

Rolling on the River



Top left: One of the entrants relaxes while in the water during the Great Willamette River Raft Race on Saturday morning. Competitors took part in the 11.5-mile route from Independence to West Salem.

Top right: One of the participants gets ready to start the river raft race on Saturday morning in Independence.

Bottom left: A group begins preparation before the Great Willamette River Raft Race on Saturday.

Bottom right: One of the many river rafts awaits the beginning of the Great Willamette River Raft Race on Saturday.

The Great Willamette River Raft Race is an annual tradition. Proceeds from the event benefit the Networking exchange Club of Salem/Keizer. Homebuilt rafts, inner tubes, canoes and kayaks took part in the event.

For more information: www.exchangeclubofsalemor.org/greatwillametteraft.

TRACIE RABAGO for the Itemizer-Observer



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Dirtbags fall short at state tournament

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SALEM — The Demarini Dirtbags fell short in their quest for an American Legion state title, losing to Eugene 6-5 in 12 innings on Aug. 2 in a semifinals matchup.

The Dirtbags led 5-4 with two outs in the bottom of the 12th inning, when Challengers third baseman Mar-

cus Lydon hit a two-run single for the walk-off win.

"It was one of the greatest games," Dallas High coach Scot McDonald said. "Guys were doing great things offensively and had good defense behind it to shut it down. Everyone was focused knowing the winner was going to the championship (game)."

The Dirtbags advanced to the state tournament's final day after going 3-1, defeating the Northwest Star Academy Knights, Withnell Dodgers and Portland Barbers and losing to eventual champion Medford.

"We created this program and this team for these types of circumstances," McDonald said. "We want the kids

to get to play and compete at high levels. It's more of an all-star type concept. There's a lot more pressure to perform and they learn how to play with that pressure, which is huge."

With the Dirtbags' season coming to a close and a new school year rapidly approaching, for many of the Dragons' baseball

players, their attention will turn toward new sports — a fact that McDonald said can help strengthen the squad.

"Whatever you do, just go compete," McDonald said. "Learn how to play with pressure, compete and become more athletic. ... Really work on getting bigger, faster and stronger."

The Dirtbags may have fallen just short of their ultimate goal of a state title, but McDonald said that his team is already chomping at the bit.

"The kids are excited about wanting to have the opportunity to do something (great) next year," McDonald said. "It's good to see they're excited."

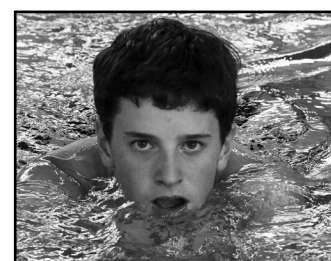
Splash: Dressel eyeing state

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Dressel's fastest time in the 50 freestyle is 30.93 seconds, but Dressel is confident he can achieve his dream.

"I like the practices," Dressel said. "Coach Mark (Maxwell) really pushes us and he makes us better every time we start a new practice."

Dressel's willingness to work and his desire to improve his times across the board has made Dressel one of the easiest kids to coach, Maxwell said.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Isaiah Dressel trains during a swim practice.

"Isaiah is a great worker," Maxwell said. "He's showing leadership as he is

growing up and is the type of kid the community can rally behind." Although swimming can have challenges, Dressel is more than excited for the

chance to face them.

"Practices are really hard," Dressel said. "I feel like swimming is a lot harder than other sports, but I just really enjoy it."

As Dressel hopes to earn a state berth, he's also learned not to get caught up in comparing himself.

"I'm just trying to beat my own time," Dressel said. "I'm not focusing on other people and trying to beat them. I'm focused on what I'm doing."

