

Tall: Savage excited for season, future

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Getting a kill is a common occurrence for Savage. As a middle blocker, Savage presents a big matchup problem for opponents.

When going up for a kill, her length allows her to choose whether to spike the ball at the height of her jump or wait until her opponents are no longer in the air.

Savage's ability was on full display on Thursday evening, recording 10 kills during the Dragons' five-set victory over rival Central.

"I try and see if I can hit around the block," Savage said. "Usually I can because of my height."

She's a tall order for opposing players on defense as well — one look at players hoping to hit the ball over Savage shows just how difficult she can make life for those trying to chal-

lenge her.

"I like blocking," Savage said. "Being able to just dominate (at the net) is fun. I can jump into the net and sometimes block balls with my elbows on accident."

The Dragons hope to tap into Savage's potential throughout the season as she could make the difference whenever she steps onto the court.

"The key is keeping her confidence up and keeping her aggressive at the net," Lavier said. "She doesn't know how good she is. She's only going to get better. It's awesome. We have some really young players and it's great to see them step up and take charge."

Savage has made her presence felt already, but she's not satisfied.

She's focused on increasing her agility, speed and strength.

Savage's emergence has

been coupled with a strong start by the Dragons as a team, who entered the week 2-0 in Mid-Willamette Conference play, including erasing a 2 sets to 0 deficit against the Panthers in a match that saw Maci Ackerman lead the team with 16 digs and Isabell Topete record 11 kills.

"Instead of the girls falling apart, they rose to the occasion and took care of each other," Lavier said.

As Dallas continues league play, it's the team's youngest players who may decide how successful the Dragons will be this year. One thing is clear — Savage will be standing tallest.

"We've improved so much from day one until now," Savage said. "I'm excited to see what happens this year. I'm excited to see how much we grow next year. I'm just excited."



Dallas sophomore Tristin Savage (right) goes up for a block on Thursday.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

PREP VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Falls City defeats Jewell in straight sets

Allison Kidd, Jaime Shaw and Amara Houghtaling lead Mountaineers



Maddy Hendrickson, Allison Kidd and Tiaunnah Davis await a point during Falls City's victory over Jewell.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Itemizer-Observer staff report

FALLS CITY — Falls City picked up its first win of the season, defeating Jewell 25-12, 25-11, 25-13 on Thursday.

"The girls really came alive tonight," Mountaineers coach Roxi Barnhart said. "We set out to work on our perseverance, and the girls did exactly that (on Thursday). They played aggressively to the very end."

Senior Allison Kidd had

four aces, two kills and 17 points overall, while Jaime Shaw had two aces, two kills, one dig and 15 points overall. Freshman Amara Houghtaling added two tips, one kill and one dig.

"(The girls) flowed together and had the most beautiful synergy the entire game," Barnhart said. "Brittany Varney, Tiaunnah Davis and Anna Lammers were right there helping make plays possible."

Dallas tourney

• Central and Dallas will compete at the Dallas Tournament on Saturday.
• Play begins at 8 a.m.

Willamette Conference) hosted Crescent Valley Tuesday after press time. The Panthers play at Lebanon Thursday before participating in the Dallas Tournament Saturday at 8 a.m.

PERRYDALE STAYS UNBEATEN IN LEAGUE PLAY: Perrydale improved to 3-0 in Casco League play, defeating Livingstone Adventist 25-16, 25-6, 25-7 on Sept. 8 and Crosshill Christian 25-16, 22-25, 17-25, 25-18, 15-8 on Thursday. The Pirates (4-1 overall) split a pair of non-league matches on Friday, defeating Lowell before falling to Crow. Perrydale hosted Falls City Tuesday after press time and plays at Country Christian on Thursday before competing in the St. Paul 3-Way tournament on Saturday.

CENTRAL DEFEATS SOUTH ALBANY

The Panthers earned a five-set victory over South Albany on Sept. 8, winning 25-22, 20-25, 19-25, 25-13, 15-9. Central (1-3 overall, 1-1 Mid-

PREP FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Pirates dominate during shutout win

Itemizer-Observer staff report

ALSEA — Perrydale jumped out to a 24-0 lead in the first quarter as the Pirates shut out Alsea 68-0 on Friday.



Barnes

Alex Hawes led the Pirates in tackles on defense, while Kirk Fairchild returned an interception 40 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter.

Brant Barnes, Mike McGill and Logan Shamblyn also scored touchdowns.

Perrydale (2-0 overall) opens Special District 4 play Friday at Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler, which also enters league play with a 2-0 mark.

DRAGONS FALL TO 0-2:

Dallas closed its nonconference season with a 40-16 loss to Ashland on Friday. The Dragons trailed 21-0 at the half, but closed to within 27-16 in the third quarter after a rushing touchdown by Harrison Broadus and a reception by Aaron White. Ashland held Dallas scoreless the rest of the way to pull away for the win. The Dragons open Mid-Willamette Conference play Friday at Woodburn.

