

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2
Boys basketball: North Eugene at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at McKay, 6:45 p.m. McKenzie at Falls City, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Willamina, 7:30 p.m.
Girls basketball: Churchill at Dallas, 7 p.m. McKenzie at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, DEC. 3
Swimming: Central at Silverton, 4 p.m.
Women's basketball: Western Oregon at Seattle Pacific, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY, DEC. 4
Boys basketball: Central at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m. McMinnville at Dallas, 7 p.m. Mohawk at Falls City, 7 p.m. Dufur at Perrydale, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Centennial at Central, 7 p.m. Mohawk at Falls City, 5:30 p.m. Dufur at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.
Swimming: Central at Relay Meet, Corvallis, 4 p.m.
Wrestling: Central at Tillamook Tournament, 2:30 p.m. Dallas at McNary Tournament, 4 p.m.
SATURDAY, DEC. 5
Men's basketball: Montana State Billings at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.
Women's basketball: Western Oregon at Saint Martin's, 7 p.m.
Wrestling: Dallas at Perry Burlison Classic at Cascade High School, 9 a.m.
MONDAY, DEC. 7
Boys basketball: Southwest Christian at Perrydale, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Southwest Christian at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, DEC. 8
Boys basketball: Central at Cascade, 7 p.m. Falls City at Willamette Valley Christian, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Jewell, 7 p.m.
Girls basketball: Central at Cascade, 5:30 p.m. Falls City at Willamette Valley Christian, 5:30 p.m. Perrydale at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.
Swimming: Central at Lebanon, 4 p.m. South Albany at Dallas, 4 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Two sign letters of intent to WOU

MONMOUTH — Kory Oleson, of Jesuit High School, and Melanie Schakohl of Inglemoor High in Kenmore, Wash., signed national letters of intent to play for Western Oregon's women's basketball team in 2016.

Oleson is a 6-foot guard/forward and averaged 14 points and 5 rebounds per game during the 2014-15 season.

Schakohl is a 5-foot-11 forward who averaged 1.6 points and 2.1 rebounds per game during the 2014-15 campaign.

"We are extremely excited to welcome both Kory and Melanie to our team. They are a great fit for us and will help us improve our competitiveness right away," WOU coach Holli Howard-Carpenter said.

STAT SHEET

17 The number of state qualifiers Dallas' wrestling team had during the 2014-15 season.

DALLAS WRESTLING

Olliff finds his calling in wrestling



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Dallas wrestling coach Tony Olliff gives his athletes advice during practice.

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Coaching for some may be a hobby, or a way to become more involved in the community. As Dallas' wrestling coach, Tony Olliff's job leading the Dragons has never been just a passing interest.

"It's fun," Olliff said. "I love teaching science, but it's through wrestling that people 15 to 20 years later look you up. That's special."

The Olliff name has become an

Ready to start

- Dallas' wrestling team will start the 2015-16 season at McNary on Friday and at the Perry Burlison Classic on Saturday.
- The Dragons saw 17 wrestlers qualify for the state tournament last season.

Lander in 1995 before moving to Bend in 1997.

He returned to Dallas in 2002 to teach science and become head wrestling coach.

Since then, he's shaped the Dragons into perennial state contenders. The team has won six-straight Mid-Willamette Conference district wrestling titles and has produced numerous state qualifiers.

For all the success on the mat, it's the life lessons his wrestlers learn that Olliff counts as his greatest accomplishments.

See OLLIFF, Page 11A

CENTRAL SWIMMING

Tress dives into coaching

First-year coach originally applied to be an assistant coach

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Jennifer Tress didn't set out to become Central's head swim coach.

A lifelong swimmer, Tress, who is in her first year teaching at Central High School, immediately expressed interest in becoming involved with the swim team — just not as the head coach.

"I swam in high school and I taught swim lessons while I was in college," Tress said. "This seemed like it would be a great opportunity, but I had no formal coaching experience. I emailed Shane Hedrick in early September and said this is my experience. I know you're looking for a head coach, but if you need an assistant, please pass on my name, I'd love to be involved that way."

More than a month passed when Tress found



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Jennifer Tress became head coach of Central's swim team after first expressing interest in being an assistant.

out Central was still in need of a head coach. Hedrick offered her the position while she was on vacation.

"It wasn't what I was ex-

pecting," Tress said. "I filled out a resume, talked to my husband about the time commitment and what it would mean for the season.

I thought about it a lot. I didn't have any coaching experience, but I do have the technique and I taught swim lessons. I finally thought,

why not? I might be the only person to do it and all coaches have to start somewhere."

See TRESS, Page 11A

DALLAS BOYS BASKETBALL

Dallas hopes small lineup means big success

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas boys basketball team is out to prove last year's trip to the state playoffs was only the beginning.

The Dragons, fresh off a first round appearance in the 2014-15 season, look to build on their third-place finish. One of the team's top returning players turned to an unlikely source to improve his game.

Senior Everett Minahan wanted to make his final year at Dallas a memorable one.

Minahan decided to do something new during the fall — play football.

"Mainly because it's my last year," Minahan said. "I thought I might as well try and help the team out with that."

Now, Minahan hopes to take what

he learned in football and help him lead Dallas' boys' basketball team to the state playoffs.

"(Football) helped with my athleticism," Minahan said. "Not only does it get you in better shape, it helps with your ability. You're quicker and lower to the ground. I think it helps with on-ball defense. You can move better. I also think we got a better bond with the players who were on the football team."

Minahan, the *Itemizer-Observer's* 2014-15 Player of the Year, returns to lead a new-look Dragons' team. Dallas lacks the tall, inside presence it's had in years past. Instead, the Dragons are learning to play with a smaller lineup built on getting open shots.

"We have to take care of the ball and knockdown shots," Minahan

said. "We have to play scrappy defense and get after it."

Minahan's agility wasn't the only thing to improve during the offseason. The senior added a new aspect to his game — the long range shot.

"I improved my range to the 3-point line and being consistent from there," Minahan said. "I think we all are learning how to play within the offense and being aggressive while keeping the team in mind as well."

Despite fielding a smaller lineup, the Dragons are learning to play a new style of ball — and they're looking to ride that style to a postseason berth.

"I think we can compete," Minahan said. "Top four is what we're shooting for. We want to be competitive. The first week of practice we were just getting our legs under us and seeing what we had. These last few practices have been working out the depth chart."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file
Senior Everett Minahan will be one of Dallas' go-to players on offense during the 2015-16 season.

www.polkio.com

www.facebook.com/pages/Polk-County-Itemizer-Observer/205062686252209

www.twitter.com/PolkIOSports

Tires LES SCHWAB

ARE YOU TRACTION READY?

DALLAS 121 Main St • 503-623-8155 • www.LesSchwab.com
INDEPENDENCE 1710 Monmouth St • 503-838-6340

Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm • Sat 8am - 5pm

CHAINS

SNAP LOCK CABLE CHAIN
 An economical choice!

QUICK FIT™ DIAMOND
 They take the work and frustration out of using tire chains. They go on and off quickly and fit right to provide excellent traction during tough winter driving conditions.

PASSENGER CHAIN RETURN PROGRAM: If you don't use your passenger car chains, return them for a full refund after the last legal date for studded tires. (Does not apply to the Quick Trak traction device.)

SEE HOW TO INSTALL YOUR NEW TIRE CHAINS AT:
<http://tinyurl.com/kazfhkm>