

**SCHEDULE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4**  
**Girls Basketball:** Class 5A State Play-in Round: Eagle Point at Dallas, 7 p.m. Churchill at Central, 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 6**  
**Boys Basketball:** Class 5A State Playoffs, First Round, TBA.  
**Men's Basketball:** GNAC Championship Tournament at Billings, Mont., 5:15 p.m.

**Softball:** Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon (DH), 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7**  
**Girls Basketball:** Class 5A state playoffs, first round, TBA.

**Men's Basketball:** GNAC Championships at Billings, Mont., 7:30 p.m.

**Baseball:** Central Washington at Western Oregon (DH), noon.

**Softball:** Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon (DH), noon.

**Track and Field:** Western Oregon at Willamette Opener, 10 a.m.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**  
**Baseball:** Central Washington at Western Oregon (DH), noon.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10**  
**Boys Basketball:** Class 5A State Championship Tournament, Gil Coliseum, Corvallis, TBA.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**  
**Boys Basketball:** Class 5A State Championship Tournament, Gil Coliseum, Corvallis, TBA.

**Girls Basketball:** Class 5A State Championship Tournament, Gil Coliseum, Corvallis, TBA.

**Softball:** Northwest Christian at Western Oregon (DH), 2 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

**QUICK HITS**

**WOU wins coach, player of the year**

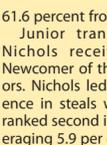
PORTLAND — After earning its first regular season conference title, the Western Oregon men's basketball team earned some of the league's biggest honors. Junior forward Andy Avgi was named Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year on Monday, receiving eight of nine first-place votes. Avgi averaged 18.1 points per game and shot 61.6 percent from the field.

Junior transfer Julian Nichols received GNAC Newcomer of the Year honors. Nichols led the conference in steals with 66 and ranked second in assists, averaging 5.9 per game.

Nichols and Avgi were also named first-team all-GNAC. Avgi was the conference's lone unanimous selection.

WOU senior Lewis Thomas and junior Jordan Wiley received honorable mention. Thomas led the Wolves in total rebounds with 180.

Wiley led the team in 3-pointers made with 59. Brady Bergeson earned the GNAC Coach of the Year award. Bergeson helped guide WOU to a 23-5 record overall, including an 11-game win streak from Jan. 3 to Feb. 11 and the GNAC's top seed entering the championship tournament.



**Avgi**

**OSAA CLASS 5A STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**PERFECT ENDING**

*Swinehart ends year 47-0 after becoming state champ*



Central senior wrestler Tanner Swinehart celebrates after winning the OSAA Class 5A state title at 170-pounds on Saturday night, capping an undefeated season.

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

PORTLAND — Central senior Tanner Swinehart was no stranger to the OSAA state wrestling championships.

But his three previous trips had yielded zero top-six finishes.

Swinehart wasn't going to let that happen again.

"I've qualified every year, but I haven't done anything," Swinehart said. "This was my last chance. I had to (succeed)."

Swinehart finished a perfect 47-0 season, winning the 170-pound state wrestling title on Saturday.

A takedown with 38 seconds remaining in the championship match gave Swinehart a 3-1 lead over Hermiston's Bob Coleman.

Coleman tightened the match to 3-2, and in the final seconds — attempted to steal the state title away from Swinehart.

"I knew there was a short amount of time left and I just had to let the time run out," Swinehart said. "It was pretty much do or die. I had to wrestle and couldn't let him take me down at all."

Swinehart was part of a quartet of strong Panther performances.

Collin Swinehart (138), Alberto Meza (195) and Marlon Tuipulotu (285) placed second in their respective weight classes.

"As much as they've worked and as much as they've put in this season, it's

**Undefeated**

- Central senior Tanner Swinehart won the OSAA Class 5A state wrestling title at 170-pounds.
- Swinehart did not lose a match during the 2014-15 season.
- Prior to Saturday, Swinehart had never placed at the state wrestling championship.
- Swinehart was one of four Panther wrestlers to reach the finals.

been a pretty awesome ride," Central coach Van Holstad said. " (Friday and Saturday) have been fun. The run we had in the quarterfinals and semis was pretty cool."



**Meza**

Collin Swinehart and Meza faced two nationally ranked wrestlers in Crescent Valley's Alex Rich and Hermiston's Sam Colbray, ranked No. 9 and No. 6 by Intermatwrestling.com in their respective final. Rich, a four-time state champion, pinned Swinehart in 29 seconds, while Colbray earned a fall in the second round.

Tuipulotu faced Corvallis' Andrew Idemarcu for the third time this season, but lost a 3-2 decision in overtime in his championship match. Tuipulotu was still thrilled with his finish.

See PERFECT, Page 14A

*Hofenbredl wins third title*

*Senior second in school history to achieve feat*

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

PORTLAND — It was déjà vu for Dallas senior Matt Hofenbredl and Hood River Valley senior Christian Marquez at the OSAA Class 5A state wrestling championships.

The top two seeds in the 132-pound bracket faced off in the Class 5A state final for the second year in a row.

Marquez won in overtime in 2014.

This time, things were different.

Hofenbredl largely controlled the match from the start, earning a 7-1 decision to claim his third state title in four years, making him the second wrestler in school history to achieve that feat.

Hofenbredl was Dallas' lone state champion and lone state finals participant.

Freshman Noah Sickles (113) rebounded from a loss in the championship semifinals to take third, earning an 11-4 decision over Churchill's Cade Ezell.

"It's been a great experience," Sickles said. "It's amazing here being at the state tournament."

Sophomore Tanner Earhart (138) finished fourth, while senior Nolan Miller (120), junior Sammy Chung (126) and senior Tyson Janssen (170) placed fifth. Freshman Treve Earhart



**Sickles**



Dallas senior Matt Hofenbredl won his third state championship in four years. Hofenbredl earned a 7-1 decision on Saturday night to win the title.

(152) and junior Jeff Dunagan (160) placed sixth. For Miller and Janssen, both seniors, the fifth-place matches represented their final match as a Dragon.

See TITLE, Page 14A



**LUKAS EGGEN**  
Commentary

**Triumph turns to tragedy**

It was a moment of pure joy that quickly turned tragic.

For everyone attending the OSAA state high school wrestling championships at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland on Saturday night, seeing Dallas High senior Matt Hofenbredl experience the thrill of a state title before rushing to section 67 in the stands to see his grandfather, Larry Hofenbredl, transported out of the arena, was as shocking as it was saddening.

Hofenbredl's absence atop the podium during the awards ceremony only heightened what just occurred.

Many teams claim they are a family. Dallas' wrestling program embodies that to the fullest.

See FAMILY, Page 14A

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