

QUICK HITS

WOU picked fourth in GNAC

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's football team was picked to finish fourth out of seven teams in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference preseason coaches' poll.

The Wolves received one first-place vote and 23 points overall.

Two-time defending champion Azusa Pacific received five of the seven first-place votes and was chosen to repeat.

Humboldt State was picked second, followed by Central Washington.

WOU, Humboldt State and Central Washington finished in a three-way tie for second place in 2014 with a 4-2 record in conference play.

The Wolves open the 2015 season at Humboldt State on Sept. 5. Western Oregon's home opener is Sept. 12 when the Wolves host Simon Fraser at 1 p.m.

Wolves volleyball chosen eighth

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's volleyball squad was chosen to finish eighth out of 11 teams in the GNAC preseason coaches' poll on Monday.

The Wolves sees four starters return from last season's squad that went 5-21 overall and 3-15 in conference play to finish in a tie for eighth place.

WOU opens the regular season on Sept. 4 in Colorado. The squad's home opener is Sept. 8 against Lewis & Clark College at 7 p.m.

Western soccer picked sixth

MONMOUTH — The Western Oregon soccer team hopes to prove the preseason GNAC coaches' poll wrong. The Wolves were picked to finish sixth out of nine teams.

WOU finished 6-8-4 overall and 4-6-4 in GNAC play in 2014, finishing fifth — one spot out of the 2014 GNAC tournament.

The Wolves return seven starters from last year's team, including leading scorer Makana Pundyke (four).

Western Oregon opens the 2015 season on Sept. 3 when it hosts Warner Pacific College at 4 p.m.

Dallas City Park to host walk

DALLAS — The Willamette Wanderers will sponsor a walk event Saturday at the Gazebo in Dallas City Park. Walkers can choose between a 5-, 6-, or 11-kilometer route.

There is no charge. Leashed dogs are also welcome. Sign-ups for walk between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The walk ends at 3.

For more information: www.willwander.weebly.com.

STAT SHEET

3 The number of catches Western Oregon graduate Tyrell Williams caught during the San Diego Chargers' preseason game against the Arizona Cardinals on Saturday.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Williams fights for spot

WOU graduate hopes to make Chargers' final roster

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

SAN DIEGO — To an outsider, Tyrell Williams' catch in the fourth quarter of the San Diego Chargers' preseason game against Arizona was just another statistic.

To those who saw his one-handed grab, it was Williams' first highlight as an NFL player.



Williams

"The quarterback signaled to convert my route to a fade," Williams said. "From there, you're playing football one-on-one. I could only get one hand up and I just tried to bring it down any way I could."

Since signing with the Chargers as an undrafted rookie, the Western Oregon graduate has studied plays, and worked to stand out in training camp.

Now, he hopes to secure a spot on the Chargers' final 53-man roster.

Currently, Williams is listed fourth in the depth chart at WR1 on the Chargers' team website behind Keenan Allen, Dontrelle Inman and Titus Davis (San Diego has WR1, WR2 and WR3 positions). There are 10 receivers on their roster as of Monday evening.

The Chargers kept six receivers on their 53-man roster in 2014, meaning four receivers will likely be cut between now and the regular season.

"It's definitely competitive," Williams said. "We're all helping each other, though. The older guys are helping the younger guys so much."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN DIEGO CHARGERS/Itemizer-Observer

Tyrell Williams recorded three catches for 36 yards against the Arizona Cardinals on Saturday.

No one is stand-offish trying to get the upper hand. Everyone is real nice. You can feel the competition but we are all there to help the team win. If we win, we all did our jobs and the coaches will make the right decision when the time comes."

Facing a battle to make the active roster, Williams

recorded three catches for 36 yards against Arizona in preseason action on Sunday. The Chargers rested many of their starters, but Williams, who made a one-handed grab along the sideline, hopes that performance will show how he is improving.

"My route running and technique (have improved),"

Williams said. "I used my speed and size pretty easily in college and that helps in the NFL, but if you don't have the technique, you won't get open. I've focused on getting the little things right and things like blocking to try and catch the coaches' eyes."

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NFL

• Check online at www.polkio.com for a link to a video of San Diego Chargers wide receiver Tyrell Williams' impressive catch against the Arizona Cardinals on Saturday evening.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Omlid to transfer to Wolves

Central High grad played two seasons at Army



ARMY ATHLETICS/Itemizer-Observer

Tanner Omlid played two collegiate seasons at Army.

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Tanner Omlid is coming home.

The 2012 Central High graduate spent his first two collegiate seasons playing basketball at Army and has decided to transfer to Western Oregon for his final two years of eligibility.

Omlid's transfer is pending approval through WOU's compliance office.

"It's been one of my goals growing up," Omlid said. "I went to some games growing up as a kid. I remember watching former WOU player Robert Day play. He was a great shooter and was one of my favorite players."

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Pop Warner, Kids, Inc. come together

Youth football leagues combine

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas resident Jeff Hevener remembers seeing young kids attending Dallas High football games with their youth uniforms on, but he knew something was wrong.

With two youth leagues, Pop Warner and Kids, Inc., kids had to choose which league to play for.

Things are different this fall.

After years of having two youth football leagues in Dallas, Pop Warner and Kids, Inc. have joined forces. According to Hevener, that's the way it should always be.

"It's not what kind of football are you playing, it's Dallas football now," Hevener said.

Hevener has worked with both organizations and was one of many to help bring

One league

• Kids, Inc. and Pop Warner have joined forces to offer one youth football league.
• The two organizations have co-existed since 2011.
• Sign-ups for the league occur in April and May and are closed for the 2015 season.

the two leagues together.

Kids, Inc. has been a staple in the Dallas community, offering youth sports for more than 50 years, Hevener said.

In 2011, Pop Warner made its debut in Dallas to help fill the void left when budget cuts meant middle school football would be eliminated.

Soon, an unforeseen issue became apparent.

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