

PREP TRACK AND FIELD ROUNDUP

Panther girls win home track meet

Central suffers first two losses of season against Dallas and Crescent Valley



Central's Bailey Hartford (right) races out to the lead in the girls 1,500-meter run at the John Oliver Invitational on Friday. Hartford finished first in 5 minutes, 23.01 seconds.

Itemizer-Observer staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Led by several strong performances, Central's girls track and field squad won the six-team John Oliver Invitational on Friday.

The Panthers had six first-place finishes on the girls side. Bethanie Altamirano placed first in the 400-meter run in 1 minute, 5.18 seconds; Abby McBeth won the 800 in 2:23.62; Bailey Hartford took first in the 1,500 in 5:23.01; and Jamie Smith won the 3,000 in 11:46.74. Julia Kenyon placed first in the high jump with a mark of 4 feet, 10 inches.

The boys squad finished second. Thomas Peterson won the 200 in 22.72, while Kaj Bansen won the high jump and triple jump with marks of 6-1 and 40-11, respectively.

The Panthers will compete at Crescent Valley Wednesday (today) before taking part in the Dick Baker Invitational on Saturday.

DALLAS WINS FIVE EVENTS: Dallas' track and field team won five events at the Dave Snook Frost/Soph Invita-



White

White won the 110-meter hurdles in 16.86 seconds, while Jacob Deming took first in the pole vault with a mark of 11 feet, 6 inches. Aaron White won both the long jump and triple jump, recording leaps of 20-0½ and 41-8, respectively. Amelia Burgess won the girls discus with a throw of 97-3. Dallas hosts Corvallis Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. before taking part in the Rob Allen Twilight Meet in Lebanon on Friday.

PERRYDALE GIRLS PLACE

THIRD: Perrydale's girls track and field squad finished third out of 11 teams at the St. Paul Buckaroo Roundup on Thursday. Senior Alysia Vergin placed first in the 100-meter run, finishing in 13.57 seconds. She also won the 100 hurdles in 17.35. Taylor Price took first in the 300 hurdles in 53.57. The boys team placed seventh out of 12 teams. Kirk Fairchild finished second in the high jump, with a mark of 5

feet, 2 inches and in the triple jump, with a leap of 34-6. The Pirates will compete at Salem Academy on Thursday.

BEAUCHAMP LEADS FALLS CITY: Falls City senior Bo Beauchamp led the Mountaineers' boys track and field team to a fourth-place finish at the St. Paul Buckaroo Roundup on Thursday. Beauchamp won



Yeager

the shot put with a throw of 40 feet, 7 inches and the javelin with a mark of 132-0. Varney led the girls squad, which finished ninth out of 11 teams. Varney placed second in the shot put (29-11) and the discus (89-10). The boys and girls each placed 19th out of 23 boys and 21 girls teams at the Portland Christian Invitational on Saturday. Senior Tristan Yeager took sixth in the shot put with a throw of 40-2¼ and the discus with a mark of 120-8. Brittany Varney led the girls with a fifth-place finish in the shot put (30-10) and a sixth-place finish in the discus (92-6). The Mountaineers will compete at the Stayton Twilight on Friday.

Shaw: New coach brings a wealth of experience

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Shaw brings more than 25 years of experience at the NCAA Division I level to the Wolves.

Most recently, he served as an assistant coach at St. Mary's College from 2013-15.

He also served as an assistant coach at the University of Washington for nine seasons (2004-13). The Huskies won five Pac-10 titles and made five NCAA tournaments during that span.

He assistant coached at Oklahoma from 1999-2004, helping the Sooners reach the Final Four in 2002 and the Elite Eight in 2003.

Western Oregon is coming off one of its best seasons in program history. The Wolves finished 23-7 overall and 15-3 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play, winning the GNAC regular season title.

The Wolves advanced to the first round of the NCAA Division II West Regional.

"I think that the thing that I strive for is consistency," Shaw said. "There is an old saying that says 'consistency never graduates,' and I want

By The Numbers

14	1986	0
The number of men's basketball coaches in Western Oregon history before Jim Shaw's arrival.	The year Shaw earned his first assistant coach's position after leaving WOU at Idaho State.	The number of head coach positions Shaw had prior to accepting the post at Western Oregon.

us to be able to build a program, lay a foundation, and have a tradition like some of the other schools in the league that you know are going to be good every year. I want us to be a team that has a sustainable program and can compete at the high level of the league each year."

WOU is set to return 11 of 15 players from last season's roster, including starting forward Andy Avgi and guard Devon Alexander.

