

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Junior gives Dallas a steady presence

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas junior Olivia Dalke played soccer almost as soon as she could walk.

From the age of 4, Dalke was kicking around soccer balls.

"I started playing because my brothers were playing," Dalke said. "I wanted to do whatever my brothers were doing."

More than a decade later, Dalke is blazing her own path on the soccer field — and she hopes to lead Dallas back to the postseason.

Dalke's love of the game grew quickly.

"I've been going to college matches since I can remember," Dalke said. "My favorite college team is probably the Portland Pilots because I've been going to their matches forever."

On the field, her love for

the game translated into success.

It wasn't long until Capital FC, a club team based in Salem, took notice.

"I got scouted when I was in sixth grade," Dalke said. "They came out to one of our games and told us about club soccer."

One year later and Dalke joined the squad when she discovered where she was meant to be on the field, moving to the midfield and forward positions.

"For a long time, I didn't really have a position," Dalke said. "I just played wherever the coach told me to play. In seventh or eighth grade, I started playing more attacking minded."

Since she joined the Dragons' soccer team, Dalke has developed into one of Dallas' playmakers through her passing and ability to shoot from long range.

"She's an offensive-minded player who is unselfish



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Dallas junior Olivia Dalke is one of the Dragons' most dangerous threats on offense.

with the ball," Dragons coach Kirk Myrold said. "We'll look for her to make that pass to an open player. When she's near the box, her shots are strong and can find the back of the net. We look for her to take care of that offensive midfield to keep the pressure on the de-

fense and score." As one of seven juniors on the team, many of whom have played together since elementary school, the Dragons have high expectations in 2015 — despite dealing with a potentially difficult situation.

For the last three seasons, Dallas' girls soccer squad has seen three different coaches.

Despite that, the Dragons are coming off a 2014 season that saw them reach the first round of the Class 5A state playoffs — proof that Dalke and her teammates aren't going to let that become an excuse.

"Our core group has been together long enough that we're starting to get comfortable, even with all of the changes," Dalke said. "We have a lot of strong personalities on the team. We just focus on our game and, even if the coach changes, we know the kind of soccer we can play."

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing Dalke and her teammates is finding a balance among teammates who possess leadership qualities and aren't afraid to use them.

"We have a lot of leader-

ship potential," Dalke said. "Sometimes it's hard juggling a lot of strong personalities, but I think we're learning how to do that."

Dallas, which hosted David Douglas Tuesday after press time, will rely heavily on its junior class to carry the squad, from goalkeeper Ashlee Lichtenberger to Stefani Tallon and Dalke helping to lead the attack.

That reliance on everyone working together is part of what makes soccer so great, Dalke said.

"I like the team component," Dalke said. "You can't have 11 one-man teams on the field. It has to be a group effort."

Since she began playing soccer, it has become a lifelong passion she hopes to play in college.

"I can't imagine myself in any other sport, honestly," Dalke said. "I'm very glad that they started soccer."

Nash: Senior not feeling pressure

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"A lot of it starts in practice," Nash said. "We run hitting lines during practice to start building the chemistry because a match is no time to start building that. Coach understands that and is giving us the time to build that."

Nash's role in Central's scheme requires her to put teammates in good spots.

"Every ball needs to be put in the court, whether or not it's a bad pass or set," Nash said. "We need to put it on their side of the court so they can make the errors, not us."

The Panthers began Mid-Willamette Conference play against South Albany Tuesday after press time. As Cen-

tral prepares for its match at Dallas on Thursday, the Central's chemistry could be the deciding factor.

"We have to put balls away and put people in the right position," Mendazona said. "We weren't strong at blocking at the net (on Thursday). We have to be better at that."

Nash will likely play a major role in the Panthers' improvement.

As Central begins league play, Nash isn't putting too much pressure on herself.

Instead, she's enjoying the ride.

"I want to experience every moment I can, and I'm trying to improve my game even more," Nash said.

Morelli: Increased numbers a focus

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He also hopes to attract athletes looking for a way to stay in shape during the winter season.

"We're looking at kids who maybe swam when they were younger and stopped in middle school, or the kids who have a fall sport and have a spring sport," Morelli said. "Swimming can be a good sport for them to stay in condition."

Morelli hopes to expand the swim team's appeal beyond athletes to people

looking to try a sport in high school — regardless of whether they've swam before or not — and bring its participation levels to new heights.

"It's a lifetime sport," Morelli said. "It's an individual sport, but also a team sport. In the end, though, it's up to the individual whether they do well or not. It teaches them a life lesson. I always say if you work hard, you'll swim fast. If you don't work hard, you won't swim fast. It's up to you."

PREP FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Panthers shut out by Bend in opener

Itemizer-Observer staff report

BEND — Bend held Central to 88 yards of offense as the Panthers fell 10-0 to the Lava Bears on Friday.

The Panthers failed to score, despite having a three-to-one advantage in time of possession.

Junior defensive lineman Marlon Tuipulotu had six solo tackles and an interception, while A.J. Morales also recorded a pick.

