

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25
Girls Basketball: Lebanon at Dallas, 7 p.m. Corvallis at Central, 7 p.m. Class 1A State Playoffs, First Round: Falls City at Portland Lutheran, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26
Men's Basketball: Western Oregon at Alaska Anchorage, 8:30 p.m.
Women's Basketball: Central Washington at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 27
Boys Basketball: Silverton at Dallas, 7 p.m. Central at Woodburn, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball: Dallas at Silverton, 7 p.m. Woodburn at Central, 7 p.m.
Wrestling: Dallas, Central at Class 5A State Championships, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland, 8:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 28
Girls Basketball: Falls City at Class 1A State Playoffs, Second Round, TBA (if needed).
Wrestling: Dallas, Central at Class 5A State Championships, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland, 8:30 a.m.
Men's Basketball: Western Oregon at Alaska Fairbanks, 8:30 p.m.
Women's Basketball: Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Western Oregon at Saint Martin's (DH), noon.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Baseball: Western Oregon at Saint Martin's (DH), noon.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Boys Basketball: Class 5A State Play-In Round, TBA.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
Girls Basketball: Class 5A State Play-In Round, TBA.
Women's Basketball: GNAC Championship Tournament at Billings, Mont., 5:15 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Goularte named Player of the Week

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon senior Dana Goularte earned the Great Northwest Athletic Conference women's basketball co-Player of the Week honors along with Montana State Billings' Quinn

Peoples on Monday.

For the week, Goularte totaled 46 points, 11 rebounds, four steals and three assists as Western Oregon split a pair of conference games, defeating Montana State Billings on Thursday, before falling to Seattle Pacific on Saturday. The Wolves (4-12 GNAC) kept their postseason hopes alive.

WOU must win out and receive help to earn a postseason berth.

STAT SHEET

0 The number of Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships the Western Oregon men's basketball team had prior to clinching the title against Simon Fraser on Saturday.

CLASS 5A STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Swinehart aims for perfect finish

Senior enters state tournament with 43-0 record this season

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — In the moments before a match, Central wrestler Tanner Swinehart is focused on one thing. But it's not his opponent.

"I always talk myself up," Swinehart said. "I never degrade myself before a match. I focus on what I do well and the things I am good at."

Swinehart has a lot to draw on. After winning the Mid-Willamette Conference district title at 170 pounds on Feb. 14, Swinehart will enter the OSAA state wrestling tournament with a 43-0 record.

"It's my senior year, so it was all or nothing this year," Swinehart said. Yet, Swinehart isn't focused on the matches he's won.

"(State) is what I'm looking forward to," he said. "All of the other tournaments don't really matter. This is the one that matters."

Swinehart has been a dominant

Pinning Down A Title

What: OSAA Class 5A State Wrestling Championships.
When: Friday, 8:30 a.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Where: Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland.
Admission: Friday — adults, \$15; students, \$10 (good all day). Saturday — adults, \$10; students, \$8 (per session).



NEAL OLSON/for the Itemizer-Observer
Central senior Tanner Swinehart defeated South Albany's Nick Smith en route to a Mid-Willamette Conference district title on Feb. 14.

force on the mat, earning 31 wins by pin. His ability to control his opponents and his strength and speed make him a difficult matchup for any opponent, Central coach Van Holstad said.

"His attacking style, attitude and work ethic are all in line and it has

been evident so far this season," Holstad said. "As a result, he has a lot of confidence to execute his plan for each match."

Swinehart's success hasn't come out of nowhere. It's been the result of

years of training and dedication, Holstad said. And through all his triumphs, his younger brother, Collin, a junior, has been there nearly every step of the way.

See **FINISH**, Page 12A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Steve Lynn, Shea Coker, Brittany Varney, Drew Ellingson, Tierra Reynolds, Shane Castle, Allison Kidd, Tiaunannah Davis, Sarah Ziola and coach Micke Kidd (from left) celebrated Falls City's first ever trip to the state playoffs.

HISTORY MAKERS

Falls City advances to girls state playoffs for first time

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — In the nearly four decades since the first girls basketball team set foot on a court for Falls City High School, no team had ever accomplished something of this magnitude.

The Mountaineers punched their ticket to the Class 1A state playoffs for the first time in school history after defeating Jewell 47-28 on Thursday in a conference playoff contest that decided the Casco League's No. 3 seed to state.

Even for a team that prides itself on not letting emotion get the best of it, the victory set off a celebra-

Postseason Party

Who: Falls City Mountaineers (12-12, Casco League No. 3) vs. Portland Lutheran Blue Jays (15-10, The Valley 10 League No. 2).
What: First round, OSAA Class 1A girls state basketball playoffs.
When: Wednesday (today), 7 p.m.
Where: Portland Lutheran High School.
Admission: Adults, \$6; students and children, \$4.
What's at stake: The winner advances to the round of 16 (state second round) and will play on Saturday against a yet-to-be determined opponent.
Of note: Watch for final results and state playoff updates involving the Lady Mountaineers at www.polkio.com, www.twitter.com/polkiosports and the I-O's Facebook page.



smile. "And she was screaming."

The Mountaineers' road to the state playoffs didn't start as planned, however.

Falls City opened the league playoffs with a surprising 46-28 loss on Feb. 18 to Willamette Christian, a team the Mountaineers swept during the regular season.

"They expected to win that first game," Falls City coach Micke Kidd said. "I was wondering how they would respond. They were pretty bummed the night before."

The Mountaineers responded in a big way.

Tiaunannah Davis poured in a game-high 19 points, while Tierra Reynolds scored 12 points and Varney added 10 points against Jewell.

See **HISTORY**, Page 11A

PREP SWIMMING

Ford, Glade place at state meet

Dragons, Panthers happy with results

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

GRESHAM — Dallas and Central each earned a finalist on the medal stand at the Class 5A state swimming championships last weekend.

Jolie-Rae Ford of Dallas finished fourth in the finals of the girls 500-yard freestyle while Central's Nathan Glade placed fifth in the boys 100-yard breaststroke finals.

Ford, a sophomore, hoped to save her best performance for last on Saturday. She more than delivered in the 500 freestyle.

Ford finished the race in 5 minutes, 17.33 seconds, setting a personal record in the process.

"I can always hope for better results, but last year I did not even make finals," Ford said. "Fourth in high school state is an amazing accomplishment and I am beyond happy with how it all worked out."

Ford also finished seventh in the 200 freestyle preliminary in 1:59.03 on Friday, narrowly missing qualifying for the Saturday finals.

The top six swimmers advanced out of the preliminary heat.

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Ford



Glade

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