FALLS CITY SHUT OUT BY POWERS: Powers defeated Falls City 50-0 on Saturday. No details were provided. The Mountaineers (0-2 overall) host Yoncalla Friday at 7 p.m.

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

Western Oregon hosts meet at Ash Creek

Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's men's and women's cross-country teams kicked off their 2015 season by hosting the Ash Creek Invitational on Friday. The men's squad placed fourth out of 13 teams, while the women finished eighth out of 12 squads.

Sophomore David Ribich led the Wolves with a 14th-place finish (19 minutes, 7.3 seconds) in the 6.3-kilometer race.

Nicole Maurmann, a junior transfer from Lane Community College, led the women, finishing the 4.6-kilometer course in 17:38, placing 28th. Freshman Grace Knapp placed 37th with a time of 17:52.1.

WOU travels to compete at the Sundogger Invitational in Seattle on Saturday.

FOOTBALL RALLIES FOR WIN: Trailing 14-12 entering the fourth quarter, Western

Oregon scored the final 19 points of the game to earn a 31-14 victory over Simon Fraser on Saturday. Quarterback Trey Shimabukuro threw for 233 yards and three touchdowns, while defensive back Danny Hankins returned an interception for a touchdown to help put the game out of reach. WOU (1-1 overall, 0-1 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) plays at Central Washington on Saturday in a nonconference matchup.

VOLLEYBALL GOES 2-2:

The Western Oregon volleyball squad went 2-2 while hosting the Western Oregon Invitational Thursday through Saturday. The Wolves defeated Adelphi 26-24, 23-25, 25-19, 25-18 and Notre Dame De Namur 19-25, 25-27, 25-18, 25-15, 16-14 in the first and final games they played of the weekend. WOU lost to California State-Chico 25-17, 22-25, 25-18, 25-10 and Wisconsin-Parkside 20-25, 25-17, 19-25, 25-20, 15-8. Redshirt sophomore Alisha Bettinson had 54 kills, while junior



Western Oregon hosted the Ash Creek Invitational.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Christie Colasurdo recorded 93 digs to lead the team. The Wolves open conference play by hosting Alaska Anchorage on Thursday and Alaska Fairbanks on Saturday. Start time is scheduled for 7 p.m. for both matches.

SOCCER PICKS UP OVERTIME WIN:

For the second time this season, an own goal decided a WOU soccer game. This time, the Wolves picked up a 2-1 win over Colorado Christian

in overtime. Senior Shelby Peterson tied the match at 1 with her first goal of the season in the 71st minute. Four minutes into overtime, Colorado Christian scored on their own goal as WOU improved to 3-1 overall. Western Oregon also defeated New Mexico Highlands 2-0 on Sept. 8 and Evergreen State 1-0 on Monday. The Wolves begin GNAC play by hosting Western Washington Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

House: Mason has pick, fumble recovery



Peter Mason (26) celebrates with teammates after grabbing an interception on Friday.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

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When he arrived at Central, Mason had dreams of earning a spot on varsity and catching his first touchdown.

In 2014, when he joined the varsity squad, there was one problem. Mason played only on defense.

"I worked for years on catching balls and making tackles in my backyard," Mason said. "I was just focused on doing everything I could to help the team. If defense stood out, you just accept it and do what the coach says because he's the smartest person on the field."

This season, Mason got his chance to play on offense.

It was on a pass from the Panthers' 35-yard line that Mason got open and received a pass from Mendazona.

As a Cougar defender attempted to tackle him, Mason wasn't going to be denied.

"I just thought I need to get him off (me)," Mason said. "I tried everything. I stiff armed him and he let go. Jarrett (Landers) had a good block in the open field and there was no one else to get me."

Mason waltzed into the end zone.

"I thought 'I finally got it,'" Mason said. "There's nothing else (like it). Peter Mendazona and I have been working together since we were little. To be together on varsity, it brings me back to middle school. Growing up as kids, I dreamt of this moment."

On Friday night, Mason showed just how big of a part of the Panthers he will be.

Against Mountain View, Mason recorded an interception in the end zone on defense and recovered a fumble on special teams — helping the Panthers to a 42-14 victory and earning the team's Player of the Week honors.

"Peter's efforts on both sides of the ball were extremely impressive," Central coach Shane Hedrick said.

Mason's big plays helped Central cruise to a victory, one week after getting shut out in its season-opener.

The victory proved to be the icing on the cake for Mason's breakthrough moment.

"It's really special," Mason said. "We're all blue collar guys. We're working our butts off just to get here and it's an honor to go on the field and battle with them."