Central (0-1 overall) hosts Mountain View Friday at 7

p.m. in the team's final non-league contest of the season. **DALLAS FALLS TO CRATER:** The Dallas football squad saw a furious second half rally fall short as the Dragons lost to Crater 57-34 on Friday. Trailing 42-14 at the half, Dallas pulled to within 42-34 after Treve Earhart scored his third touchdown of the game, despite injuries to starter and second string quarterbacks Harrison Broadus and Parker Ford and fullback Alex Hofferber. The Dragons (0-1 overall) host Ashland Friday at 7 p.m.

PREP SOCCER ROUNDUP

Central boys earn tie against Madison

Itemizer-Observer staff report

BEND — Central's boys soccer squad earned a 1-1 tie against Madison on Friday evening after a goal from Angel Morenilla in the 74th minute.

The Panthers fell at Canby 5-2 on Sept. 1. Antonio Rincon and Jose Herrera each scored against Canby.

The Panthers (0-1-1 overall) played at McNary Tuesday after press time. The Panthers host Roosevelt Thursday at 4 p.m.

DALLAS GIRLS DROP OPENER: The Dallas girls soccer team dropped its season-opening match against Sprague 3-2 on Sept. 1. Goals by Jenifer Webb and Stefani Tallon gave the Dragons a 2-1 lead midway through the first half, but Sprague would answer with a pair of goals before halftime. Both teams went scoreless in the second half. Dallas (0-1 overall) hosted David Douglas Tuesday after press time. The Dragons play at McNary on Thursday before traveling to Wilsonville on Tuesday.

PREP VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Perrydale defeats Willamette Valley Christian

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SALEM — The Perrydale Pirates earned a 25-21, 25-10, 22-25, 25-14 victory over Willamette Valley Christian on Sept. 2.

Perrydale (1-0 overall, 1-1 Casco League) played Livingstone Adventist Tuesday after press time. The Pirates host Crosshill Christian Thursday at 5:30

p.m., Lowell and Crow on Friday at 3 p.m. and Falls City on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

