

PREP BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Dallas defeats Corvallis

Dragons win two of three against the Spartans

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The Dallas baseball team handed Corvallis its first Mid-Willamette Conference loss of the season. After dropping the series opener 1-0 on April 28, the Dragons defeated the Spartans 10-0 on April 29 and 3-2 on Friday.

“We had to get this series in case we end up in any tiebreakers,” Dallas coach Scot McDonald said.

Pitchers Logan Hatley, Tucker Weaver and Everett Minahan started for the Dragons. The team has given up the fewest total runs in the MWC.

Dallas entered the week tied with Crescent Valley for second place at 11-4 in league play.

The Dragons were scheduled to begin a key series against Central Tuesday after press time. The foes play again Wednesday at Central and Friday at Dallas.

“The kids can’t think that since we beat Corvallis we can roll over Central, be-



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Dallas pitcher Logan Hatley prepares to throw against Corvallis. The Dragons won two of three games.

cause that’s not going to be the case at all,” McDonald said. “They are playing really

well and are extremely athletic. They’re right there next to us (in the standings).”

CENTRAL EARNS SWEEP:

The Central baseball team kept pace with the Mid-Willamette Conference’s top teams, earning a sweep over South Albany. The Panthers defeated the Rebels 12-5 on April 28, 10-7 April 29 and 14-0 on Friday. Senior Kyler Fleming had a big series, hitting a double in the first game and a grand slam in the final contest. The Panthers host Dallas Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before playing at Dallas on Friday.



Fleming

PERRYDALE DROPS TWO: Perrydale’s baseball team dropped a Special District 2 contest to Country Christian 11-4 on Friday before falling to Western Mennonite 10-3 on Monday. The Pirates host St. Paul Wednesday (today) at 4:30 p.m. before playing at East Linn Christian on Friday. Perrydale returns home to host Regis Monday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

City softball sign-ups now open

DALLAS — Sign-ups are open for the city of Dallas’ co-ed softball league. Games will run from June 16 to July 30 on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Game times will be at 6 or 7:15 p.m. each week. All teams must have a minimum of nine players. Cost is \$170 per team. Mail fees to city of Dallas, 187 SE Court St., Dallas, 97338. Registration is due June 11. For more information: David Brautigam, 503-831-3559.

Registration open for basketball

DALLAS — Registration is open for the city of Dallas’ men’s basketball league. Play begins June 1 and runs Monday nights through July 13 at LaCreole Middle School. Games run from 6 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$300 per team with eight players required on a squad. Registration forms are available online at www.dallasor.gov/index.aspx?NID=758. All forms must be turned in by May 30. Fees can be mailed to city of Dallas, 187 SE Court St., Dallas, 97338.

Youth football sign-ups Thursday

DALLAS — Pop Warner and Kids, Inc. will hold registration for the 2015 tackle football season Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at LaCreole Middle School. Registration for Dallas Dragons Cheer will also be taken on Thursday. Please bring a copy of each player’s birth certificate as well as a current wallet-sized photo of the player. A child’s full-year report card can be provided after the school year is completed. Physical forms must be filled out by a licensed state examiner and must be provided prior to player certification on July 13. Registration forms can be downloaded at www.mvpopwarner.com. Forms will also be available on site during registration on Thursday. Cost is \$160. There will be on-site registration on May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. Online sign-ups close on May 31. For more information: Jeff Hevener, Jeff.Hevener@mvpopwarner.com.

NFL: Williams ready to chase life’s opportunities

Continued from Page 10A

It was when Williams was in fifth grade that it dawned on him – football was more than just a game to him. It was a way of life.

“I tore my ACL and I had to sit out for a year,” Williams said. “It was unreal how much I missed playing, being in practices and games. Football was one of the main things that kept me going. I started really hoping football would be a big part of my life.”

Growing up, Williams watched the likes of Michael Irvin and Deon Sanders. When he arrived at Western Oregon, he started making a name for himself.

“Going into my junior year, I talked with (San Diego’s) scout,” Williams said. “I’ve been talking to their receivers coach for a few years now.”

That, coupled with an impressive performance at Oregon State’s pro day, and Williams began turning

heads on a national scale.

“It was pretty cool,” Williams said. “I talked to teams and met head coaches and receiver coaches. It was a lot of fun going through it all.”

