

Chavez grateful for spot on varsity

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Among Central's girls basketball players there are essentially two groups — the seniors and everyone else. The Panthers have four seniors, four freshmen and one sophomore. Central's inexperience requires contributions from all four of the squad's freshmen. Among them, guard Elizabeth Chavez hopes to make the most of her chance to shine.

Chavez was never the outgoing kid. She wasn't afraid to hold a conversation, but she rarely started one.

"I wasn't one of those girls who went out and talked to people," she said.

An unexpected invitation to play basketball at a tournament in Salem marked the beginning of the end to Chavez's shyness.

"I think I was 8," Chavez said. "My friends asked me to play. It was my first time ever playing basketball. I don't remember how we did, but I actually really liked it."

Chavez began playing on organized teams. Her quickness made her a natural fit as a guard.

Once she learned the communication required on the court, playing basketball did more for her



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central freshman guard Elizabeth Chavez has earned a major role in the Panthers' rotation.

than just get into shape. "I got a lot more vocal," Chavez said. "The shyness went away. I started talking to people a lot more."

Since arriving at Central, the freshman has already been busy, playing volleyball in the fall. She entered the three-day tryout for the basketball team cautiously optimistic.

"I was just hoping if I gave it my all, maybe I'd have a chance to be on varsity," Chavez said.

It turns out, she had more than a chance.

"She's a hard worker," Central coach Julie McDonald said. "She understands the game. She's a tough all-around player. She's quick

and has a decent shot. She's very coachable. She's just overall a good athlete. She definitely earned her spot."

Chavez has been doing all she can to learn from McDonald and the Panthers' four seniors.

"The opportunity to play varsity is really exciting," Chavez said. "I try to get as much feedback as I can to improve myself as a player. It's been a lot of fun and exciting. I'm learning how to contribute a lot more, making sure I have confidence in myself that I can do things and not thinking my teammates can do it for me."

As the first player off the bench, Chavez will see significant minutes through-

Monday

- Central lost to Lincoln 43-30 on Monday night.
- The Panthers led 28-27 entering the fourth quarter, but Central was held to two points in the final period.

out the season, but McDonald has taken great care to ensure Chavez doesn't get overwhelmed.

"There's not a lot of pressure on her," McDonald said. "We've told her we only expect what she can produce. We don't want her to do too much or too little. Her play on the court speaks for itself."

Chavez scored 10 points against Centennial on Dec. 7 and four points on Monday while playing primarily as point guard.

"She's a quick learner," McDonald said. "It's a pleasure to coach someone who works hard out there, and she takes criticism as easily as a pat on the back."

As Chavez continues to carve out her role on the Panthers, she already considers the season a success on a personal level. The once shy player is simply grateful for the chance to play at all.

"I was really surprised (to make varsity)," Chavez said. "It made me shake a little because I was so happy. I just want to thank (coach) McDonald for this opportunity."



CALEB WALLACE for the Itemizer-Observer

Mitchell Laizure (right) celebrates with teammate Zach Wallace on Friday night.

Hustle: Senior a spark for DHS

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Laizure will be a key part for Dallas, which lost to Mountain View 45-30 on Friday, as he and his teammates look to shake off rust.

"It's pretty tough," Laizure said. "Whatever sport I'm in at the time is what I focus on. No one shot a lot during football. The first week back is brutal, not conditioning-wise, but the game of basketball. You have to get used to it."

This season, Laizure has emphasized working on boxing out, communicating on defense, and using his speed to his advantage.

"You have to get those big guys out on us as shooters," Laizure said. "That's the upside on being short. We're all shooters."

Among a team full of shooters, perhaps no one is better at finding ways to get himself, and his teammates, open looks, but Laizure's impact goes beyond the minutes he plays in a game. He's keeping everyone, including his coaches, on their toes and learning something new every day.

"He's a guy you want to have as a player," Schwartz said.

SCOREBOARD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Team	League	All
South Albany	0-0	3-1
Corvallis	0-0	3-0
Crescent Valley	0-0	3-0
Central	0-0	3-2
Silverton	0-0	1-1
Lebanon	0-0	1-1
Woodburn	0-0	1-2
Dallas	0-0	1-2

Tuesday, Dec. 8 Result
Central 45, Cascade 38

CENTRAL 45, CASCADE 38
Tuesday's Box Score
CENTRAL (45) — Barba 18, K. Cable 10, Mendazona 8, Bal 2, Mason 2, W. Cable 2, Barry 2, Abraham 1, Stepp. **Totals 16 9-14 45.**

CASCADE (38) — Walker 17, Mohr 7, Schrimmer 7, Beckmann 3, Bal 2, Harris 2, Braff, Thames, Gilbert, Bjorklund. **Totals 13 8-10 38.**

3-point goals — Central 4 (Barba 4); Cascade 4 (Walker 2, Schrimmer 1, Beckmann 1).

