

CLASS 5A PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

# Dallas, Central reach critical juncture

*Dragons, Panthers appear headed in opposite directions after Dallas victory*



AARON YOST/for the Itemizer-Observer  
Dallas senior Hayden Broadus goes up toward the hoop over Kaj Bansen (4). Broadus finished with 10 points.

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — As Dallas' and Central's boys basketball teams squared off for likely the final time this season, it was a revealing moment.

Dallas' 43-19 win over Central on Feb. 10 was more than just a league victory. It marked a turning point for two programs headed in opposite directions.

"The Central game was huge as we were a game back of them going into it," Dallas coach Trent Schwartz said. "Our kids appreciate the Central matchup. It's a great competitive environment and both fans show up in numbers. It makes for an electric atmosphere."

Hayden Broadus and Brad Huey scored 10 points each to lead the Dragons to the victory.

Since starting league play 4-0, Central has seen its season crumble, losing five of its last six games, including a 41-38 setback against Crescent Valley on Friday. The Panthers dropped from second to fifth place in the MWC entering the team's contest with Lebanon on Tuesday.

Since senior Tyler Fleming suffered a broken left hand on Jan. 23, Central's offense has stalled.

After scoring 51 or more points in 11 of the team's first 13 games, the Panthers have scored 40 or fewer points in four of the last five games.

"Dallas brought a lot of energy and excitement to the Panther Pit," Central coach Tim Kreta said. "Unfortunately, our team wasn't able to match it. We got pushed around on the perimeter and couldn't respond."

As the Panthers look for an offensive solution, the Dragons hope their defense will continue to lead to more opportunities on offense.

"Our keys have been our team defense and hustle," Dallas senior Seth Fast said. "We've been playing hard with a lot of energy, and that type of play makes good things happen for us."

The Dragons entered Tuesday's showdown with Corvallis on a three-game

**Up Next**

- Dallas' boys basketball team plays at Crescent Valley on Friday.
- Central hosts Silverton Friday at 7 p.m.
- The Dragons defeated the Panthers 43-19 on Feb. 10.

Lebanon by one game for sixth place.

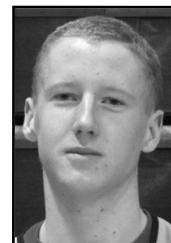
"Teams are making adjustments to Kaj (Bansen) and crowding him more on the perimeter," Kreta said. "We need our other players to see this as their opportunity to do what we did the first four weeks of the season — attack with confidence, make the extra pass and finish with poise around the basket."

The top six teams advance past the regular season. The

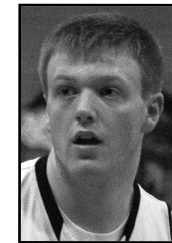
third-through sixth-place teams will play in a Class 5A play-in round against a Midwest-ern opponent based on finish.

As Central looks to right its ship, Dallas is hoping to punch its ticket to the state playoffs.

"Essentially, the playoffs have already begun for us," Schwartz said. "Three of the four teams we are playing (this week) are in the same boat as we are, so it should make for some competitive basketball."



Bansen



Huey

## Dallas: Dragons take aim at state team trophy

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Hofenbredl has done more than inspire his teammates. He's become the standard by which his opponents measure themselves.

"I've watched him for the last four years," South Albany coach Andrew Peterson said. "He's always been a determined wrestler. He's tough. You always know you're an underdog going against him."

Hofenbredl's secret weapon this year isn't any technique he's mastered.

"The difference between Matt this year and last year is he's having a lot more fun," Olliff said. "We had all these snow days last year and it took a lot of fun out of our season. Something had to be trimmed and it was a lot of the fun stuff. Matt's enjoying himself more and I think that's going to pay off. The biggest challenge with Matt is keeping him spunky, keeping him liking (wrestling)."

While Hofenbredl hopes to cap off a historic career, he was far from the only bright spot for the Dragons, who qualified 17 wrestlers for the Class 5A state championships, scheduled Feb. 27-28 in Portland.

Among the highlights included district titles by

**Six and Counting**

• The Dallas High wrestling team won its sixth Mid-Willamette Conference district championship in a row.

• The Dragons had 17 wrestlers earn a berth to the OSAA Class 5A state wrestling championships, scheduled Feb. 27-28 in Portland.

• Senior Matt Hofenbredl won his fourth district title, the first time in Dallas history a Dragon wrestler won a district title in each of his four seasons.

Nolan Miller (120), Noel Reyes (145) and Treve Earhart (152), and second-place finishes from Noah Sickles (113), Jordan Williams (120), Sammy Chung (126), Cody Janssen (145), Jeff Dunagan (160) and Tyson Janssen (170).

"It was just exciting," Earhart said. "I learned that if I wrestle like I can, I can do big things."

Earhart earned an 11-5 decision over Lebanon's Tanner Sallee to earn the 152-pound title.

For Miller, a senior, a district title remained as one of the few accomplishments he'd yet to achieve during his career.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer  
Dallas senior Nolan Miller (left) wrestles teammate Jordan Williams in the finals of the 120-pound weight class on Saturday night. Miller pinned Williams to earn his first Mid-Willamette Conference district title.