As the draft approached, he went from a little-known Division II receiver to a potential late-round draft pick. And although he didn’t get picked, Williams knew his dream of playing in the NFL was close.

“It was pretty surreal,”

Williams said. “It was kind of crazy. I chose them to be the team I wanted to go to. The receivers coach said they are excited for me to come out here. It’s a weird feeling. It hasn’t hit me yet. I don’t think it truly will until I get the pads on.”

Now, Williams is turning his attention toward securing a spot on the Chargers’ final 53-man roster this summer. Williams will continue to work out at Western Oregon to stay in shape until



Williams

he goes to San Diego for the rookie mini-camp. “I know that they like big, fast receivers,” Williams said. “They like the West Coast offense, which is good for my game.”

Williams knows his journey to the final roster won’t

be easy.

But Williams took the first step in his NFL journey, one that he has been dreaming about for more than a decade.

And that opportunity, no matter what happens, is one that could be the culmination of a lifelong dream.

“To go out and potentially play in front of thousands of people, that would be awesome,” Williams said. “Just to be in the NFL with its fans would be amazing.”

PREP SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

Central remains in second place

Itemizer-Observer staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Central’s softball team earned three dominating league wins last week to remain in second place in the Mid-Willamette Conference. The Panthers defeated Corvallis 4-0 on April 28, Woodburn 18-0 on April 29 and South Albany 11-1 on Friday.

Central entered the week after winning six of its last seven games and has outscored opponents 164-39 this season. That mark is the second fewest given up in all of Class 5A so far this season. The Panthers have scored 10 or more runs nine times and have recorded six shutouts.

Central plays at Crescent Valley Wednesday (today) before hosting Lebanon Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

The Panthers faced Dallas Tuesday after press

time. Central plays at Silvertown on Tuesday to finish a postponed game before facing off in the regularly scheduled game.

DALLAS THROWS PERFECT GAME: Dallas’ softball team erased the memory of two losses by throwing a perfect game against Woodburn on Friday. Pitchers Erin Taylor and Keisha Sickles combined to shut down the Bulldogs during the Dragons’ 17-0 victory. Dallas entered Tuesday’s game at Central with a 10-5 record in league play. The Dragons host South Albany Wednesday (today) and Corvallis Friday at 4:30 p.m.

PERRYDALE LOSES THREE: The Perrydale softball team lost a trio of games, falling to Central Linn 10-3 on April 29 before losing to Gaston 6-5 on Friday and Western Mennonite 8-2 on Monday. The Pirates host Regis Wednesday (today) and Monday at 4:30 p.m. before hosting Dayton JV on May 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Itemizer-Observer staff report

LEBANON — Led by a first-place finish by Kyleen Benz in the discus, Dallas’ girls track and field team finished fifth out of nine teams at the Rob Allen Twilight Invitational in Lebanon on Friday.

Benz won the discus with a throw of 118 feet, 6 inches. She also placed fourth in the shot put with a mark of 36-3½.

Danielle Remington took third in the javelin with a throw of 116-3.

The boys team finished in a tie for seventh at the invitational. Sophomore Aaron White won the triple jump with a leap of 42-5 to lead the boys. Brett Rowden took second in the shot put with a throw of 43-8½, while Tanner Hlavinka took fourth in the 200 in 24.16 seconds.



Benz

PREP TRACK AND FIELD ROUNDUP

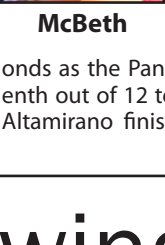
Dallas shines at Invitational



White

Central Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. in the team’s final regular season meet. The Mid-Willamette Conference districts begin March 13 and 14 at Western Oregon University.

MCBETH WINS 1,500: Central sophomore Abby McBeth won the girls 1,500-meter run Saturday at the Dick Baker Invitational. McBeth finished with a time of 4 minutes, 53.63 seconds as the Panthers took seventh out of 12 teams. Bethanie Altamirano finished second in



McBeth

the 200 in 27.98. The boys squad placed fifth at the invitational. Sophomore Peter Mason finished second in the long jump with a mark of 19 feet, 8¼ inches, while Max Lydum took second in the shot put with a throw of 47-6. The 4 x 100 relay team of Casey Brown, Nick Burgett, Gabe Dickson and Thomas Peterson also finished second in 44.85. The Panthers boys and girls lost a dual meet to Crescent Valley on April 29. Central hosts Dallas Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. The Mid-Willamette Conference districts begin May 13 at Western Oregon University.

