

Molina: Senior took second at Liberty

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Instead, he had an eye for the mischievous — that is until his family stepped in.

“I was kind of a troublemaker as a kid,” Molina said. “My stepfather was a wrestler growing up. He told me he thought it would help me become a better individual and a better person.”

Molina began wrestling in seventh grade. He was immediately taken back by the sense of family.

“I fell in love with it,” Molina said. “Just knowing that if you fall, (your teammates) will be there to catch you and lift you back up was something I didn’t expect.”

Football followed in eighth grade. As a freshman, Molina was excited to see what he could do at the high-school wrestling level.

His season would be cut much shorter than he ever imagined.

“I woke up one day with my chest hurting and I couldn’t breathe,” Molina said. “It felt like there was a 15-pound weight on my chest.”

Molina had air trapped by his heart.

“The doctors said it sounded like popcorn whenever I took a breath,” he said.

Doctors remedied the situation, but Molina’s season was over.

“I couldn’t do any exercise at all because there was a chance of me dying,” Molina said.

The experience put his season — and life — in a whole new perspective.

“It taught me that things can come and go quickly,” Molina said. “You can be in the moment one minute and the next you can be suffering from something. You just have to live in the moment.”

By the summer, Molina was able to resume physical

activities.

As a sophomore, Molina barely missed out on qualifying for the state wrestling championships.

Molina’s junior season was cut short because of OSAA transfer rules. Molina made the switch in part because of a desire to experience Dallas’ wrestling culture first hand.

Entering this winter, he wasn’t sure what he could accomplish.

“Marcos has worked his way into the finals of every tournament so far,” Dallas coach Tony Olliff said. “It’s nice to have a point-scorer in the upper weights.”

Molina has experienced the full gamut of emotions this season, from lacking confidence to faltering because of overconfidence.

Beyond learning to win and lose with grace, wrestling has helped him overcome things that have plagued him throughout his life.

“I’ve dealt with bipolar and mental issues,” Molina said. “It’s been hard, but I’ve learned to battle through it.”

Wrestling has taught me to be even-keeled. You win some, you lose some. Right now, I’m winning more than I’m losing. All I can think is God blessed me

with the strength to go out and work hard. I’m blessed to have the coaches to work with me and make me stronger every day.”

Molina has quickly redefined what he thinks is possible during his senior season. He’s ready to take the sport that has changed his life all the way to the state championships.

“Getting on that podium at state,” Molina said. “When it comes down to it, that’s what really matters. I have coaches who are beating me up and pushing me to limits I’ve never pushed to before.”

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Falls City is undergoing a major youth movement. All but three of the team’s players are freshmen or sophomores.

That hasn’t stopped the Mountaineers from jumping out to a 5-2 mark overall.

As the only upper classmen on Falls City’s roster, Allison Kidd and her fellow senior, Tiaunna Davis and Brittany Varney, aren’t lacking on playing time. The trio has consistently led the team in scoring, but coaches are building depth among their younger players.

“The goal is to get our younger kids ready to step on the court and not miss a beat,” Mountaineers coach Micke Kidd said. “We have kids who know they are going to go in and play in key situations. I’d like to get our seniors a few more minutes of rest a game. At the same time, I think our kids are progressing at the rate we thought they’d progress.”

This year is already a big contrast to last season, when the team had as few as six players on its roster. This

FALLS CITY ROUNDUP

Seniors carrying inexperienced squad



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Falls City senior Allison Kidd brings the ball down the court against St. John Bosco on Friday night.

winter, that number is up to 12.

More importantly, players are having fun.

“We’re more excited to play than we were last year,” Allison Kidd said. “I think we get along a lot better. There was more bickering last year.

This year, we’re closer. This group is easy to work with.”

Now, players are working to turn that excitement into strong play from the beginning, Micke Kidd said.

“We’re inconsistent,” he said. “We need to set the energy level. Against Country

PERRYDALE ROUNDUP

Janesofsky has big games to lead Pirates

added 13 points.

“This group is starting to understand what we need to do to be successful,” Pirates coach Mike Lowry said. “The ball movement (against Country) was much better and resulted in open shots that we converted.”

Janesofsky had 31 points against Livingstone Adventist.

“We still have some work

to do on the defensive end of the court,” Lowry said.

“We need to increase our intensity to reach our goals, but we are continuing to make steps in the right direction and are getting better every day.”

Perrydale (3-4 overall, 3-1 Casco League) played Monroe Tuesday after press time.

The Pirates play at Gaston

Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL LOSES

TWO: Perrydale’s girls basketball team dropped two of three games. The Pirates defeated Livingstone Adventist 36-32 on Dec. 16 before losing to Country Christian 62-26 on Saturday and to Vernonia 63-19 on Monday. Perrydale (3-4 overall) played Monroe Tuesday after press time. The Pirates travel to play at Gaston Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Christian, we played really well. Mohawk and St. John Bosco didn’t bring that same energy level and we brought our level down to meet that.”

Learning to set the tone is all part of the learning process, Allison Kidd said, and players are beginning to see what they can accomplish.

“We can compete with the good teams,” Allison Kidd said. “The other seniors have helped get the underclassmen pumped and ready to play and not be as nervous. They’re starting to get it.”

