

Taking Names



Dallas athletic director Tim Larson writes his name down on a bid sheet during the Dallas Booster Club Athletic Auction on Saturday evening. Silent and live auctions helped raise money for Dallas High School athletics. The event will net about \$26,000 to be donated toward athletics.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Rush: Players hope to 'restore' name

Continued from Page 10A
 "Keenan is a tough runner and his biggest asset is his vision," Gubrud said. "He sees things a lot of backs don't and his size (6-foot, 200 pounds) and strength is an issue for tacklers."



one of our leading tacklers from the defensive line position," Gubrud said.

He's far from the only key to the team's success. "We have a bunch of guys making huge contributions, guys you don't always read about in the paper," Perrydale coach Chris Gubrud said. "Guys like Spencer Bibler, Jacob Pope and Hunter Sagmoen. Guys coming off the bench like Mike McGill and Logan Shamblyn have been huge on special teams. Kirk Fairchild's and CJ Marsters' versatility have also been a huge plus for us."

On defense, Alex Hawes has wreaked havoc on opponents. "His ability to get off blocks combined with a nose for the ball has him as

Domes Add in quarterback Daniel Domes and tight end/linebacker Brant Barnes, and the Pirates have scored 264 total points, the most in the league.

"Daniel's ability to grasp the cognitive part of the position has helped our offense be versatile," Gubrud said. "He has become an accurate passer and his decision making has been near perfect. Brant has emerged as a weapon as a pass catcher. His size and hands will be an asset for us moving forward."

The Pirates aren't content with a fast start. Gubrud said he's looking for more consis-

tency — something that will need to be fixed with show-downs looming against Sherman and Arlington to end the regular season.

"We need to be able to block all the different fronts that we see and be able to make those adjustments during games," Gubrud said. "Defensively we need to get lined up correctly with all the formation's and then we need to do a better job at rallying to the ball."

Still, Bailey said players aren't shy about their goal to bring a state title back to Perrydale.

"It would be huge," Bailey said. "It would put Perrydale back on the map as a football power. It's really cool. The school won a state championship in 2004. We'd love nothing more than to do that again for Perrydale and bring some glory back to the school and restore the Perrydale name."

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Dallas dominates rival Central

Dragons open league play with a 5-1 victory on Monday

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The Dallas girls soccer team opened Mid-Willamette Conference play with a 5-1 victory over Central on Monday.



Tallon

"This was the first game in which we played a full match," Dallas coach Kirk Myrold said. "We were able to put it all together. Our defense held strong; our midfield was able to control and dictate the play; and our forwards were able to attack the goal."

Stefani Tallon (2), Emmalee Jones, Olivia Dalke and Ashlee Lichtenberger scored for the Dragons.

Dallas hosted Woodburn Tuesday after press time. The Dragons play at Crescent Valley on Tuesday (Oct. 13).

"We look forward to becoming more aggressive, to controlling the game from our midfield, to learning how to trust each other and really, just having fun playing on the field together," Myrold said.

VOLLEYBALL WINS TWO: Dallas earned a pair of league victories, defeating Woodburn 25-12, 25-19, 25-6 on Thursday and Central 16-25, 25-22, 26-24, 25-20 on Monday. The Dragons (9-6 overall, 5-4



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Kloe Totten (left), Jenifer Webb and Callista Kiner go for a free ball against Central.

MWC) play at South Albany Wednesday (today) and will participate in the Glencoe Tournament on Saturday before hosting Corvallis on Tuesday. Dallas entered today's match in fourth place in the league standings, one game behind Corvallis and Silverton.

BOYS SOCCER EARNS TIE: The Dallas boys soccer squad closed out its nonleague season with a 1-1 tie with Scappoose on Sept. 30. The Dragons opened league play with a 4-0 loss to Central on Monday. Dallas played Woodburn Tuesday after press time and will host Crescent Valley Tuesday at 4 p.m.

FOOTBALL FALLS: The Dallas football squad dropped to 1-4 overall after losing to South Albany 27-12 on Friday. Tanner Earhart scored on a 2-yard run in the second quarter to pull the Dragons within 7-6 at the half, but the Rebels scored 20 unanswered points to pull away.

The Dragons gained 299 yards of total offense, but had 10 penalties for 99 yards and two turnovers.

"It was excruciating, it really was," Dallas coach Tracy Jackson said. "Our kids, they're good kids and they're working hard. We're making mistakes

that are costing us. I guess that's on me and not teaching them well enough."

The Dragons play at Corvallis on Thursday.