Miller pinned teammate Jordan Williams to win his title.

"I was happy to finally win," Miller said. "Now, I just have to get ready for state. I just need to work hard and not overlook anybody."

Reyes earned a 4-1 deci-

sion over teammate Cody Janssen to earn his district championship.

With 17 qualifiers, Dallas finds itself in a strong position entering the Class 5A state wrestling championships.

"This makes us a con-

tender for a state title," Olliff said. "The goal is always to be in the discussion. I'd like to think that we're bringing quality and enough quantity to give it a go."

Despite celebrating a sixth-straight team title, Olliff said his qualifiers aren't

considering their season a success just yet.

"(Winning district) is a neat step," Olliff said. "This is something to be proud of. But many of these boys still have something they want to do, and I want to help them do it."

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

## Pirates win playoff opener

*Perrydale defeats Santiam 53-38 to advance*

Itemizer-Observer staff report  
PERRYDALE — Perrydale isn't ready to see their season come to a close just yet.

The Perrydale boys basketball team defeated sixth-seeded Santiam 53-38 on Monday in the first round of the Tri-River Conference playoffs.

Troy Trembley scored 14 points, while Haylen Janesofsky added 11 points.

Keenan Bailey scored a career-high 10 points and Chad Price recorded eight points.

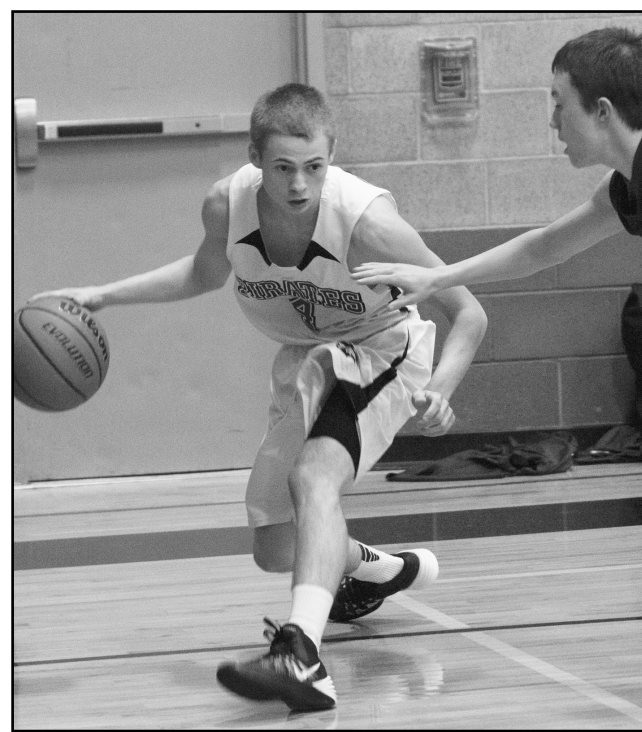
"We are playing better basketball and the players are starting to understand their strengths and that is making us a better team," Pirates

coach Mike Lowry said.

Perrydale plays at Central Linn Wednesday (today) at 6 p.m. The winner advances to face the loser of the Kennedy/Western Mennonite matchup on Saturday with a trip to the state playoffs on the line.

The Pirates clinched the fifth seed after defeating St. Paul 53-42 in their regular season finale to finish 5-9 in league play.

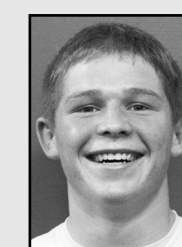
**FALLS CITY WINS FINALE:** Falls City's boys basketball team saw its season come to an end after a 44-29 win over Jewell on Friday. The Mountaineers fell to Livingstone Adventist 68-60 on Feb. 10 to finish 5-15 overall and 2-10 in Casco League play, good for sixth place. The top five teams advanced to the Casco League playoffs. "My goal was to make sure the guys had fun playing basketball," coach Jim Owre said. "And we achieved that goal."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file  
Perrydale's Chad Price has been a consistent scoring leader for the Pirates this season.

Itemizer-Observer

## Athlete of the Week



**Tanner Swinehart**  
Central High

The senior went 4-0 with three pins en route to winning the 170-pound title at the Mid-Willamette Conference District Wrestling Championships Friday and Saturday at Silverton. Swinehart improved his overall season record to 43-0 entering the Class 5A state championship tournament Feb. 27-28 in Portland. He is ranked No. 1 at the 5A level in the state individual rankings compiled by Richard Rockwell.



**Sarah Zwicker**  
Dallas High

Zwicker, a 5-foot-9 sophomore guard/wing, scored 35 points in two games as the Dallas girls basketball team moved up in the Mid-Willamette Conference standings. Zwicker made four 3-point baskets en route to 19 points in a 62-31 Feb. 11 win over archrival Central, then she scored a team-high 16 points in the Dragons' 74-51 win Friday night over South Albany.

To submit nominations for the Itemizer-Observer Athlete of the Week, contact Sports Editor Lukas Eggen at 503-623-2373 or leggen@polkio.com by 9 a.m. on Monday.