

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
Baseball: Corvallis at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Central at South Albany, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Dallas at Silverton, 4:30 p.m. Woodburn at Central, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Central Linn, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Tennis: Dallas at Corvallis, 4 p.m. Central at Lebanon, 4 p.m.
Girls Tennis: Corvallis at Dallas, 4 p.m. Lebanon at Central, 4 p.m.
Track and Field: Corvallis at Dallas, 4 p.m. Central at Crescent Valley, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30
Softball: GNAC Championship Tournament at Richland, Wash.: Western Oregon vs. Saint Martin's, 7 p.m.
Girls Tennis: Silverton at Central, 4 p.m.
Track and Field: Perrydale at Salem Academy, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 1
Baseball: Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 4:30 p.m. South Albany at Central, 4:30 p.m. Country Christian at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: GNAC Championship Tournament at Richland, Wash.: WOU vs. TBA, TBA. Woodburn at Dallas, 4 p.m. Central at South Albany, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Gaston, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Tennis: Crescent Valley at Dallas, 4 p.m. Central at Silverton, 4 p.m.
Track and Field: Dallas at Lebanon Rob Allen Twilight, 4:30 p.m. Falls City at Stayton Twilight, 3:30 p.m. Western Oregon at Oregon State High Performance Meet, Corvallis, TBA.

SATURDAY, MAY 2
Baseball: Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon (DH), noon.
Softball: GNAC Championship Tournament at Richland, Wash.: TBA vs. TBA, TBA.
Track and Field: Central at Dick Baker Invitational, Gladstone High School, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 4
Baseball: Perrydale at Western Mennonite, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Perrydale at Western Mennonite, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Tennis: Dallas at Lebanon, 4 p.m. Corvallis at Central, 4 p.m.
Girls Tennis: Central at Corvallis, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 5
Baseball: Central at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Dallas at Central, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Tennis: Dallas at Lebanon, 4 p.m.
Girls Tennis: Lebanon at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Boys Golf: Dallas, Central at Class 5A Regional Championships, The Reserve, Aloha, TBA.

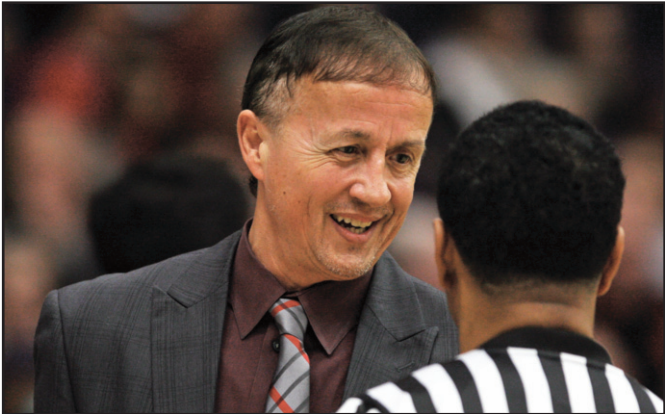
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6
Baseball: Dallas at Central, 4:30 p.m. St. Paul at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: South Albany at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Central at Crescent Valley, 4:30 p.m. Regis at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Golf: Dallas, Central at Class 5A Regional Championships, The Reserve, Aloha, TBA.
Boys Tennis: Dallas at Silverton, 4 p.m. Woodburn at Central, 4 p.m.
Girls Tennis: Silverton at Dallas, 4 p.m. Central at Woodburn, 4 p.m.
Track and Field: Dallas at Central, 4 p.m. Perrydale, Falls City at Sweet Home Last Chance, 4 p.m.

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Schedules Subject to Change

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Shaw to lead WOU men's basketball

Western Oregon turns to alumnus to lead program forward



WOU ATHLETICS/for the Itemizer-Observer
Western Oregon alumnus Jim Shaw (left) was hired on Monday to coach the men's basketball team.

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University Athletic Director Barbara Dearing announced the hiring of WOU alumnus Jim Shaw as the men's basketball head coach on Monday.

