

CLASS 5A STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dallas ready for title run

Dragons hope to bring home state trophies

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas High wrestling team is used to invading the Memorial Coliseum each year for the OSAA state wrestling championships.

This year, the Dragons are hoping to have one of its best showings yet.

"For some of these wrestlers, a single win is a huge contribution, for others, we would be bummed with anything short of a place," Dallas coach Tony Olliff said.

Among those with high expectations include seniors Nolan Miller and Matt Hofenbredl, both of whom are seeded second in their respective weight class.

"I have to wrestle everybody tough," Miller said. "I have to keep my head on straight and know nothing is going to come easy."



Miller

In all, 17 Dallas wrestlers will compete at the OSAA state wrestling championships

Friday and Saturday in Portland: Ryan Bibler (106 pounds), Noah Sickles (113), Jordan Williams (120), Miller (120), Sammy Chung (126), Hofenbredl (132), Mathew Dindinger (138), Tanner Earhart (138), Cody Janssen (145), Noel Reyes (145), Clay Cozen (152), Treve Earhart (152), Jeff Dunagan (160), Tyson Janssen (170), Josh Naughton (182), Mathew Thorsted (195) and Kyle Snyder (220). And everyone is ready to show their stuff.

"I think I can do a lot of damage and I think our team has a real good shot to



Hofenbredl

win, so I'm excited for that," Tyson Janssen said.

This year, the Dragons are looking to compete for a team title as well.

"The 5A race will be a fun one," Olliff said. "Hillsboro, Crater, Redmond and our traditional rival Hermiston all have a shot at a state (team) title. Sandy has a chance as well. It will be a dogfight."

The key to a team trophy relies on more than individual titles, however.

"To win a state title, we need to get wins out of our 17," Olliff said. "We need to get pins when we can. We have to take sixth when we should, fifth when we should, etc. That's how you

win a state title."

While they're aiming high, Olliff is also looking to make sure his wrestlers enjoy the experience.

"We try to get the kids out of Memorial Coliseum when they don't need to be there," Olliff said. "Sometimes we take them across the river to people watch, or go back to the hotel for a nap. That can win a kid a state title. A mental escape can be worth gold."

It won't just be the boys competing at state this weekend.

Junior Angie Sletten (113 pounds) finished third in the Oregon Girls State Tournament qualifier earlier this month. The top four girls in each weight class advanced to the state championships this Friday and Saturday. Sletten will face freshman Sarah Sullenger of Hood River Valley in her opening round.

Finish: Senior ready to shine

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Collin qualified for state at 138 pounds.

"Tanner and Collin have become students of the sport," Holstad said. "They study it and have learned so much, and it has shown in their performances so far. They constantly push each other. Many times, it is just them doing morning workouts. They keep each other going."

The Swineharts won't be the only Central wrestlers competing at state.

Oscar Amezcua (160),

David Negrete (182), Alberto Meza (195) and Marlon Tupulotu (220) also earned their spots at state. Negrete and Meza also enter the state tournament coming off individual district championships.

"I honestly think we will do really well at state," Tanner Swinehart said. "All of the kids who are going to state deserve to be there. They're all hard workers on our team. I am confident in our ability and I think we're all going to do really well."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Four Pirates earn all-league honors



Price

DALLAS — Four Perrydale boys basketball players received all-league recognition last week.

Senior Chad Price and junior Haylen Janesofsky earned second team all-Tri-River Conference honors, while senior Troy Trembley and junior Brant Barnes received honorable mentions.



Janesofsky

The Pirates finished 10-14 overall and advanced to the second round of the Tri-River Conference playoffs.

Regis' Blake Minten earned Player of the Year honors, while the Owls' Tony Miller received the Coach of the Year award.

Registration open for Mighty Mites

MONMOUTH — Registration for the Dallas Mighty Mites program ends Thursday. The program, which is open to children ages 3 to 5, takes place every Saturday from March 14-April 4 at the Lyle Elementary School gym. The program runs from 9 to 10 a.m.

The Mighty Mites program teaches participants basic fundamentals of youth sports, including soccer, baseball, basketball and volleyball.

The cost is \$25 per child and includes a T-shirt. Registration forms are available online at www.dallasor.gov. Registration can be turned in at 187 SE Court St. in Dallas.

For more information: David Brautigam, 503-831-3559 or david.brautigam@dallasor.gov

Seventh-grade girls headed to state

SALEM — The Central seventh-grade girls basketball team won the Oregon Amateur Basketball tournament at the Hoop in Salem on Feb. 14-15.

Central defeated North Eugene 49-33 and South Salem 24-12 in pool play before beating Dallas in the semifinals and Crescent Valley in the championship game. Scores from the semifinal and final weren't available.

With its title, Central advanced to the Oregon Middle School Basketball Championship March 7-8 in Bend.

For more information: www.oregonamateurbasketball.net.

Local wins high school hockey title

PORTLAND — Central High junior Keighlee Riggan helped Team Neely win the Oregon State Hockey Association's state championship on Saturday and Sunday.

Team Neely defeated Team Deadmarsh 6-1 and Rogue Valley Youth Hockey Association 4-1 and 4-0 to earn the title on Saturday and Sunday.

Riggan posted a shutout in the third and final game. She stopped 23 of 24 shots over three games and had a .958 save percentage.

This is the second-straight state championship for Team Neely and its third-straight appearance in the title game. Riggan has been the starting goaltender for all three title games.

