

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30
Boys soccer: Scappoose at Dallas, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT. 1
Volleyball: Central at South Albany, 6 p.m. Woodburn at Dallas, 6 p.m. C.S. Lewis at Falls City, 5:30 p.m. Livingstone at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 2
Football: Crescent Valley at Central, 7 p.m. South Albany at Dallas, 7 p.m. Falls City at Mapleton, 7 p.m. Perrydale at South Wasco County, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3
Cross-country: Central, Dallas at Harrier Classic, 9:30 a.m.

Football: Western Oregon at Portland State, 2:05 p.m.
Volleyball: Perrydale at Amity Tournament, 8 a.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 5
Boys soccer: Central at Dallas, 4 p.m.

Girls soccer: Dallas at Central, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Dallas at Central, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 6
Boys soccer: South Albany at Central, 6 p.m. Dallas at Woodburn, 6 p.m.

Girls soccer: Central at South Albany, 6 p.m. Woodburn at Dallas, 4 p.m.
Volleyball: Falls City at Jewell, 5:30 p.m. Perrydale at Crosshill Christian, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7
Cross-country: Central at Mid-Willamette 4-Way, at Avery Park, Corvallis, TBA.

Volleyball: Central at Crescent Valley, 6 p.m. Dallas at South Albany, 6 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Youth wrestling registration

DALLAS — Registration for the Dallas Mat Club and LaCreole wrestling team will be on Oct. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at LaCreole Middle School.

Dallas Mat Club is open to wrestlers in grades 1-5. Cost is \$100 and includes a USA Wrestling card and T-shirt. Practices begin Nov. 17 at Dallas High.

The LaCreole wrestling team is open to students in grades 6-8. Cost is \$125 and includes a USA Wrestling card and a T-shirt. Practices begin Nov. 2 at LaCreole.

For more information: dallasmclub@gmail.com or lacreolewildcatwrestling@gmail.com.

Youth wrestling camp coming

DALLAS — A youth wrestling camp will be offered the last two Tuesdays and Thursdays in October at Dallas High School.

Cost is \$20 per camper and includes a tournament entry on Oct. 31 and a T-shirt.

Registration will be held Oct. 20 at Dallas High at 6 p.m.

Practices will be held Oct. 20, 22, 27 and 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. during the camp.

For more information: Tony Olliff, tony.olliff@dsd2.org.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Tallon hopes to provide spark for Dallas



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas junior forward Stefani Tallon looks to get past a Gresham defender on Thursday afternoon.

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — During the first half of a 2-1 loss to Gresham, Dallas' girls soccer team looked sluggish. Junior Stefani Tallon wasn't going to let that continue.

Tallon spurred her team on, shouting encouragement and urging her teammates to communicate.

The difference in halves was night and day.

The Dragons had several scoring opportunities — and cashed in on one opportunity.

"I think the biggest thing is there's contagious energy whenever you start playing together," Tallon said.

New beginning

• Dallas' girls soccer team lost to Century 1-0 and Gresham 2-1 to end its non-league season.

• The Dragons (1-6 overall) play at Central Monday at 6 p.m. to open Mid-Willamette Conference play.

"When one player starts playing with energy, it's easier to get the whole team together."

The junior forward showed why she can be that spark.

When Tallon began her high school career with Dal-

las, she saw the beginnings of a successful run with her teammates, many of whom had played together growing up.

The Dragons have found levels of success, but the path hasn't been ideal.

"This is my third year and my third coach," Tallon said. "That transition is always hard. I think we had trust issues as a team."

This year, the girls aren't just playing for personal statistics. They're out to prove to themselves they can overcome whatever situation comes their way.

"We want to be successful so badly for each other," Tallon said.

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PREP FOOTBALL



Best foot forward

Powder puff inspires senior to play football

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Throughout her life, Central senior Reba Hoffman has always kept herself busy, from track and field to theater.

On her long list of interests, football was never among her favorites.

"I never really liked football," Hoffman said. "The last few years, I see that it's interesting, I guess. I love high school games because I love being in the student section, but watching on TV has never been exciting for me."

That all began to change in 2014. Thanks to an unexpected event, Hoffman is more than a fan — she's part of the team.

Prior to the 2014-15 school year, high school football games was as much about the social aspect as it was the game itself.

It was during the school's annual Homecoming powder puff game that Hoffman, as a running back, got her first taste of playing football.

Much to her surprise, Hoffman took a liking to a sport she'd never considered before.

"Last year during powder puff, I had a really good time," Hoffman said. "I said, 'Hey, I wonder if this could be an option for real.'"

The thought intrigued her, but one obstacle remained.

"It was hard at first because I'm coming in and I've never played football before," Hoff-

Bringing the 'D'

• Central's football team defeated Dallas 8-0 on Friday night.

• Running back Alvin Berroa scored the game's lone touchdown in the second quarter.

• The Panthers held Dallas to 29 yards of total offense.

man said.

She had a basic understanding of the game thanks to powder puff, but that was the full extent of her football knowledge.

It was time for a crash course. "I watched a lot of football and listened," Hoffman said. "I asked a lot of questions to my friends, and they'd answer my questions."

Near the end of the 2014-15 school year, Hoffman approached Panthers football coach Shane Hedrick about trying out for the team. Hedrick was more than open to the idea.

"There's not a female issue there," Hedrick said. "She's another player and we'll go to battle with her every day."

Hoffman knew she was at a unique disadvantage coming into the season, but not because of her gender.

Hoffman had to learn a position — and learn it fast.

See FOOT, Page 13A

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Senior keeping the focus on fun

Kidd helping to lead young Mountaineers squad during league play

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — With eight freshmen and five sophomores, Falls City's volleyball team has seen a resurgence in numbers. The dramatic increase also means the Mountaineers are among the youngest teams in the Casco League.

Senior Allison Kidd has seen the volleyball squad grow from six players in 2014 to more than 20 in 2015.

For some, high school athletics is a serious matter — a place where student-athletes should focus only

on the task at hand. Kidd doesn't subscribe to that line of thinking.

Instead, Kidd has taken a different approach to help her team stay relaxed.

On the court, Kidd is one of the Mountaineers' most consistent players, from serving to hitting. Yet, Kidd's impact goes beyond what she adds during a match.

"What I try to do is make (my teammates) laugh," Kidd said. "I try and make them have fun with it. If I have fun with it, it seems to help them."

Making sure players are smiling is imperative for a

young team going through growing pains, Kidd said.

"We have a lot of young players and we're quiet," Kidd said. "It can be hard to get us pumped up, but we're getting to where we start out better and louder."

Falls City entered Tuesday's match against Country Christian on a two-match win streak — a sign that these young players are growing up fast.

"The freshmen coming in have played all through middle school and they have a really good base," Kidd said.

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JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file

Falls City senior Allison Kidd (9) awaits a point earlier this season. Kidd is one of four seniors for the Mountaineers.

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