SCOREBOARD

CLUB SWIMMING

BLUE DOLPHINS Seahorse Invitational Newport July 31-Aug. 2 Results (BDST finishers)

GIRLS
500 freestyle (11-12) — 10, Madeline Altenburg, 7:45.61; 12, Savannah King, 7:54.73. 500 freestyle (13-14) — 4, Isabel Diaz, 7:04.67. 1,650 freestyle (15 and over) — 1, Emily Beasley, 27:32.74. 100 individual medley (10 and under) — 9, Jaden Irwin, 1:30.74; 19, Lonny Stork, 1:36.87; 23, Sydney Alamein, 1:43.28. 100 individual medley (13-14) — 5, Isabel Diaz, 1:29.14. 200 individual medley (9-10) — 8, Kaitlyn Landis, 3:48.01. 200 individual medley (11-12) — 22, Savannah King, 3:28.53. 200 individual medley (15 and over) — 20, Emily Beasley, 3:24.59. 50 breaststroke (9-10) — 17, Jaden Irwin, 50.76; 20, Lonny Stork, 52.29. 100 breaststroke (9-10) — 10, Sydney Alamein, 1:53.61; 12, Kaitlyn Landis, 2:06.73; 13, Madison Hanson, 2:15.16. 100 breaststroke (11-12) — 21, Savannah King, 1:47.23; 24, Madeline Al-

tenburg, 2:00.30. 100 breaststroke (13-14) — 22, Isabel Diaz, 1:40.56. 100 breaststroke (15 and over) — 19, Emily Beasley, 1:50.86. 25 freestyle (8 and under) — 24, Emma Irwin, 31.51. 50 freestyle (9-10) — 11, Jaden Irwin, 35.88; 21, Lonny Stork, 38.31; 31, Kaitlyn Landis, 42.65; 35, Sydney Alamein, 44.85; 39, Madison Hanson, 48.33. 50 freestyle (11-12) — 36, Savannah King, 36.63; 39, Madison Altenburg, 37.13. 50 freestyle (13-14) — 21, Isabel Diaz, 34.13; 27, Rhylee Pendley, 42.63. 50 freestyle (15 and over) — 23, Emily Beasley, 40.48. 50 butterfly (9-10) — 16, Lonny Stork, 43.89; 40, Madison Hanson, 1:06.32. 50 butterfly (13-14) — 8, Isabel Diaz, 42.36; 9, Rhylee Pendley, 57.89. 1000 butterfly (9-10) — 5, Kaitlyn Landis, 1:55.17. 100 butterfly (11-12) — 21, Madison Altenburg, 1:49.58; 22, Savannah King, 1:51.87. 50 butterfly (15 and over) — 16, Emily Beasley, 1:40.88. 25 backstroke (8 and under) — 22, Emma Irwin, 35.27. 50 backstroke (9-10) — 14, Jaden Irwin, 43.61; 17, Lonny Stork, 45.31; 29, Kaitlyn Landis, 52.69; 40, Madison Hanson, 1:02.16. 50 backstroke (13-14) — 3, Isabel Diaz, 39.26. 100 backstroke (11-12) — 23, Savannah King, 1:40.96. 100 backstroke (15 and over) — 19, Emily Beasley, 1:38.28. 100 freestyle (9-10) — 11, Jaden Irwin, 1:18.27; 18, Lonny Stork, 1:24.45; 32, Kaitlyn Landis, 1:33.72; 43, Madison Hanson, 1:52.32. 100 freestyle

GO FOR A SWIM

• The Blue Dolphins Swim Team is a non-profit competitive youth squad.
• For more information: Mark Maxwell, family-maxwell4@yahoo.com.

