

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 13
Baseball: Montana State Billings at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m.
Men's Basketball: NCAA Division II West Regional: Western Oregon vs. Azusa Pacific at Azusa Pacific, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
Baseball: Montana State Billings at Western Oregon (DH), noon.
Softball: Simon Fraser at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m.
Men's Basketball: NCAA Division II West Regional: TBA, 5 p.m.
Track and Field: Western Oregon at Mt. Hood Community College Saints Open, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15
Softball: Western Washington at Western Oregon (DH), noon.

MONDAY, MARCH 16
Baseball: Dallas at Silvertown Jamboree, 4 p.m. Central at Stayton, 4 p.m. Perrydale at Sheridan, 4:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball: NCAA Division II West Regional: TBA, 7 p.m.
Softball: Perrydale at Sheridan, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Tennis: McMinnville at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Girls Tennis: Dallas at McMinnville, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4
Baseball: Gaston at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Franklin at Central, 4:30 p.m. Gaston at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5
Baseball: Cascade at Central, 4 p.m.
Girls Basketball: McKay at Central, 4:30 p.m.

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Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Sign-ups ending for Mighty Mites

DALLAS — Registration for the Dallas Mighty Mites program ends Thursday. The program runs from March 14 to April 4 at Lyle Elementary School from 9 to 10 a.m. Mighty Mites is open to children ages 3 to 5.

The Mighty Mites program teaches participants basic fundamentals of youth sports.

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.

Registration open for sports camp

DALLAS — Registration is open for Grace Community Church's Sports Camp March 23-25.

The camp runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon each day at LaCreole Middle School. Campers can choose between a sports or dance track.

The cost is \$30 per child or \$70 for three or more from the same family.

Registration is due by March 19.

Registration is available online at www.graceindallas.org.

For more information: Suzy Frey, 503-623-4961; email to suzy@graceindallas.org.

Swinging away

Junior leads team in hits, RBIs

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — It's become a motto for Western Oregon junior Brandy Knowles; a phrase that helps Knowles calm any nerves and get excited.

"Before every single game, I tweet or write on my Facebook status 'Clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose,'" Knowles said. "I write it everywhere I can see it."

The phrase, from "Friday Night Lights," a TV show about high school football in Texas, helps inspire Knowles to give it everything she has each time she puts on the cleats.

Knowles, who transferred from Walla Walla Community College in Washington, redshirted in 2014 after recovering from a knee injury.

Coming into this season, her focus was on regaining confidence at the plate.

"I made some adjustments for hitting and it's helping me a lot," Knowles said. "It's getting better and better every day. I worked on keeping my hands tucked."

See SWING, Page 11A

By The Numbers

16
The number of hits Brandy Knowles has through 18 games this season.

12
The number of doubles (nine) and home runs (three) Knowles has hit, both team highs.

9
The number of walks Knowles has drawn this year, the most of any Western Oregon player.



CLASS 5A PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Dragons' run to tourney falls short

Dallas cruises by Eagle Point, loses to Wilsonville in playoffs

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

WILSONVILLE — From the moment the season began, Dallas' boys basketball team had its eyes set on one goal: Get to the state quarterfinals at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis.

On Friday, the Dragons fell just short, losing in the first round of the Class 5A state playoffs to Wilsonville, 69-35.

"We played a great team,"



Tichenor

Dallas coach Trent Schwartz said. "We needed a lot of things to go right for us. We didn't do a great job finding their shooters on defense."

Everett Minahan, Dallas' leading scorer on the season, was held scoreless until the second half. From there,

Wilsonville pulled away to advance to the quarterfinals.

"It was fun to experience the playoff environment," Dallas senior guard Isaak Tichenor said. "While I feel we could have played a much better game against them, you can't take any credit away from them. Wilsonville played a great game."

The Dragons' offense may have sputtered against Wilsonville, but it soared against Eagle Point in the



Minahan

state play-in round on March 3. Minahan scored 20 points as Dallas rolled past the Eagles 84-59, a season-high in points scored by DHS. The Dragons led 29-26 with two minutes left in the first half. By the end of the third quarter, Dallas led 60-38.

"We shot the ball well and I think it showed what we could do on the offensive end," Tichenor said. "Our defense had really defined us (this season) and it was nice to see a good offensive performance."

The Dragons will lose six seniors to graduation, including starting posts Hayden Broadus and Brad Huey. But Dallas' younger players didn't wait long to start working toward next season.

See DRAGONS, Page 12A

CLASS 5A PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Central's playoff push ends in first round

Crater's pressure defense allows Comets to pull away from Panthers

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

CENTRAL POINT — The Central girls basketball team's season didn't start as planned, as the Panthers opened 0-3.

Central refused to panic, recovering to qualify for the OSAA Class 5A state playoffs. And while the Panthers won't be bringing home a state title, players are excited for the future.

Central's season came to an end when the Panthers lost to Crater 56-33 in the first round of the Class 5A state playoffs on Saturday.

Senior Sai Tapasa and junior Kylie Nash scored 11 points each, but the Comets pulled away in the second half, outscoring Central 35-16 as Crater's pressure defense began to take its toll on players.

"Crater traps and presses

the whole game, and they do a very good job of doing that," Panthers coach Julie McDonald said. "They wear you down and the majority of their offense comes from their press."

Central advanced to the first round after defeating Churchill 50-28 in the state play-in round on March 4. Nash scored 24 points, while senior Rianne Huffman added eight points during the victory.

"I don't think Churchill played its best ball," McDonald said. "Our girls played exactly how we wanted to defensively. We helped on a few girls we thought would be their offensive go-to players and did that very well.



Nash

2014-15 season with a 14-11 overall record and were 8-6 in Mid-Willamette Conference play.

"This season was a good experience," Huffman said. "We knew going into 5A was going to be tough. We all worked hard, all the coaches worked hard, and we did better than anyone expected."

The Panthers' transition to a new classification saw some growing pains, as Central adjusted to life in a competitive league with no easy games on the schedule.

See CENTRAL, Page 11A



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central senior Rianne Huffman goes up for a shot against Churchill on March 4.

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