

# Dallas: Dragons to face Hood River Valley

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As Earhart kept them occupied, however, Zach Wallace bolted for home.

"I always tell the kids don't be standing there for 40 throws," McDonald said. "Get moving and give us a chance."

As Wallace sprinted toward home, his mind was focused on one thing.

"Just run as fast as I can and get there before they throw the ball," Wallace said.

Springfield threw toward home, but Wallace was safe.

"It was the greatest feeling in the world," he said.

Pitcher Everett Minahan helped preserve the win in the seventh and the Dragons advanced to the first round of the state playoffs after winning in a back-and-forth game that saw several lead changes or ties during the contest.

"We just tried to hit the ball and get on base," Wallace said. "We tried our best to just do what we could to do our job every single time. That's one thing the coaches tell us. Worry about what we can control."

The ability to respond is something the Dragons have worked to develop all season long.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas pitcher Everett Minahan delivers a pitch against Springfield on Thursday afternoon.

"If things do not go the way that you're thinking, how quickly you can respond is key," McDonald

said. "We've been talking about that for a long time. Most of the time it's worked out and I thought

they responded well." Dallas enters the state tournament as the 10th seed and will play

at seventh-seeded Hood River Valley Wednesday (today) at 5 p.m. The winner advances to play the winner of Putnam vs. Churchill on Friday.

The Eagles finished 18-8 overall and 9-3 in Columbia River Conference play, taking first in the four-team league.

The teams played two common opponents. Dallas defeated Mountain View 7-5 and lost to Ridgeview 6-1 on March 27. Hood River Valley defeated Mountain View 10-0 on April 10 and Ridgeview 10-5 on April 3.

"They have a very good pitcher," McDonald said. "We have to prepare to go out there, and we'll need to play well to beat them."

The Dragons, who lost in the first round of the 2014 state playoffs to Ashland, hope experience helps them earn a trip to the state quarterfinals on Friday.

"I think any time you can get experience gives you more knowledge on what's going to happen in pressure situations," McDonald said.

But for the Dragons, the key to success may be keeping things simple.

"We need to throw strikes and just do our thing," Wallace said.

## PREP SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

### Dallas upset in play-in round

Dragons' season comes to an end after 2-1 loss to North Eugene

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — For the second year in a row, Dallas' softball team's season has come to an end in the play-in round.

The Dragons lost to North Eugene 2-1 on Friday, falling just short of the Class 5A state playoffs.

The Highlanders took an early 1-0 lead, but a Katie Mitchell double in the fourth inning advanced Ashlee Lichtenberger to score to tie the game.

North Eugene answered quickly, adding a run in the top of the fifth inning that proved to be the difference in the game.

Pitcher Keisha Sickles threw a complete game for the Dragons.

Dallas finished the 2015 season with a 16-10 record overall and 15-6 in Mid-Willamette Conference play. The Dragons finished



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas players react after losing to North Eugene 2-1 on Friday afternoon.

third in the league standings.

**PERRYDALE DROPS FINALE:** Perrydale's softball team lost its final games of the

season, losing to Kennedy 5-1 on May 19 and Central Linn 13-5 on May 20. The Pirates finished third in Special District 2 with a 10-10 record

overall and a 5-7 mark in league play. The league's top two teams, Central Linn and Kennedy, advanced to the OSAA Class 2A state playoffs.

## Double the Trouble



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central's Kevin Cable and Edoardo Sanna share a bite to eat during their first round match at the state tennis tournament Thursday in Portland. Cable and Sanna advanced to the Class 5A state quarterfinals, defeating La Salle's Noah Landstrom and Paul Krueger 6-0, 6-3 in the first round. Cable and Sanna fell to Summit's Hudson Mickel and Thomas Wimberly 6-1, 6-0 in the quarterfinal round.

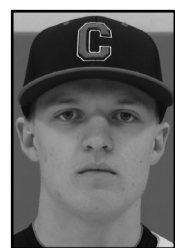
## PREP BASEBALL ROUNDUP

### Panthers fall in play-in round

Itemizer-Observer staff report

CRATER — The Central baseball team saw its season come to an end after falling to Crater 1-0 on Friday in the Class 5A state play-in round.

Pitchers Chris Rech and Wes Riddell held Crater to five hits during the contest, but a run in the bottom of the sixth gave Crater the win as Central struggled at the plate.



Rech

losing six of its final seven outings.

The loss marked the first time the Panthers were shut

out all season.

Central finished the 2015 season 13-12 overall and 11-10 in Mid-Willamette Conference play.

Crater advanced to the first round of the state playoffs.

**PERRYDALE FINISHES SEASON:** Perrydale's baseball squad finished its season with a victory, defeating Kennedy 3-1 on May 19. Troy Trembly went three for three at the



Trembly

plate, while Hunter Johnson drove in two runs. The Pirates finished 11-10 overall and 5-9 in Special District 2 play to finish fourth. The top three teams from the league advanced to the state playoffs.

## CLASS 5A PREP GIRLS GOLF

### Curtis takes 26th

Itemizer-Observer staff report

CORVALLIS — Dallas sophomore Kailee Curtis finished in a tie for 26th at the OSAA Class 5A state girls golf tournament May 18 and 19. The state tournament saw 47 players compete over the two-round



Curtis

championship.

Curtis shot a 193 at Trysting Tree Golf Club in Corvallis — the same score she shot at the district tournament, also held at Trysting Tree Golf Club.

Summit senior Madison Odiome and Crater's Daniele Giles tied for the individual title, recording a 140.

Summit won the team championship with a combined score of 628 over the two-day tournament.

## Yeager: Senior happy with his performances

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"He's just a natural athlete," Falls City coach Emily Kenagy said. "He's good at everything he tries. From the beginning, we knew he was going to be good. As the season wore on, he just got better and better. There was no doubt that he was going to be here."

Natural talent, however, was only part of the key to Yeager's success during the season.

The ability to stay mentally strong was just as important to his performance, Kenagy said.

"I think that mentally, he

is very stable and has it all there," Kenagy said. "He's composed and doesn't freak out or anything like that. I think that's a big part of it, mentally being in the moment."

Yeager came close to winning the state title in the discus, losing by four inches in the final round of competition.

But Yeager's season caps off a stellar senior campaign and provided him with the perfect send off to his high school athletic career at Falls City.

"I never thought I'd make it to state, but I'm glad I did," he said.

## Itemizer-Observer

### Athlete of the Week



**Rebeka Preston**  
Santiam Christian

Preston, a freshman, capped off a stellar track and field season at the OSAA Class 3A state track and field meet in Eugene. Preston won the state title in the girls 400-meter run, finishing with a time of 58.99 seconds. But she wasn't finished at state just yet. Preston also placed fourth in the 200-meter run and ran the anchor leg on the school's 4 x 400 relay team that took fifth place at Hayward Field.



**Ryenne Huffman**  
Central High

Huffman, a senior, showed up in a big way for Central's softball team's play-in game against Ashland on Friday. Huffman started her afternoon off with a triple in the second inning. But her biggest contribution came in the bottom of the sixth, when she hit a grand slam, clinching the Panthers' 14-2 victory. She helped Central advance to the first round of the OSAA Class 5A state softball playoffs.

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.