

SCHEDULE

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 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 Meet, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 7
Baseball: GNAC Championship Tournament at Billings, Mont.: Northwest Nazarene vs. Western Oregon, noon. Western Oregon vs. Montana State Billings, 6 p.m.
Boys Tennis: Central at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Girls Tennis: Dallas at Central, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 8
Baseball: GNAC Championship Tournament at Billings, Mont.: TBA vs. TBA, TBA. Central at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at East Linn Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Corvallis at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Lebanon at Central, 4:30 p.m.
Track and Field: Western Oregon at GNAC Championships, Monmouth, 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 9
Track and Field: Western Oregon at GNAC Championships, Monmouth, 9:30 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 11
Baseball: Regis at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Regis at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Girls Golf: Dallas at 5A Regional Championships, Trysting Tree Golf Club, Corvallis, TBA.

TUESDAY, MAY 12
Baseball: Dallas at South Albany, 4:30 p.m. Corvallis at Central, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Dallas at Crescent Valley, 4:30 p.m. Central at Silverton, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Golf: Dallas at Class 5A Regional Championships, Trysting Tree Golf Club, Corvallis, TBA.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13
Baseball: South Albany at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Central at Corvallis, 4:30 p.m. Perrydale at Santiam, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Lebanon at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. Central at Corvallis, 4:30 p.m. Dayton JV at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.
Boys Tennis: Dallas, Central at Mid-Willamette Conference Championships, Crescent Valley, TBA.
Girls Tennis: Dallas, Central at Mid-Willamette Conference Championships, Crescent Valley, TBA.
Track and Field: Dallas, Central at Mid-Willamette Conference Championships, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, 3 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Local players get shot at NFL

WOU receiver signs with Chargers

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — On Saturday morning, mere hours from learning his NFL fate, Western Oregon senior Tyrell Williams hit the field. Not a football field, however. A golf course. "Me and my dad and brother and cousin went golf-

ing early in the morning," Williams said. "Then we just had a barbecue and hung out."

It was a decidedly low-key affair before a life-changing moment for the senior.

Williams signed a free agent rookie deal to join the San Diego Chargers that afternoon. A lifelong journey had been fulfilled. "Ever since I was really small, my



Williams

NFL Bound

Western Oregon wide receiver Tyrell Williams signed a free agent rookie contract with the San Diego Chargers.

Williams is the third WOU player to join an NFL mini camp. Tight end Kevin Boss was drafted by the New York Giants in 2007, and lineman Jason Slowey was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in 2012.

dream was to go to the NFL," Williams said. See NFL, Page 13A

Central High graduate gets tryout with Denver

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — All Central High graduate Grant Hedrick wanted was a shot to prove himself.

Now, he has one. Hedrick will join the Denver Broncos for a mini-camp tryout this weekend. Hedrick hopes to join former Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore, who is with the Detroit Lions.

"I'm am lucky and fortunate to have this opportuni-

ty with Denver," Hedrick said. "They contacted me right around our pro day on March 18. Their West Coast Scout ran our throwing session, and I've been in contact with them right up until the draft. Right around the seventh round, I figured out what was going on."



Hedrick

Hedrick hopes to join former Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore, who is with the Detroit Lions.

See HEDRICK, Page 12A

CLASS 5A PREP GIRLS TENNIS

Two become one

Central's top singles players team up for double the threat

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Central junior Renee Bruning always knew she'd play high school tennis.

After learning the game at the age of 8, Bruning couldn't wait to play competitively.

"I knew I was positively going to play (tennis) in high school," Bruning said.

But it was also when Bruning was 8 that her parents took her to the hospital for a checkup that changed everything.

"One time, I was knocked unconscious," Bruning said.

"My parents were worried I had a concussion. The doctors did a CAT scan and said you don't have a concussion, but you have a huge brain cyst that could cause you major issues."

Scans revealed the cyst covered about a third of her skull, Bruning said. Her freshman year was supposed to be her coming out party into the world of high school tennis. Instead, Bruning was about to face a far



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Renee Bruning (right) and Danielle Chance warm up before a match on Thursday afternoon.

bigger challenge off the court.

"I was having so much

pressure on my head," Bruning said. "I was having absolutely horrible migraines

every single day throughout the entire day. I was told I could go blind by the time I

was 20. It was misery every day."

See TWO, Page 13A

CLASS 5A PREP SOFTBALL

El-Hato, Dragons battle for position

Numerous squads competing for league's top two seeds

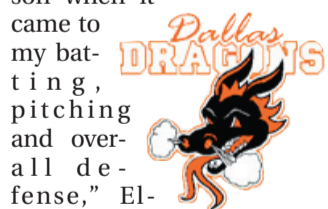
By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — As a freshman last year, Dallas' Yasmine El-Hato established herself as one of the Dragons' starting pitchers.

This season, El-Hato has developed into a dual threat as Dallas looks to separate itself in a highly competitive Mid-Willamette Conference.

"I've been practicing with

fast balls and hoping for a good improvement this season when it came to my bat-



ting, pitching and overall defense," El-Hato said.

In the pitcher's circle, she has thrown more than 42 innings, the second most on

the team. She also ranks second on the Dragons in ERAs and strikeouts.

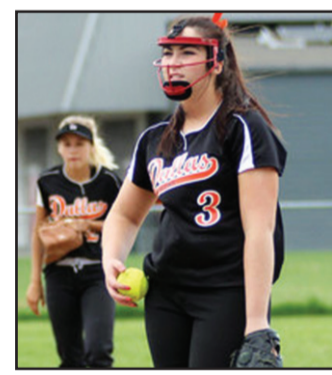
At the plate, she has turned into the Dragons' most dangerous home-run threat, leading the team with seven, more than the rest of the team combined.

"I try to stay relaxed at the plate," El-Hato said. "I can't think about hitting a home run. That's how I start getting myself out."

El-Hato, who got one hit and drew one walk during a 17-0 win over Woodburn on Friday, will play a major role on both offense and defense as Dallas jockeys for position in the league standings.

The Dragons entered Tuesday's game at Central in fourth place in the MWC with five games remaining, with a chance to finish as high as first or as low as fifth.

See DRAGONS, Page 12A



DAWN FELDMAN/for the Itemizer-Observer
Yasmine El-Hato is one of Dallas' starting pitchers.

QUICK HITS

DHS basketball to host fundraiser

DALLAS — The Dallas High boys basketball team will host its annual scrap metal drive on May 16. The team will pick up metal from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit www.cherrycitymetals.com/ recycling for a list of acceptable materials. Proceeds go to fund the boys basketball team. For more information: Trent Schwartz, 503-623-8336 ext. 3105.

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