"I also want to get connected with this year's team — the returners especially since there are quite a few of them," Shaw said. "... By far the most important is just getting myself totally immersed with the players that are going to form the nucleus of next year's team. ... (Oregon) is a place that I always con-

Shaw File

- Jim Shaw brings more than 25 years of experience coaching in the NCAA Division I level.
- Shaw spent the last two seasons at St. Mary's College. He was at the University of Washington from 2004-13.
- Shaw becomes the 15th men's basketball coach in Western Oregon history.

sidered home as an adult, and I think that there is always a draw to go back home. Therefore, the fact that Western came open at this time couldn't have been better and it just was the perfect time in my mind to go back to Western and try and do something special."

PREP BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Dallas moves into second

Dragons earn a key sweep over Silver Foxes

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The Dallas baseball team used a sweep of Silverton to move into second place in the Mid-Willamette Conference.

The Dragons defeated the Silver Foxes 7-3 on Tuesday, 14-10 on Wednesday and 12-5 on Friday. Tucker Weaver went 3-for-3 with two doubles during the first game of the series, while Treve Earhart and Connor Maclean recorded two hits each in the second game. In the series finale, Clay Coxen had three hits and five RBIs in his varsity debut. Dallas (11-6 overall, 9-3 MWC) entered the week one game ahead of Crescent Valley and three games behind Corvallis.

The Dragons were scheduled to play at Corvallis Tuesday after press time. Dallas hosts the Spartans Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before playing at Corvallis on Friday.

CENTRAL FALLS TO FOURTH: Three losses to Crescent Valley dropped Central's baseball team from second to fourth in the Mid-Willamette Conference. The Panthers lost 12-8 on Tuesday, 9-5 on Wednesday and 3-1 on Friday. Central was scheduled to host South Albany Tuesday after



Dallas' Conner Maclean looks to get a hit against Silverton on Wednesday afternoon.

press time. The Panthers play at the Rebels Wednesday (today) before hosting South Albany Friday at 4:30 p.m.

PIRATES WIN TWO OF THREE: The Pirates lost to Santiam 3-2 on April 22 before defeating Siletz Valley 15-5 on Friday. Hunter Johnson had three hits and six RBIs during

the Pirates' victory. Perrydale defeated Kennedy 6-5 in nine innings on Monday. David Silver hit a game-winning double in the ninth. The Pirates (9-5 overall, 3-4 Special District 2) host Country Christian Friday at 5:30 p.m. before playing at Western Mennonite on Monday.

Swing: State berth still possible

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The Dragons have one regular season meet left at Trysting Tree on Monday, when Curtis will not only be looking to break 90, but also set herself up to qualify for the state tournament.

"That's been my goal ever since I started, so it's really cool to know I'm getting close," she said. "It would mean so much, and would be rewarding for people to realize that I'm actually good."

Curtis qualified for the regional tournament, May 11-12 at Trysting Tree Golf Club in Corvallis.

While Curtis is soaring, the girls team is struggling for numbers. Curtis was one of two players competing on April 20, along with Natalie Crabtree, who is in her first season playing competitive golf.

Crabtree will also play in the regional tournament May 11 and 12.

"I've grown up golfing, but this is the first year I've played competitively," Crabtree said. "I've gotten



Dallas' Natalie Crabtree gets ready for a tee shot during a practice round on Thursday afternoon.

used to my clubs, knowing when to use what clubs and it's been really helpful to gain this experience."

Dallas cannot qualify for state as a team without at least four golfers to score. Both Epping and Curtis

hope Curtis' success can show others how accessible golf can truly be.

"I just taught one of my most uncoordinated friends how to hit a ball in 30 minutes," Curtis said. "It takes a lot of work, but you can get it."

As Dallas prepares for its final regular season meet, Curtis knows this is crunch time for her game.

"I would like to keep my score in the same area that it's been and stay in the top five," Curtis said.

But while she aims to check off one of the few remaining goals she's yet to surpass this season, she also knows the key to her success won't lay in putting pressure on herself.

The true secret lays in reminding herself why she walked onto the course in the first place.

"I'm just out there to have fun," Curtis said. "Playing well is a bonus. If I can do that, it will be rewarding for (the doubters) to finally realize that I'm actually good."

Itemizer-Observer

Athlete of the Week



Amanda Evola
Western Oregon

In her final regular season games with the Wolves, senior Amanda Evola helped the WOU softball team split against Montana State Billings. Evola recorded two hits during the doubleheader, as the Wolves clinched the fourth and final seed to the softball tournament. Evola was also named first-team all-Great Northwest Athletic Conference on Monday after leading WOU in six categories and was second in eight others.



Rebeka Preston
Santiam Christian

Preston, a freshman, had a week to remember for the Santiam Christian track and field team. Christian placed first in the 200- and 400-meter runs at Horizon Christian on Thursday, finishing in 27.18 and 62.07 seconds, respectively. She also ran the anchor leg of the 4 x 100 relay team that took first. At Portland Christian on Saturday, Preston won the 200 and 400 again, finishing in 27.13 and 60.31, setting a new school record in the 400.

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.