Friday, Dec. 11 Results
David Douglas 54, Central 44
Mountain View 45, Dallas 30

DAVID DOUGLAS 54, CENTRAL 44
Friday's Box Score
CENTRAL (44) — K. Cable 12, Barba 7, Barry 6, W. Cable 5, Mendazona 5, Mason 4, Avila 3, Stepp 2, Abraham. **Totals 19 4-5 44.**

DAVID DOUGLAS (54) — Jones 24, Bostog 11, M. Kinga 11, B. Kinga 4, Morris 3, Hussein 1, A. Bryant, Jordan, E. Bryant. **Totals 21 5-13 54.**

3-point goals — Central 2 (Jones 2, Bostog 1, Avila 1); David Douglas 7 (Jones 3, Bostog 1, M. Kinga 1).

MOUNTAIN VIEW 45, DALLAS 30
Friday's Box Score
MOUNTAIN VIEW (45) — Holly 21, Cheney 7, Emerson 7, Tassell 5, Scinto 4, Cocrum 1, McClain, Conroyd. **Totals 16 9-12 45.**

DALLAS (30) — Dimick 8, Minahan 5, Dickey 4, Koons 4, Wallace 3, Collins 2, Laizure 2, Welty 2, Hanson. **Totals 14 1-2 30.**

Mountain View 10 10 14 11-45
Dallas 8 10 6 6-30

3-point goals — Mountain View 4 (Holly 4; Dallas 1 (Wallace 1)).

Saturday, Dec. 12 Result
Putnam 70, Central 55

PUTNAM 70, CENTRAL 55
Saturday's Box Score
PUTNAM (70) — Krauss 20, Watzig 17, Jesse 11, Wolfman 10, Hamilton 8, Reese 2, Halladin 1, Burke 1, Mixon, Hall, Mihub, Voltaire. **Totals 17 30-38 70.**

CENTRAL (55) — Mendazona 17, K. Cable 11, Mason 6, Abraham 6, Stepp 4, Barry 4, Bal 3, Barba 3, Ibarra 1, Avila, W. Cable. **Totals 18 17-23 55.**

Putnam 17 19 15 19-70
Central 14 13 15 13-55

3-point goals — Putnam 6 (Watzig 3, Krauss 3); Central 2 (Mendazona 1, Barba 1).

Tuesday, Dec. 15 Game
Central at Glencoe, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18 Game
North Eugene at Dallas, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19 Game
Dallas vs. TBA, TBA

Tuesday, Dec. 22 Game
Central at Stayton, 7 p.m.

CASCO LEAGUE

Team	League	All
Country Christian	3-0	4-1
Crosshill Christian	2-0	5-1
C.S. Lewis	2-1	4-3
Willamette Valley Christian	2-1	2-2
Perrydale	1-1	1-3
Jewell	0-0	3-1
Falls City	0-2	1-4
Livingstone Adventist	0-2	0-2
St. John Bosco	0-3	1-4

Tuesday, Dec. 8 Result
WVC 57, Falls City 30

Thursday, Dec. 10 Result
C.S. Lewis 36, Perrydale 31

Friday, Dec. 11 Result

Falls City 37, Eddyville Charter 35
Saturday, Dec. 12 Result
South Wasco County 39, Perrydale 33

SOUTH WASCO 39, PERRYDALE 33
Saturday's Box Score
SOUTH WASCO COUNTY (39) — Meyers 11, Hayes 11, Herlocker 10, Dammann 4, Rager 3, Stephenson, Kegel. **Totals 14 4-6 39.**

PERRYDALE (33) — Janesofsky 16, Cruickshank 5, Barnes 4, Bibler 4, Fairchild 2, Bailey 2, Hawes. **Totals 14 3-8 33.**

South Wasco 16 2 6 15-39
Perrydale 14 12 1 6-33

3-point goals — South Wasco County 7 (Hayes 3, Meyers 3, Dammann 1); Perrydale 2 (Janesofsky 1, Cruickshank 1).