"We concluded a nationwide search and had more high quality candidates for the position than any other time anyone can remember in school history," Dearing said. "As the search committee deliberated throughout

Coming Home

- Western Oregon hired Jim Shaw to become head men's basketball coach.
- Shaw graduated from Western Oregon State College in 1985. He earned NAIA All-American honorable mention during his collegiate career.

the process, Jim emerged as the top candidate. He brings tremendous coaching credentials and passion for Western Oregon as an alum-

nus and an All-American basketball player during his career as a Wolf."

Shaw, a 1985 graduate of Western Oregon State College, earned NAIA All-American honorable mention and was district Most Valuable Player runner-up as a senior.

"It is a very exciting time for me," Shaw said. "Not many guys get to be a head coach at their alma mater, and that makes it special. I'm really looking forward to getting started."

See SHAW, Page 13A

CLASS 5A PREP GIRLS GOLF

Swinging toward state

Sophomore out to prove she's among the state's best golfers

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — On the golf course, Dallas sophomore Kailee Curtis is one of the Mid-Willamette Conference's most respected.

She's a consistent top-five finisher in the MWC and appears ready to contend for an individual berth to the state golf championship.

But Curtis is fighting for more than just the accolades.

"There's so many people who don't take me seriously when I say I play golf," she said. "They just don't understand it and how hard it can be."

It's nearly impossible to ignore Curtis on the course now. On Monday, Curtis finished third, which came after a second-place finish overall on April 20 at Trysting Tree Golf Club in Corvallis.

To some, her rapid rise may come as a surprise. But for those who know her best, Curtis' finishes aren't the result of luck.

"The big key for her is she kept playing all summer



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Dallas sophomore Kailee Curtis looks to qualify for the OSAA state championship. Curtis finished second in a Mid-Willamette Conference tournament on April 20.

long," Dallas girls coach Sharon Epping said. "She didn't come into the season cold. I've never seen a dedi-

cated player like her."

In the Curtis family, golf isn't just a game, it's a passion. Her older brother has

taken golf lessons at Oregon State. Her father has worked on maintaining golf courses. And, shortly after her fresh-

Curtis File

- Dallas sophomore Kailee Curtis finished third at Cross Creek Golf Course on Monday afternoon.
- Curtis will be one of two Dragon golfers competing at the regional tournament May 11-12.

man season, Curtis' golf game became a family affair.

"My dad and I established my goals for the year," she said. "The first one was to break 100, then to break 95 and then a 90, so shooting a 91 (on April 20) was really awesome. I blew right past those goals."

Curtis is focused on lowering her score even more, specifically through her short game.

"Putting and chipping (is what I struggle with most)," she said. "Distance-wise is where I have trouble, because I leave them short a lot."

In addition to practicing during the offseason, Curtis' performance can be linked to a change in attitude — golf doesn't feel like a chore. It's something she craves.

"I've learned to relax a lot and have a lot more fun," she said.

See SWING, Page 13A

CLASS 2A-1A PREP SOFTBALL

Pirates making progress

Coaches seeing improvement every practice

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — For much of this season, Perrydale's softball team has been a work in progress. But players and coaches are confident the finished product can be a masterpiece.

"Our incline of growth is getting better and better," Sarah Nelson said. "We're



for us, but I think we are going to do well."

The Pirates entered the

week at 3-3 in league play after beating Kennedy 10-9 on Monday.

As Perrydale, which has faced each of its Special District 2 opponents at least once, looks to improve upon its fourth-place ranking entering the week, means the Pirates are looking to show they can compete with the league's best.

See PIRATES, Page 12A

One step at a time

This is the first of a series of columns chronicling my journey in training for my first sprint triathlon.

My athletic career "peaked" in high school. After sneaking into the final varsity spot on my cross-country team, I proceeded to run at the state meet ... and take second to last. And I'm pretty sure last place got injured.

Safe to say, I was far from an athletic freak.

So, to be honest, the idea of a sprint triathlon was less than appealing.



LUKAS EGGEN
Commentary

But, with the second annual Independence Sprint Triathlon approaching on June 27, organizer Brian Joynt doesn't want people to be intimidated to try the 500-meter swim, 15-mile bike ride and 5-kilometer run.

See STEP, Page 12A

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