FALLS CITY DROPS MATCH: Falls City lost its season-opener

to Country Christian 25-9, 25-11, 25-9 on Thursday. The Mountaineers (0-1 overall, 0-1 Casco League) host Jewell Thursday at 5:30 p.m. before facing Perrydale on Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL		
Saturday, Sept. 12 Game		
Falls City at Powers		
SPECIAL DISTRICT 4		
Team	League	All
Perrydale	0-0	1-0
Dufur	0-0	1-0
Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler	0-0	1-0
Ione	0-0	0-1
Sherman	0-0	0-1
South Wasco County	0-0	0-1
Arlington/Condon	0-0	0-1
Friday, Sept. 4 Result		
Perrydale 28, Falls City 24		
Friday, Sept. 11 Game		
Crow at Perrydale		
COLLEGE GNAC		
Team	League	All
Humboldt State	1-0	1-0
Azusa Pacific	0-0	1-0
Simon Fraser	0-0	0-0
Central Washington	0-0	0-1
Dixie State	0-0	0-1
South Dakota Mines	0-0	0-1
Western Oregon	0-1	0-1
Saturday, Sept. 5 Result		
Humboldt State 29, Western Oregon 20		
HSU 29, WOU 20		
WOU	0	7
HSU	7	12
First Quarter		
H—Krivashai 5 pass from Webber (Southward kick)		
Second Quarter		
H—Gardner 1 run (Southward kick)		
H—Krivashai 39 field goal		
H—Safety		
W—Avgi 16 pass from Shimabukuro (Correa kick)		
Fourth Quarter		
W—Revis 33 pass from Shimabukuro (Correa kick)		
H—Krivashai 6 pass from Webber (Southward kick)		
H—Southward 23 field goal		
W—Thomas 8 pass from Shimabukuro (Correa kick failed)		
Saturday, Sept. 12 Game		
Simon Fraser at Western Oregon		
BOYS SOCCER		
CLASS 5A MID-WILLAMETTE		
Team	League	All
South Albany	0-0	1-0
Woodburn	0-0	0-1
Central	0-0	0-1
Silverton	0-0	0-1
Corvallis	0-0	0-1
Lebanon	0-0	0-2
Crescent Valley	0-0	0-0
Dallas	0-0	0-0
Tuesday, Sept. 1 Result		
Canby 5, Central 2		
Friday, Sept. 4 Result		
Central 1, Madison 1 (tie)		
Tuesday, Sept. 8 Match		
Central at McNary		
Thursday, Sept. 10 Matches		
Roosevelt at Central		
Falls City at Powers		
Saturday, Sept. 12 Match		
Parkrose at Dallas		
Tuesday, Sept. 15 Match		
Dallas at McNary		
GIRLS SOCCER		
CLASS 5A MID-WILLAMETTE		
Team	League	All
Corvallis	0-0	2-0
Crescent Valley	0-0	1-0
Silverton	0-0	1-0
Lebanon	0-0	0-1
Central	0-0	0-1
Dallas	0-0	0-1
South Albany	0-0	0-1
Woodburn	0-0	0-1
Tuesday, Sept. 1 Result		
Sprague 3, Dallas 2		
Tuesday, Sept. 8 Match		
David Douglas at Dallas		
Thursday, Sept. 10 Matches		
Central at Madison		
Dallas at McNary		
Tuesday, Sept. 15 Matches		
Dallas at Wilsonville		
McNary at Central		
COLLEGE GNAC		
Team	League	All
Concordia	0-0-0	2-0-0
Seattle Pacific	0-0-0	2-0-0
Western Washington	0-0-0	2-0-0
Simon Fraser	0-0-0	1-0-0
Montana State Billings	0-0-0	1-0-1
Western Oregon	0-0-0	1-1-0
Central Washington	0-0-0	1-2-0
Northwest Nazarene	0-0-0	1-1-0
Saint Martin's	0-0-0	0-1-0
Thursday, Sept. 3 Result		
Western Oregon 7, Warner Pacific 0		
Sunday, Sept. 6 Result		
CSU-Pueblo 1, Western Oregon 0		
Tuesday, Sept. 8 Match		
WOU at New Mexico Highlands		
Thursday, Sept. 10 Match		
Western Oregon at Colorado Christian		
Monday, Sept. 14 Match		
Evergreen State at Western Oregon		
Saturday, Sept. 5 Result		
Westview def. Dallas 25-18, 25-17		
Tuesday, Sept. 8 Matches		
South Albany at Central		
Dallas at Woodburn		
Thursday, Sept. 10 Match		
Central at Dallas		
Tuesday, Sept. 15 Matches		
Central at Crescent Valley		
South Albany at Dallas		
CLASS 1A CASCO LEAGUE		
Team	League	All
Country Christian	1-0	2-0
Perrydale	1-0	1-0
Crosshill Christian	1-0	2-2
Willamette Valley Christian	1-1	1-2
Falls City	0-1	0-1
Livingstone Adventist	0-1	0-1
C.S. Lewis	0-1	0-3
Jewell	0-1	0-0
Wednesday, Sept. 2 Result		
Perrydale def. WVC 25-21, 25-10, 22-25, 25-14		
Thursday, Sept. 3 Result		
Country Christian def. Falls City 25-9, 25-11, 25-9		
Tuesday, Sept. 8 Matches		
Damascus Christian at Falls City		
Perrydale at Livingstone Adventist		
Thursday, Sept. 10 Matches		
Jewell at Falls City		
Crosshill Christian at Perrydale		
Friday, Sept. 11 Matches		
Lowell at Perrydale		
Crow at Perrydale		
Tuesday, Sept. 15 Match		
Perrydale at Falls City		
COLLEGE GNAC		
Team	League	All
Alaska Anchorage	0-0	4-0
Concordia	0-0	4-0
Western Washington	0-0	2-2
Simon Fraser	0-0	2-2
Seattle Pacific	0-0	1-3
Northwest Nazarene	0-0	1-3
Montana State Billings	0-0	1-3
Alaska Fairbanks	0-0	0-3
Central Washington	0-0	0-3
Western Oregon	0-0	0-4
Saint Martin's	0-0	0-5
Friday, Sept. 4 Results		
Cal State-San Bernardino def. Western Oregon 25-11, 25-22, 23-25, 25-15		
Colorado School of Mines def. Western Oregon 25-17, 25-18, 25-16		
Saturday, Sept. 5 Results		
Findlay def. Western Oregon 25-14, 25-17, 25-22		
Minnesota State-Moorehead def. Western Oregon 25-19, 25-13, 25-23		
Tuesday, Sept. 8 Match		
Lewis & Clark at Western Oregon		
Thursday, Sept. 10 Match		
Adelphi at Western Oregon		
Friday, Sept. 11 Matches		
Cal State-Chico at Western Oregon		
Wisconsin-Parkside at Western Oregon		
Saturday, Sept. 12 Match		
Notre Dame De Namur at WOU		
For more Scoreboard, see Page 11A		

Itemizer-Observer

Athlete of the Week

Makana Pundyke
Western Oregon

Pundyke, a senior on Western Oregon's women's soccer team, started the 2015 season with a bang. Pundyke was one of two WOU players to score two goals during the Wolves' 7-0 victory over Warner Pacific on Thursday afternoon. Pundyke, Western Oregon's top returning scorer from 2014, helped ensure the Wolves' season-opener was never in doubt as WOU rolled to the victory.

Treve Earhart
Dallas High

Earhart, a sophomore, helped provide a spark on offense for Dallas' football team against Crater on Friday. With the Dragons' starting and second string quarterback, as well as the team's starting fullback, injured, Earhart scored three touchdowns, scoring on a 1-yard run and a pair of catches of 24 and 4 yards, all in the second half. Although the Dragons saw a furious rally fall short, Earhart stepped up on offense.

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.