Monday, Dec. 14 Results
Country Christian 54, Falls City 33
Perrydale 58, WVC 53 (20T)

PERRYDALE 58, WVC 53
Monday's Box Score
PERRYDALE (58) — Janesofsky 16, Bibler 15, Barnes 12, Cruickshank 11, Bailey 2, Fairchild 2. **Totals 23 10-19 58.**

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHRISTIAN (53) — Peetez 15, Nye 12, Narvesz 11, Zahn 6, Vankleaven 4, Erv 3, Pemble 2, Berndt. **Totals 16 12-16 53.**

Perrydale 7 16 11 10 5 9-58
WVC 10 11 8 15 5 4-53

3-point goals — Perrydale 2 (Cruickshank 2); Willamette Valley Christian 9 (Peetez 2, Nye 2, Narvesz 2, Zahn 2, Erv 1).

Wednesday, Dec. 16 Games
Falls City at Mohawk, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18 Game
St. John Bosco at Falls City, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19 Game
Country Christian at Perrydale, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 21 Game
Perrydale vs. Vernonia at St. Paul, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 22 Games
Livingstone Adv. at Falls City, 7 p.m.
Perrydale vs. Monroe at St. Paul, 2:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

MID-WILLAMETTE

Team	League	All
Silverton	0-0	4-0
Corvallis	0-0	2-2
Dallas	0-0	1-0
Central	0-0	1-2
Lebanon	0-0	1-2
South Albany	0-0	1-3
Woodburn	0-0	1-3
Crescent Valley	0-0	0-3

Tuesday, Dec. 8 Result
Cascade 48, Central 42

CASCADE 48, CENTRAL 42
Dec. 8 Box Score
CENTRAL (42) — Alvarez 18, Nash 10, Omlid 5, Chavez 4, Riddell 2, Girod 2, Broadus 1. **Totals 14 10-18 42.**

CASCADE (48) — Wright 17, St. Peter 11, Woods 9, Cade 5, Williams 4, Wilson 2, Miller. **Totals 16 16-25 48.**

Central 12 5 8 17-42
Cascade 15 10 13 10-48

3-point goals — Central 4 (Alvarez 2, Omlid 1, Nash 1); Cascade 2 (St. Peter 2).

Monday, Dec. 14 Result
Lincoln 43, Central 30

LINCOLN 43, CENTRAL 30
Monday's Box Score
LINCOLN (43) — Hazard 12, Corradini 8, Ringelberg 7, Nichols 6, Summers 4, Hill 4, Lake 2, Capelle, Morones. **Totals 16 7-15 43.**

Central (30) — Nash 17, Alvarez 4, Chavez 4, Girod 3, Omlid 2, Riddell, Broadus. **Totals 12 3-13 30.**

Central 11 8 9 2-30
Lincoln 11 8 9 2-30

3-point goals — Lincoln 4 (Nichols 2, Corradini 1, Ringelberg 1); Central 3 (Nash 3).

Tuesday, Dec. 15 Game
Jesusit at Dallas, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17 Game
Central at Sunset, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19 Game
Central at Lakeridge, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 22 Games
Central at Stayton, 5:30 p.m.

Beaverton at Dallas, 7 p.m.

CASCO LEAGUE

Team	League	All
Country Christian	3-0	5-0
Perrydale	2-0	2-2
Willamette Valley Christian	1-1	2-1
Livingstone Adventist	1-1	1-1
Crosshill Christian	1-1	1-3
C.S. Lewis	1-2	1-6
Jewell	0-0	2-1
Falls City	0-2	3-2
St. John Bosco	0-2	1-3

Tuesday, Dec. 8 Result
WVC 38, Falls City 33

WVC 38, FALLS CITY 33
Dec. 8 Box Score
FALLS CITY (33) — Varney 14, Kidd 14, Houghtaling 5, Ellingson, Ziola, Davis, Mack, Owens, Tadlock, Limberg. **Totals 14 1-2 33.**

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHRISTIAN (38) — Tallon 12, Falardeau 10, Kinler 7, Gabriel 5, Rodriguez 4, Peerenboom, Torres, Boswell, Homolka, Champagne. **Totals 17 3-6 38.**

Falls City 8 9 14 2-33
WVC 10 8 8 12-38

3-point goals — Falls City 4 (Kidd 2, Houghtaling 1, Varney 1); WVC 1 (Gabriel 1).

Thursday, Dec. 10 Result
Perrydale 22, C.S. Lewis 14

Friday, Dec. 11 Result
Falls City 42, Eddyville Charter 10

FALLS CITY 42, EDDYVILLE CHAR. 10
Friday's Box Score
FALLS CITY (42) — Varney 12, Houghtaling 10, Mack 6, Tadlock 5, Kidd 4, Ziola 2, Davis 2, Ellingson 1, Owens. **Totals 17 5-12 42.**

Eddyville Charter (10) — Luckini 4, Borton 4, Jones 2, J. Hernandez, Childs, Hiller, D. Hernandez. **Totals 5 0-3 10.**

Falls City 14 12 7 9-42
Eddyville Char. 0 0 4 6-10

3-point goals — Falls City 3 (Varney 2, Houghtaling 1); Eddyville Charter 0.