CROSS-COUNTRY TAKES 18TH: The Dallas boys cross-country team placed 18th at the Harrier Classic at Albany on Saturday. Senior Jesse Stuhr placed 67th overall (17 minutes, 44.76 seconds), while senior Cody Tilgner took 77th (17:52.0) to lead the Dragons. Dallas will compete at the George Fox Cross-country Classic on Saturday and host a meet at Dallas City Park on Wednesday (Oct. 14).

Bond: Team is now a family

Continued from Page 10A

He also had a larger goal in mind. Cirino wanted to show his runners that while workouts may be difficult, it's nothing compared to what life would throw at them. Something else happened.

Cirino became more than a coach. He became a father figure for his runners.

"When you look at them in middle school, they're kids," Cirino said. "I think now they've had genuine, real life experiences together. When we say it's like a family, it truly is. We've gone through everything together."

That is Cirino's ultimate goal: help his runners become better people. Whether that means helping them through a difficult time or not being afraid to show their emotions, Cirino hopes running helps teach them about how to live.

"He has high expectations for us as runners and as people," Engle said. "It was new to us at first, but it led us to realize this is what we love doing. ... It's given me a new perspective on life. It's helped us see some problems we think are really difficult aren't that difficult when you put it in perspective."

This fall, Hume and Smith are on varsity. Engle and Omlid are returning

Harrier Classic

• Central's boys cross-country team placed 13th at the Harrier Classic. The girls squad placed eighth.

• Bailie Hartford placed ninth overall to lead the girls. Zachary Meyer took 45th to lead the boys.

from injuries. Each of them knows they won't be the fastest runners in the state, but they've become lifelong runners.

This year, the seniors hope to pass on their love of running to the next generation.

"There's a strong feeling that we want to show (the younger runners) if you work hard, you can achieve anything," Smith said. "I came in being pretty slow as a freshman and I've worked up to where I am now. We want to instill that determination in them."

Cirino knows he'll have plenty of other runners he'll get to know in the future. The feeling won't quite be the same.

That sentiment is mutual for his runners, who discovered more than a team.

"Without cross-country, I wouldn't be the same loving person that I am," Hume said. "I wouldn't be as happy. I wouldn't be happy."

CENTRAL VOLLEYBALL

Dowdell, Central searches for confidence

Junior hopes she and her team reach a turning point

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Growing up, Alex Dowdell always wanted to play a sport.

Living outside of town on a farm, she spent much of her time caring for horses.

The distance away from school and the time needed to care for her horses prevented her from realizing her athletic ambitions.

Prior to her eighth-grade year, circumstances changed, and Dowdell would get her chance.

"We moved into (Independence)," Dowdell said. "Transportation was a lot easier and volleyball seemed like an easy enough sport to get into. I just wanted to play a sport and I found out I was pretty good at it."

She quickly found her role as an outside hitter. Despite not having traditional ath-

letic experience, training horses gave her all the physical preparation she needed.

"Handling horses, you need strength," Dowdell said. "Physically I was ready for sports."

As she began her high school career, her greatest obstacle has been herself.

"Mentally, I was worried about what was going on," Dowdell said.

The junior has all the physical tools necessary to succeed. The question is whether her confidence can match her ability.

"When I have two other good hitters by me, I get a little self-conscious and don't perform as well," Dowdell said.

Central coach Claudine Mendazona said it's an issue they've been working to overcome, and it's fueled Dowdell to improve her game in all facets. That's led to a breakthrough season for Dowdell.

Up next

- Central lost to Dallas 3 sets to 1 on Monday.
- The Panthers play at Crescent Valley Wednesday (today) before hosting Lebanon Tuesday at 6 p.m.

"Alex is a very hard worker," Mendazona said. "She puts in the time to improve her game. Her hitting is getting more consistent. We have been stronger in executing our offense and she is leading our team in kills. Alex is also one of the top four servers, with over 90 percent. ... She's a competitor."

Dowdell had perhaps her best match of the season against Corvallis on Sept. 24, when she recorded 26 kills and 21 digs during the five-set victory over the Mid-Willamette Conference's second place team.

Now, Dowdell hopes that

match shows her that she belongs on the court alongside any player in the league.

Her success isn't enough for Dowdell, or her teammates.

The Panthers began the second half of league play last week, and Mendazona knows its biggest problem is the same as Dowdell's: confidence.

"It's important to stay positive," Dowdell said. "If someone makes a mistake, sometimes we shut down a little bit. We want to have everyone cheering each other on."

The Panthers have been a work in progress this season, but Dowdell sees everything coming together.

"Our offense is getting better as we practice more," she said. "Everyone is working on getting a good pass and quicker sets so the other team isn't ready for it."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Alex Dowdell goes up for a hit against Dallas on Monday.