

CENTRAL BOYS SOCCER

Panthers upset Corvallis

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Central boys soccer coach Carlos Esquivel preached one thing to his players at the start of the season: patience.

After a 1-0 victory over Corvallis on Thursday, the Panthers are starting to see just how much that trait can pay off.

The start of the 2015 season was as much a learning process for Esquivel as it was for his players.

"We had to get used to the way he coaches," senior defender Alfredo Diaz said. "We were used to last year's coach. We had to learn how he wants us to play."

Inheriting an inexperienced squad, Esquivel had the Panthers make several adjustments on the field.

That required some players, like sophomore Evan Hoover, to change positions. Hoover, a lifelong forward, now starts on the defensive line.

"The most difficult part is when you have to make a decision that could cost your team," Hoover said.

Players were eager to help any way they could, but the transition hasn't al-



Senior defender Alfredo Diaz looks to send a kick upfield during Central's 1-0 victory over Corvallis on Friday.

ways been smooth.

The Panthers went 1-4-2 during nonleague play.

After opening Mid-Willamette Conference play with a victory over Dallas, Central suffered a pair of close losses, including a 2-1 defeat to South Albany on Oct. 6 in which they were defeated in the final seconds of the match.

"I told them when we do get a lead, we can't let down,

even for one second," Esquivel said.

It was a painful lesson for players to learn, but not one that would go unnoticed. After taking a 1-0 lead in the second half over Corvallis on Thursday, Central didn't let history repeat itself again.

"We just told everyone to start focusing," Diaz said. "League is what matters. We have to go 100 percent

every game. Everyone started to step up to keep that lead. It felt good to know we kept composure."

The result was a 1-0 win that meant more than just improving the team's league record to 2-2.

"It means everything," Diaz said. "We didn't start (the season) off so well, but we're coming together. We're working and everything's coming out really well."

After a season that's been spent largely learning new roles, Thursday's victory was a validation for coaches and players.

"It's a huge boost of confidence," Esquivel said. "We've had some tough games, close games we feel we should have won. It gives us a little momentum going into the rest of the season and proving to ourselves that we can play as a team and win. We can't let down, even for one second. They showed the dedication to win that game. In the end, we have to keep pushing to the end. They saw that (on Thursday)."

Now, the Panthers look to build on Thursday's win.

"We just need to keep sticking together," Diaz said.

DALLAS ROUNDUP

Volleyball falls to Spartans

Dallas hopes to advance to play-in

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The Dallas volleyball squad lost a pair of league matches, falling to Corvallis 25-17, 20-25, 25-19, 25-22 on Oct. 13 and to Crescent Valley on Thursday.

The Dragons entered Tuesday's match against Lebanon at 10-10 overall and 5-7 in MWC play, tied with Central for fifth place, which has a 6-10 overall mark.

Dallas closes out the regular season by hosting Silverton Thursday at 6 p.m.

The third- through sixth-place finishers advance to the state play-in round. South Albany entered the week in seventh with a 4-8 league record.

GIRLS SOCCER DEFEATS LEBANON: Dallas' girls soccer team earned a 3-2 victory over Lebanon on Thursday. Jenifer Webb scored twice and Callista Kiner added one goal during the win. The Dragons, which opened the week with a 7-3 loss to Crescent Valley on Oct. 13, entered Tuesday's match at

Online

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Silverton in third place with a 2-1-1 record in league play. The Dragons close out the regular season by hosting Corvallis on Thursday and South Albany on Tuesday. Both matches are scheduled to start at 4 p.m. The top two teams in the MWC earn an automatic berth to the state playoffs. The league's third and fourth seeds will host a play-in game, while the fifth- and sixth-place squads will play on the road against a Midwestern League opponent.

BOYS SOCCER LOSES TWO:

Dallas' boys soccer team dropped a pair of league matches, falling to Crescent Valley 4-1 on Oct. 13 and Lebanon 5-2 on Thursday. The Dragons played Silverton Tuesday after press time. Dallas closes out its season at Corvallis on Thursday and at South Albany on Tuesday.

CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Girls XC wins meet

Panthers prep for conference championships

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SILVERTON — Central's girls cross-country team took first out of three teams at Silverton High School on Oct. 14. Sophomore Baillie Hartford



Hartford (19 minutes, 46.4 seconds), junior Abby McBeth (20:43.0) and senior Jamie Smith

(20:51.2) took second, third and fourth, respectively to lead the Panthers.

The boys squad placed second out of four teams. Aaron Padilla took sixth in 17:44.0, while Darien Hume (18:02.7), Jaydon Aydelotte (18:03.0), Ammon Jeffries (18:06.6) and Josh Peterson (18:07.7) placed 11th through 14th, respectively.

The Panthers will compete at the Mid-Willamette Conference Championships Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Corvallis.

The top three teams advance to the state meet along with any individuals in the top seven from non-qualifying teams.

"Our boys are running well right now and are excited to see where they end up at district," Central coach Eli

Cirino said. "They have all had recent PRs and are feeling very optimistic. Getting the boys to state may not be a realistic goal but they have talked about it and are dreaming big."

Central's girls squad will see several individual runners competing for a spot in the top 10, and may find itself in a battle for one of the three team qualifying spots.

"It would take an amazing performance to advance our girls to state, but I feel like they still believe in that possibility," Cirino said. "I also think they have a healthy understanding of things and that if they run well at district, I feel like our girls will be satisfied regardless of the team's place."