Saturday, Dec. 12 Result
South Wasco County 37, Perrydale 35

Monday, Dec. 14 Results
Country Christian 64, Falls City 35
Perrydale 27, WVC 23

COUNTRY CHRIS. 64, FALLS CITY 35
Monday's Box Score
FALLS CITY (35) — Varney 20, Davis 9, Houghtaling 3, Kidd 2, Ellingson 1, Ziola, Mack, Tadlock, Limberg, Hazelton. **Totals 14 6-12 35.**

COUNTRY CHRISTIAN (64) — Nofziger 16, Lewandowski 8, Farmer 8, McGrath 7, Parker 7, M. McGrath 6, Griffith 4, LaPointe 4, Grandle 4, Fincher, Ross, Ham, Sandberg. **Totals 29 4-8 64.**

Falls City 8 8 16 3-35
Country Christian 17 11 16 9-64

3-point goals — Falls City 1 (Houghtaling 1); Country Christian 2 (Nofziger 2).

Wednesday, Dec. 16 Games
Falls City at Mohawk, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18 Game
St. John Bosco at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19 Game
Country Christian at Perrydale, 3 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 21 Game
Perrydale vs. Vernonia at St. Paul, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 22 Games
Livingstone Adv. at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.
Perrydale vs. Monroe at St. Paul, 1 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

GNAC MEN

Team	League	All
Western Oregon	2-0	10-0
Seattle Pacific	2-0	9-1
Alaska Fairbanks	2-0	8-2
Alaska Anchorage	2-0	9-4
Saint Martin's	1-1	5-3
Western Washington	1-1	6-4
Montana State Billings	1-1	6-4
Central Washington	0-2	4-2
Northwest Nazarene	0-2	4-3
Simon Fraser	0-2	1-7
Concordia	0-2	1-7

Friday, Dec. 11 Result
Western Oregon 90, Corban 65

WOU 90, CORBAN 65
Friday's Box Score
CORBAN (65) — Ward 16, Dozier 13, Roth 13, Crowe 11, Monterossi 6, Fox 3, Johnson 2, Moore 1, Herzberg, White,

Ferry. **Totals 25-51 9-13 65.**

WESTERN OREGON (90) — Strickland 17, Omlid 13, Roth 13, Alexander 10, Avji 10, Wiley 8, Alaby 8, Nichols 6, Chirnsis 3, Thompson, Schriber, Souza. **Totals 35-70 8-12 90.**

Corban 37 28-65
Western Oregon 46 44-90

3-point goals — Corban 6 (Crowe 3, Dozier 1, Roth 1, Fox 1); Western Oregon 12 (Strickland 5, Roth 2, Wiley 2, Alaby 2).

Monday, Dec. 14 Result
Western Oregon 67, UC San Diego 63

WOU 67, UCSD 63
Monday's Box Score
WESTERN OREGON (67) — Wiley 15, Alexander 12, Nichols 11, Roth 11, Avji 8, Alaby 5, Omlid 3, Strickland 2. **Totals 23-15-19 67.**

UC SAN DIEGO (63) — Klie 19, Dyer 19, Lipovic 9, McMillan 7, Jackson 4, Fraser 2, Hansen 2, Cox 1, Buaku, Ballester. **Totals 22 12-20 63.**

Western Oregon 32 35-67
UCSD 10 20-63

3-point goals — Western Oregon 6 (Wiley 3, Alexander 1, Nichols 1, Roth 1); University of California, San Diego 7 (Dyer 4, Lipovic 3).

Sunday, Dec. 20 Game
Willamette at Western Oregon

GNAC WOMEN

Team	League	All
Western Washington	2-0	5-3
Montana State Billings	2-0	5-3
Seattle Pacific	2-0	4-3
Alaska Anchorage	2-1	13-1
Central Washington	1-1	6-2
Simon Fraser	1-1	3-4
Saint Martin's	1-1	2-6
Concordia	1-1	2-6
Northwest Nazarene	0-2	1-6
Western Oregon	0-2	1-8
Alaska Fairbanks	0-3	5-6

Saturday, Dec. 12 Result
Cal Baptist 78, Western Oregon 55

CB