(11-12) — 36, Madison Altenburg, 1:23.77; 37, Savannah King, 1:23.79. 100 freestyle (13-14) — 20, Isabel Diaz, 1:14.91; 23, Rhylee Pendley, 1:38.22. 100 freestyle (15 and over) — 18, Emily Beasley, 1:26.22.
BOYS
200 freestyle (11-12) — 11, David Beasley, 3:14.97. 100 individual medley (13-14) — 2, Gabe Applegate, 1:22.72. 50 freestyle (9-10) — 25, Kason Utz, 1:04.65. 50 freestyle (11-12) — 23, David Beasley, 39.01. 50 freestyle (13-14) — 12, Gabe Applegate, 30.53. 100 butterfly (11-12) — 8, Gabe Applegate, 1:25.71. 50 backstroke (9-10) — 20, Kason Utz, 1:16.76. 50 backstroke (11-12) — 13, David Beasley, 49.77. 100 backstroke (11-12) — 13, David Beasley, 1:47.06. 100 backstroke (13-14) — 12, Gabe Applegate, 1:28.02. 100 freestyle (11-12) — 16, David Beasley, 1:27.03. 100 freestyle (13-14) — 14, Gabe Applegate, 1:13.29.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Three Man Best Ball
Low gross: Flight A - 1, Bill Karjala, 156. Flight B - 1, Brian Hallin, 173.
Low net: Flight A - 1, Lee Taylor, 141; 2, Bob McCleery, 142. Flight B - 1, Jack Duncan, 146; 2, Bob Sprinkle, 147.
Tuesday, Aug. 4 Results
Three Man Best Ball
Low gross: 1 (tie), Lee Taylor-Dennis Bergman-Henry Suderman and Mike Largent-Dave Watson-Darrel Smedstad, 35.
Low net: 1, Greg Fisher-Dave Day-Warren Richards, 28; 2, Bob Sprinkle-Rich Dominik-Eldon Rivers, 29; 3 (tie), Larry Burger-Jim Cain-Dave Voves, Brian Halin-Lynn Hurt-David Karr and Rocky Kygar-Bob Bennett-Bob Mason, 30.

CLUB GOLF

CROSS CREEK GOLF COURSE
CROSS CREEK MEN'S CLUB
Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 8-9 Results

Tourney: Rue hopes for 50

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Rue's objective with Sunday's tournament is, in part, to boost the reputation of the course for people who wouldn't normally travel to Independence. He's expecting more than 50 people to compete and will add three temporary holes to make it an 18-hole course.

The event, hosted by Mecanico, is sanctioned, therefore offering cash prizes to players. This year, the Summer Fling will be two rounds of 18 both played on Sunday. Rue said he wants to expand it in the future.

"Capital City Disc Golf and the city of Independ-

ence are interested in making this an annual thing," Rue said. "I'm hoping to expand it to three rounds (over two days) and having camping available in the park to make it a real event."

Shawn Irvine, Independence's community development director, said he's seen quite a few people using the course and would like to see the tournament build on that.

"It's just another fun thing to do in Independence," Irvine said. "These kinds of things, it seems small, but it's going to bring people in from out of town, and that is what we are looking to have happen."

SPORTS BRIEFS

WOU lands Oregon State transfer

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's men's basketball team landed former Oregon State player Alex Roth on Aug. 4. Roth, a 6-foot-4 guard, walked on as a freshman for the Beavers during the 2013-14 season. He missed the 2014-15 campaign due to injury. Roth is a 2013 graduate from West Salem High School. Roth will have all four years of eligibility remaining with the Wolves. "Alex is an outstanding addition," Wolves coach Jim Shaw said. "He is an excellent student and a talented player who is an extremely versatile scorer and deceptive athlete. I am excited about adding him to our program. Recruiting quality student athletes from Polk County is very important, and Alex represents everything we are looking for in a student athlete."

RODEO

HELL ON HOOVES
Rodeo:
Thursday, Aug. 6 Results
Bareback — 1, Kyle Bounds; 2, Zakk Earp; 3, Orrin Ouska.
Saddle Bronc — 1, Allen Mattinat; 2, Tucker Hill; 3, Kade McLean.
Bull Riding — 1, Allen Helmut; 2, Bryan Carter; 3, Charlie Scolari.
Barrel Racing — 1, Jessica McMahon; 2, Darcie Himmelspach; 3, Karman Lawless; 4, Jennifer Jenkinson.