Zachary Meyer, Darien Hume, Aaron Padilla, Ammon Jeffries, Josh Dickson, Jaydon Aydelotte, and Josh Peterson will run in the varsity boys race, while Baillie Hartford, Abby McBeth, Jamie Smith, Beatriz Trujillo, Annie Taylor, Bethanie Altamirano, and Diana Nye will compete in the varsity girls race.

FOOTBALL DEFEATS SILVERTON: Running back Alvin Berroa led Central's football team to a 35-21 victory over Silverton on Friday. Berroa rushed for 217 yards and three touchdowns against



Tuipulotu

and a pair of touchdowns. On defense, Marlon Tuipulotu had 10 tackles and one sack. The Panthers host Corvallis Friday at 7 p.m. The showdown will be the team's final home game of the regular season. With two games remaining, Central (4-3 overall, 3-2 MWC) is in a four-way tie for second with Lebanon (5-2 overall), Crescent Valley (4-3 overall) and Corvallis (3-4 overall). The top four teams from the league advance to the state playoffs.

GIRLS SOCCER DROPS TWO:

Central's girls soccer team lost a pair of league matches, falling to Silverton 5-0 on Oct. 13 before losing to Corvallis 5-0 on Thursday. "Even though we lost to Corvallis, the girls played as a team," Panthers coach Joe Orozco said. "That was probably their best game we have played this year." Central played at Lebanon Tuesday after press time. The Panthers host Crescent Valley at 4 p.m. Thursday and Woodburn at 6 p.m. Tuesday for the team's final games of the season.

the Silver Foxes, averaging 8.7 yards per carry. Quarterback Peter Mendazona threw for 210 yards

Run: Cross hopes to break 17 minutes

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"I expected success, but it was hard to tell (what would happen)," Trevor said. "I wanted to do soccer and cross-country, but I didn't know what to think at the beginning or what it would be like."

He may be a freshman, but it hasn't taken long for Cross to excel in both sports.

On the soccer field, Trevor earned himself a starting role.

In cross-country, he became one of the Dragons' top runners.

Cross recorded Dallas' fastest time at the Northwest Classic on Sept. 26 and has been the Dragons' top finisher in three of his last four races.

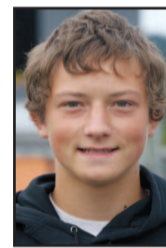
Though his latest time was his fastest yet, Trevor wasn't fully happy with his performance.

"I wanted to get under 17 minutes, but I barely missed it," Trevor said.

That drive is what's helped the freshman be successful.

"Trevor has the most amazing work ethic," Dallas coach Monique Lankheet said. "I have given him workouts to do in addition to soccer practice, and he does it on his own."

Training for two sports has led to some long and



Stuhr

tiring evenings, but Trevor doesn't dread those days. "I enjoy both of them,"

Trevor said. "It's fun. I like the competition."

Trevor has wasted little time endearing himself to teammates outside of sports as well — something that has impressed his coaches.

"He is super competitive," Lankheet said. "He has a very positive outlook and is humble, which I think is a wonderful quality. I can't say enough good things about him. He's a good guy."

He's hoping a season spent pulling double duty results in his best race yet on Wednesday.

"I'd like to get under 17 minutes, it's what I'm really close to," Cross said. "If I do, it would mean success for the season."

MWC championships

The Dallas boys and girls cross-country squads will compete at the Mid-Willamette Conference Championships on Wednesday (today) in Corvallis.



Sletten

The top three teams advance to the state cross-country meet, plus any individual in the top seven from a non-qualifying team. Qualifying for state will be a tall order for the Dragons, but runners are hoping for a strong showing.

"We have a solid team now," Trevor said. "We have a chance to do better than we have in the past."

Trevor and T.J., Jesse Stuhr, Isaiah Letney, Kenny Sutton, Justin Huxel and Cody Tilgner will compete in the boys varsity race. Angie Sletten, Elizabeth Sutton, Alyssa Miller, Anneka Bloomstrom, Peyton Fast, Bekah Rocak and Elizabeth Dressel will run in the girls varsity race.

"The kids are well prepared," Lankheet said. "They have worked really hard and they have set themselves up to have their best performance. ... All are running their best times and my hope is that they put out their best performance when it really counts. Everyone is super excited and optimistic about racing Wednesday (today)."

Peak: Play-in round coming on Tuesday

Continued from Page 10A

Many of the issues have been self-inflicted, Nash said, including service errors, lack of communication and hitting errors.

"I think we're still waiting for that time to peak," Nash said. "I'm looking for everything to mesh on the court."

Central ends the regular season against Woodburn, which entered the week 0-12 in league play.

"The girls need to come together, which means playing well consistently, encouraging each other on the court and when things don't go well on the court, to move on to the next ball," Panthers coach Claudine Mendazona said. "I want these girls to have the best opportunity (to succeed) out there."



Central breaks out of a timeout during its match against Silverton on Thursday evening at Central High.

When they do come together, Nash said the Panthers will be a force to be reckoned with.

"Once we come together, it's going to be really fun to watch," Nash said. "I think we'll get there."

Using your head



Central senior midfielder Angel Morenilla goes up for a header against Corvallis on Thursday afternoon. The Panthers upset Corvallis 1-0 to improve to 3-6-2 overall and 2-2-0 in Mid-Willamette Conference play.