

# Heart: Tallan to pursue coaching career

**Continued from Page 10A**  
As the youngest of four children, Tallan saw his older siblings compete in a number of different sports while he was forced to watch from the sidelines. He wasn't about to let his condition mark the end of his athletic career. "I was always keeping stats in the stands," Tallan said. "... I didn't want to give up on sports because I couldn't play them. I just had to find the path that was right for me."

## The Call

Tallan treasured his moments playing baseball, but his passion led him to a different sport — football. "I don't know what it is about football," Tallan said. "Maybe because Central was so good and growing up watching games under the Friday night lights and the big crowds. I just really love it." But Tallan seemed destined to a life of watching from the stands — that is until an offer from Central coach Shane Hedrick changed everything. Tallan and Grant Hedrick, Shane's son, grew up as close friends. And when Tallan was in fifth grade, Shane Hedrick gave Tallan the chance he had been hoping for — to join Central's football team. "I've known Tanner for basically his whole life," Shane Hedrick said. "... I followed him playing sports to the degree that he could. He started to pull back in sports a little bit and curiosity led me to find out why."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Tanner Tallan helped Boise State earn a Fiesta Bowl Championships during the 2014-15 college football season.

Tallan joined Central High's staff doing simple tasks at first, but it wasn't long before his responsibilities grew. "I started out as a water boy and ball boy," Tallan said. "I moved up to equipment manager and helped with film." Despite his young age, Hedrick said he was amazed by the way Tallan conducted himself. "I've never encountered someone at his age that was so mature," Hedrick said. "This was when he was still in middle school. We never looked at him like that. It was more like a college kid coming in. He knew what his assignment

was and didn't have to be told what to do. He was years ahead of anyone we've had come through. We've had a lot of college kids come out and coach at Central. (Tanner) has been more mature than any one of them." Before long, Tallan joined his friends, including Grant Hedrick, Grant Lindley and Brandon Cutsforth, as a student at Central High. This time, Tallan had a way to be a part of something special with them. "They helped me feel like I was part of the team and never made me feel like I wasn't important," Tallan said. "I really en-

joyed being a part of the experience." Officially, Tallan's title was equipment manager. But Tallan knew he wanted more — he wanted to become a coach. "He developed into a big brother role for me," Tallan said. "When we were hanging out, he's never changed. He's such a humble person. It's just like if we were hanging out here (at Central)." Grant said Tallan's effect on him and the team surpassed any kindness he showed to him. "He may not have been able to play it, but he has watched and studied it closer than anyone I know," Grant Hedrick said. "... Tan-

ner never gets too high or too low, which helped me a lot as a player to go to him during a game or during the course of a season. He's helped me out a lot more than he probably knows." Tallan spent his first two years with the running backs. This year, Tallan will be working with the cornerbacks — a strategic choice allowing Tallan to gain experience helping on both sides of the ball. While he may be living out his dream, that doesn't mean it's all easy. Tallan said during football season, he's occupied seven days a week. "When it's your turn to do laundry, you can be there until 1 in the morning and have to be back at practice at 7 a.m. the next day," Tallan said. But all the hours and hard work is more than worth it for Tallan, who hopes to become a graduate assistant somewhere after earning his undergraduate degree. "He has a lot of coaching connections around the country that will help him continue his football coaching career for a long time if he wants that," Grant Hedrick said. "He's respected by a lot of people at Boise State and other places in the football world." More than anything, Tallan is grateful for the chance to live out his athletic dreams. "I love just being a part of the program and being around football," Tallan said. "It's amazing when your dreams start to become realistic."

## Gaining Speed



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Western Oregon student-athletes Samantha Moore (left) and Josh Joyner (right) watch as a camper runs through a ladder workout during the school's speed camp on Monday morning. Western Oregon is offering speed camps through the end of July. For more information, visit [www.wouwolves.com](http://www.wouwolves.com).