VERGIN WINS 100 AT SALEM ACADEMY: Perrydale senior won the girls 100-meter run at Salem Academy as the Pirates’ girls squad placed fifth out of seven teams. Vergin finished the sprint in 13.15 seconds. She also placed third in the 100 hurdles in 17.90. Taylor Price finished



Vergin

third in the 300 hurdles in 52.98, and Sarah Clark took third in the javelin with a throw of 95 feet, 0 inches. The boys finished seventh out of seven teams. Martin Lopez took fourth in the 110 hurdles in 19.22 to lead the Pirates. Perrydale will compete at the Sweet Home Last Chance Meet Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m.

VARNEY LEADS MOUNTAINEERS: Falls City junior Britany Varney placed fourth in the girls discus to lead the Mountaineers at the Stayton Twilight Meet on Friday. Varney recorded a throw of 97 feet, 1 inch as Falls City placed 16th out of 17 teams. She finished 15th in the shot put with a mark of 30-5. Madelyn Hendrickson placed 26th in the 200-meter run and 28th in the 100 in 30.08 and 14.28 seconds, respectively. The boys did not score. Tristan Yeager led the boys team with a 10th-place finish in the javelin and 11th in the discus with throws of 139-6 and 116-8, respectively. The Mountaineers will compete at the Sweet Home Last Chance meet Wednesday (today) at 4 p.m. in the team’s final regular season meet.

Two: Bruning, Chance swing into doubles play

Continued from Page 10A

On Jan. 7 of her freshman year, Bruning had brain surgery to relieve the pressure in her head. The migraines stopped. But Bruning faced a long recovery process.

“I had the surgery on the first day back from winter break,” Bruning said. “I was out of school for six weeks because of the surgery.”

Yet, as the weeks rolled by, Bruning longed to get back onto the court. Her sophomore year, Bruning came out for the girls tennis team.

“Last year was the first year I played and I thought I was really, really good,” Bruning said.

It didn’t take long for her to receive a reality check.

“I realized I wasn’t even holding the racket right,” Bruning said. “... My first

match was so bad. I played a Spanish foreign exchange student. She played in some really good clubs, so she was really good. My dad said he had not seen a person serve like hers since the 1980s. It was a wakeup call that oh, I’m not as cool as I thought I was.”

By the end of her sophomore season, Bruning established herself as the team’s No. 1 singles player.

Throughout the first part of the 2015 campaign, Bruning remained in her No. 1 singles spot. But that wouldn’t last.

Bruning, along with No. 2 singles player Danielle Chance, made a big decision for the rest of the season — they’re making the switch to doubles.

“We thought we’d have a

better shot at districts, so we thought we’d try it,” Chance said.

At first glance, the move seems surprising. Neither Bruning nor Chance have any previous doubles experience. But the decision wasn’t made without the blessing of their coach.

“I did encourage them because the competition in singles at districts will be very tough,” Panthers coach Dave Eble said. “They should be more competitive at doubles than they would have been at singles.”

Trying to learn the ins and outs of playing with a partner requires a change in approach for both players.

“You serve at a different spot in doubles,” Bruning said. “In singles, you don’t play at the net that much. In



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Central’s Danielle Chance (left) and Renee Bruning made the switch from singles to doubles play this season.

doubles, someone is almost always at the net. We both automatically ran backward and then had to run back up because one of us has to be at the net.”

With just three matches under their belts, the pair

has been on a crash course in doubles.

“It’s difficult,” Chance said. “There was a lot of messing up, but it’s getting better. Communication on who is doing what will be key for us.”

With the Mid-Willamette Conference district tournament a week away, the pair doesn’t have the luxury of time to develop the chemistry and game plan needed.

“They are learning, but other good doubles teams have a huge head start,” Eble said. “They need to hurry up their learning curve to do well at districts. They need to cut down their errors and improve shot placement and aggressiveness.”

Making the switch to doubles may be a daunting task. But it’s a challenge Bruning is ready to face with Chance.

“Knowing that Danielle is a really good player, if we could get to districts in doubles, we might be able to go somewhere,” Bruning said.