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

STAT SHEET

18 Ranking of the Western Oregon University men's basketball team in this week's National Association of Basketball Coaches NCAA Division II poll. This marks the third week WOU has been ranked nationally.

6 Number of consecutive Mid-Willamette Conference dual meet titles won by the Dallas High wrestling team. The Dragons last week wrapped up a perfect 7-0 league season.

MID-WILLAMETTE CONFERENCE DISTRICT WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dallas aims for sixth title

Dragons hope to qualify at least 14 for state

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — For the past half-decade, it's become almost an annual tradition. The Dallas wrestling team has claimed five Mid-Willamette Conference District Wrestling Championships in a row. "When I see the kids throw up their fingers with how many titles we've won, it makes me proud," Dallas coach Tony Olliff said. Olliff knows this weekend's district meet is not the top of the mountain.

Battle For State Berths

What: Mid-Willamette Conference District Wrestling Championships.
When: Friday, 10 a.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. Championship finals scheduled Saturday at 7 p.m.
Where: Silverton High School, Silverton.
Who: Dallas, Central, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Lebanon, Silverton, South Albany and Woodburn.
Admission: Adults, \$6; students, \$4 with ASB card.
What's at stake: The top four placers in each weight class qualify for the OSAA Class 5A state wrestling championships, to be held Feb. 27-28 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

"We want to go into districts knowing it's not the ball, end all for us," Olliff said. "It's the state qualifier and state is our ultimate goal." See **TITLE**, Page 13A

Negrete breaks out

Central ready for big challenge

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Central sophomore wrestler David Negrete was having second thoughts about joining the middle school wrestling team as an eighth-grader. A family member convinced him to try, but Negrete wasn't sure he was cut out for wrestling. "The first day I started conditioning, I almost started puking," Negrete said. But he wouldn't be deterred. It wasn't until after his

freshman campaign, when Negrete went 16-30, that he discovered the secret that would lead to his success. "I've improved my stance a lot," Negrete said. "Every time I was about to take a shot (last year), I was too high. I noticed everyone was lower than me. Now, I can take my opponents down fast and quick." See **NEGRETE**, Page 13A



Negrete

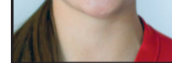
COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Fulfilling a promise

Seniors hope to lead new-look Wolves back to a title

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — When Amanda Evola and Jourdan Williams stepped onto Western Oregon's softball field for the first time in 2012; they were immediately drawn to each other. As the pair's friendship developed, they made a promise.



Gardner

"When we first came in, we knew what our roles were and we stuck together," Williams said. "Ever since,

we said we'd finish this together and here we are." The Wolves' lone seniors hope for a storybook ending to their WOU careers as Western Oregon looks to defend its Great Northwest Athletic Conference title. On the surface, WOU's lineup will have a different look than last year. The Wolves lost seven seniors, including pitcher Erika Bryll of Dallas, catcher Bridjet Box, infielders Ashlie Gardner and Melanie Pfeiffer, and outfielders Danielle Harcourt and Danielle Hannan, all of whom made at least 46 starts in 2014. Coupled with the loss of Raina Reece, WOU lost 156 of 318 runs scored. See **PROMISE**, Page 12A



Senior pitcher Jourdan Williams (left) and senior outfielder Amanda Evola have a good laugh during practice. The duo hopes to lead WOU to a second conference title.

Western Oregon Softball

Head coach: Lonny Sargent, fifth year (third with Western Oregon), 92-116.
2014 record: 34-23 overall, 18-6 Great Northwest Athletic Conference, first place.
Key returners (2014 stats): Amanda Evola (OF, 8 home runs, 55 runs batted in); Jourdan Williams (P/3B, 3 HR, 30 RBI, 4.67 ERA); Ashlie Gardner (1B/3B, .384, 73 hits, 57 runs scored).
Key losses: Melanie Pfeiffer (IF, .378, 76 hits); Bridjet Box (C, .365, 7 HR, 41 RBI); Erika Bryll (P, 41 strikeouts, 4.15 ERA); Kelli Demianew (2.09 ERA, 76 SO, 17 wins).
By the numbers: 156 — The number of runs scored Western Oregon lost from last year's regular starters. The Wolves scored 318 total runs during the 2014 campaign.

MID-WILLAMETTE CONFERENCE DISTRICT SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dallas, Central ready to make a splash

Dragons, Panthers hope a few individuals have big days at district

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas Dragons may lack the depth that other schools have, but four swimmers are looking to punch their tickets to the state swim meet this weekend. As the Dragons prepare to compete at the Mid-Willamette Conference District Championships Thursday and Saturday in Corvallis,



Ford

lis, Dallas coach Jeff Bemrose knows qualifying for the state meet won't be easy. But he's got a few swimmers who may be up to the challenge. On the girls side, Jolie-Rae Ford is seeded second in the 200-yard freestyle and third

in the 500 freestyle races, while Elizabeth Dressel is seeded fifth in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke. "The girls have a good shot to qualify," Bemrose said. For the boys, Jesse Genualdi is seeded fifth in the 100 butterfly and seventh in the 200 freestyle, while Lucas Diaz is seeded seventh in the 50 freestyle and eighth in the 100 breaststroke. See **SPLASH**, Page 12A

Pool Party

What: Mid-Willamette Conference District Swimming Championships.
When: Thursday, noon; Saturday, 1 p.m.
Where: Osborn Aquatic Center, Corvallis.
Who: Dallas, Central, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Lebanon, Silverton and South Albany.
Admission: Adults, \$6; students (with I.D.), \$4; children, \$4.
What's at stake: The winner of each individual and relay event automatically qualifies for the Class 5A state swim meet, scheduled Feb. 20-21 at Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center in Gresham. Available wildcard spots are given to the fastest competitors, up to 12 participants.

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