Team Neely won the Winterhawks Varsity Hockey League to advance to the state championship.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Dragons close in on third

Dallas, Central to host play-in games March 4

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — Locked in a battle for third place in the Mid-Willamette Conference with Central, the Dallas girls basketball team split a pair of league contests last week.

The Dragons opened with a 44-42 loss to league-leading Corvallis on Feb. 18 before defeating Crescent Valley 53-34 on Friday.



Zwicker

Sophomore Sara

Zwicker scored 16 points in each contest as Dallas improved to 13-8 overall and 8-4 in league play. Senior Sarah Mitchell added 12 points against the Raiders.

The Dragons enter the week in third place, one game ahead of Central. Dallas hosts Lebanon Wednesday (today) at 7 p.m. before playing at Silverton on Friday. The Silver Foxes entered the week 7-1 in league play.

Dallas cannot finish higher than third or lower than fourth in the MWC standings.

The Dragons will face either the fifth-, or sixth-place team from the Midwestern League. North Eugene and Churchill entered the week in the fourth and fifth spots in the Midwestern League.

"All season long we've been resilient," Dallas coach David Brautigam said. "We want to stay consistent these next two games and keep the momentum heading into the playoffs."

CENTRAL EYES HOME PLAY-IN GAME: The Central girls basketball team inched closer to clinching a home postseason game. The Panthers defeated Lebanon 69-43

Giving It All



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Perrydale senior Cheyenne Locke tries to drive past East Linn Christian sophomore Sydney Nichol on Thursday. Locke scored a game-high 17 points, but the Pirates lost to the Eagles 45-37 in the second round of the Tri-River Conference playoffs. East Linn Christian had a 38-23 edge in rebounds. Perrydale finished the 2014-15 season with a 12-11 record overall and 7-7 in league play.

Play-in Round

What: OSAA Class 5A girls basketball play-in round.

When: Wednesday (March 4), TBA.

Of note: Dallas and Central are battling for the Mid-Willamette Conference's third and fourth seeds. The Panthers and Dragons will host their play-in round matchup.

on Feb. 18 before falling to Silverton 52-39 on Friday. Junior Kylie Nash scored a game-high

24 points, while seniors Rianne Huffman and Sai Tapasa added 10 points each against the Warriors.



Nash

Central (7-5 Mid-Willamette Conference) hosts Corvallis Wednesday (today) and Woodburn on Friday at 7 p.m. to close out the regular season. The Panthers can finish no lower than fourth place and are one game behind Dallas for the league's third seed. Central will host its

play-in round against the fifth- or sixth-place team from the Midwestern League.

PERRYDALE FALLS IN LEAGUE PLAYOFFS: The third time wasn't a charm for the Perrydale girls basketball team on Thursday. The Pirates saw their season come to an end after falling to East Linn Christian 45-37 in the second round of the Tri-River Conference playoffs. Fourth-seeded Perrydale swept the Eagles during the regular season. Senior Cheyenne Locke led the Pirates with a game-high 17 points, but the Eagles controlled the boards, outrebounding Perrydale 38-23.

State: Ford happy with season

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"We were a little disappointed she didn't swim in the finals of the 200 freestyle, but in the overall picture, that helped her to swim her fastest time ever in the 500 freestyle," Dallas coach Jeff Bemrose said.

Ford may not have accomplished all she was hoping for at state, but her performance in the 500 freestyle helped prove to her that all the work she put in was worth it.

"This season started out kind of rocky," Ford said.

"My times throughout the season weren't the best, but because of all the work I put into it, everything came together at the end of the season."

Glade hoped to make the most of his final trip to state. It was mission accomplished as Glade finished the 100 breaststroke final in 1:02.56.

"Last year, I didn't make it to the finals," Glade said. "This year, I had a lot of support and I was almost kind of expecting to make the finals this year. I was

prepared to go and give it all I had, and that's what I did."

Glade was also part of the Central 200 medley relay team with Daniel Glade, Ryan Rosas and Orion Waight that finished ninth in the preliminary heat in 1:51.87.

Although it didn't advance to the finals, the chance to compete at state gave the relay team a memorable moment.

"Going to state was a big accomplishment," Waight said. "It was something that I didn't expect to be able to

do this season. It was a rush."

State provided an ending highlight for seniors Nathan Glade and Ryan Rosas. But for Waight, a junior, and Daniel Glade, a freshman, state provided valuable experience for two of the program's key swimmers for the future.

"We were looking at how everyone did their strokes and learned how to improve our swimming," Daniel Glade said. "I'm glad we had a chance to go through this experience."

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Athlete of the Week



Jolie-Rae Ford
Dallas High

Ford, a sophomore, ended her 2014-15 swim season on a positive note at the OSAA state swimming championships. Ford finished fourth in the 500-yard freestyle finals in 5 minutes, 17.33 seconds. Ford set a new personal record in the process. She also finished seventh in the preliminary heat of the 200-freestyle, just missing out on qualifying for the finals in that event. Ford was Dallas' lone state qualifier.



Julian Nichols
Western Oregon

Nichols, a junior, had an offensive explosion for the Western Oregon men's basketball team on Saturday. After scoring 10 points in the first half, Nichols caught fire, scoring 24 second half points against Simon Fraser. Nichols finished the game with 34 points, nine assists, six rebounds and five steals as the Wolves defeated the Clan 93-91 to clinch the Great Northwest Athletic Conference regular season title.

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.

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