## DIVISION I JUNIOR BASEBALL

# Coxen emerges as leader

*Dallas hopes to make deep run at state tournament*

By Lukas Eggen  
The Itemizer-Observer

School may be out, but for Dallas junior Clay Coxen, he's not taking the summer baseball season lightly. "My expectations were that we would make it to the state tournament and be playing on the last day of the tournament," Coxen said. Dallas' Division I Junior Baseball squad will likely host a league playoff game on Thursday, coach Scot McDonald said. But while winning a state title is on everyone's mind, Coxen said the summer does provide one major benefit. "It's different from the (high school) season," Coxen said. "It's a lot more laid back and it's more



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas junior Clay Coxen heads to first base during a Division I junior baseball game on Monday.

about learning than winning." Coxen is experiencing plenty of both this summer. He is emerging as one of the team's most consistent bats as Dallas has earned a

mond is the result of years of work, beginning at the T-ball level. "I couldn't imagine what it would be like without (baseball)," Coxen said. "I love baseball and I wouldn't give it up for anything." Coxen's growth this summer comes with expectations of a big junior campaign for the Dragons. "I see myself playing a role in next year's team in the batting lineup and in the pitching rotation," Coxen said. As Dallas prepares for what it hopes is a deep run in the state tournament, Coxen also makes sure to remember to enjoy the moment while he can. "My favorite aspect is being able to play with your best friends," Coxen said. "It doesn't get better than that."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Tickets on sale for golf tournament

INDEPENDENCE — Tickets for the Partnerships in Community Living's Benefit Golf Tournament are now available. The tournament, scheduled for Aug. 14, is open to the public at Oak Knoll Golf Course. The four-person team scramble costs \$300 per team or \$75 per player. Registration is available online at [www.golf.pclpartnership.org](http://www.golf.pclpartnership.org) or will be available onsite at 7 a.m. on the day of the event. A continental breakfast and full lunch will be provided. Hole sponsorships also are available. For more information: PCL, 503-838-2403.

### Dallas to host youth tennis camps

DALLAS — The Dallas High School tennis program will host a camp for students in grades one through 12 Aug. 10-15 at the Dallas High tennis courts. Cost is \$30 plus two sealed cans of balls. Mary Christensen will help lead the camp, which will be split into two sessions. The first session is for first through fifth grade students from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. The second session, for grades six through 12, will run from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. Registration will be held the first day of camp. For more information: Rose Gillette, [gilletfam@msn.com](mailto:gilletfam@msn.com).

### Local players fall at USTA tourney

EUGENE — The Timberhill Tennis Club's women's tennis team, featuring local players Petra Cole, Mary Christensen, Alice Bibler and Patti Youngren, lost to the Athletic Club of Bend 3-2 on Saturday at the Southern Oregon Championships. Cole and Christensen won their doubles match 7-5, 7-5, while Bibler dropped her singles match and Youngren lost a doubles match. The Athletic Club of Bend advanced to sectionals Aug. 28-30 in Washington.

### Volleyball skills camp signups open

DALLAS — Dallas High School will host a volleyball skills camp Aug. 10-13. The camp is open for students in grades one through 12. Cost is \$45. Make checks payable to Dallas Volleyball. The morning session will run from 9 to noon and is open to all girls entering high school. It will be run by guest coach Chuck Shannon and current DHS coaches. The afternoon session will go from 1 to 3 and is open to all girls and boys in first through eighth grades. Parents are invited to watch. Registration forms are available online at [www.sites.google.com/a/dsd2.org/dallas-high-school-athletics/](http://www.sites.google.com/a/dsd2.org/dallas-high-school-athletics/). For more information: Shana Lavier, 503-949-4657.

### DHS to put on youth soccer camps

DALLAS — Signups for the Dallas High School Soccer camp are open. The camp will run from Aug. 11-13 from 9 to 11 a.m. and is open to students in kindergarten through eighth grades. The camp will be held at Whitworth Elementary School. Players will be broken up according to grade and skill level. Make checks payable to Dallas Booster Club.

### CYS to host youth football signups

INDEPENDENCE — Central Youth Sports (CYS) will hold football registration Aug. 10-14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Panther Stadium. Signups will take place at the concession stand. There will also be an opportunity for registration on Aug. 15 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. CYS youth football is open to students in grades K-6. Cost is \$125 per child.

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