It’s because of Allison and her senior teammates that their growth is happening, Micke Kidd said. All that remains is to see how quickly the Mountaineers can grow up on the court.

“Our kids are stepping up and getting better every day,” Micke Kidd said. “I’m pretty happy with where they are at.”

BOYS BASKETBALL DROPS

TWO: Falls City’s boys basketball team lost a pair of games. The Mountaineers fell to Mohawk 59-28 on Dec. 16 and lost to St. John Bosco 53-29 on Friday. The Mountaineers (1-6 overall) will play at Alsea Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Itemizer-Observer staff report

PERRYDALE — Perrydale’s boys basketball team won two of three games.

The Pirates defeated Livingstone Adventist 60-32 on Dec. 16 and Country Christian 62-46 on Saturday. Perrydale lost to Vernonia 78-37 on Monday evening.

Haylen Janesofsky had 19 points against Country Christian. Spencer Bibler

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

GNAC MEN

Team	League	All
Western Oregon	2-0	11-0
Seattle Pacific	2-0	9-1
Alaska Fairbanks	2-0	8-2
Alaska Anchorage	2-0	9-4
Western Washington	2-1	8-4
Saint Martin's	1-1	7-3
Montana State Billings	1-1	4-6
Central Washington	0-2	5-2
Northwest Nazarene	0-2	4-4
Concordia	0-2	2-7
Simon Fraser	0-3	1-8
Sunday, Dec. 20 Result		
Western Oregon 85, Willamette 50		

WOU 85, WILLAMETTE 50

Sunday's Box Score
WILLAMETTE (50) — Harlington 7, McCullough 7, Brown 7, Willems 6, Luedtke 5, Baumgartner 5, Shanley 5, Strickland 2, Browning 2, Oishi 2, Billingsley, Roberts, Verduin **Totals 19417-25 50.**

WESTERN OREGON (85) — Alaby 14, Wiley 11, Omlid 11, Schreiber 10, Nichols 9, Roth 7, Avgi 6, Alexander 6, Strickland 5, Chirinside 2, Thompson 2, Souza 2, Raglione. **Totals 31 18-22 85.**
Willamette 24 26-50
Western Oregon 41 44-85
 3-point goals — Willamette 5 (Willets 2, Harlington 1, Brown 1, Callan 1); Western Oregon 5 (Wiley 3, Nichols 1, Omlid 1).

Tuesday, Dec. 29 Game

Western Oregon at Oregon

GNAC WOMEN

Team	League	All
Western Washington	2-0	6-4
Montana State Billings	2-0	6-4
Seattle Pacific	2-0	5-4
Alaska Anchorage	2-1	15-1
Central Washington	1-1	8-2
Simon Fraser	1-1	3-4
Concordia	1-1	3-7
Saint Martin's	1-1	2-6
Northwest Nazarene	0-2	2-6
Western Oregon	0-2	1-9
Alaska Fairbanks	0-3	5-8
Saturday, Dec. 19 Result		
Humboldt State 65, Western Oregon 56		

HU 65, WOU 56

Dec. 19 Box Score
WESTERN OREGON (56) — Howey 12, Azorr 12, Bromagem 11, Boschma 6, Miller 4, Davis 4, Nelke 4, Mottershaw 3, Bembry, DeLonge. **Totals 24 2-2 56.**

HUMBOLDT STATE (65) — Kunst 14, Foster 14, Johnson 10, Davis 8, Puryear 6, McMiller 4, Brown 3, Northern 2, Thayer 2, Haueter 2, Wiggins, Murie. **Totals 20 20-23 65.**

Cal Baptist 23 17 26 12-78
Western Oregon 8 20 13 14-55
 3-point goals — Western Oregon 6 (Bromagem 3, Azorr 2, Mottershaw 1); Humboldt State 5 (Johnson 2, Brown 1, Davis 1, Puryear 1).

WRESTLING

CENTRAL INVITATIONAL at Central High School

Friday Results
Team scores — Central 203, Tillamook 199, Elmira 164, Willamina 125½, Monroe 109, Jefferson 100, Santiam Christian 41, Rainer 28.

(Central individual placers)
106 — Luis Martinez, 1-2, third. **113** — Michael Arciniega, 2-1, third. **120** — Maunuel Martinez, 3-1, third. **126** — Bert Bentancourt, 0-2, fifth. **132** — Noah

BOYS BASKETBALL

MID-WILLAMETTE

Team	League	All
Corvallis	0-0	4-1
Central	0-0	4-2
Lebanon	0-0	3-1
Crescent Valley	0-0	3-2
Dallas	0-0	3-2
Silverton	0-0	2-1
South Albany	0-0	3-3
Woodburn	0-0	2-4
Tuesday, Dec. 15 Result		
Central 54, Glencoe 51		

CENTRAL 54, GLENCOE 51

Dec. 15 Box Score
CENTRAL (54) — Barba 19, Mendazona 10, K. Cable 10, Bal 6, Stepp 5, Mason 2, Abraham 2, W. Cable. **Totals 19 8-19 54.**

GLENCOE (51) — McKinney 11, McKinstry 11, McFadden 9, McLean 7, Gerber 5, Van Dyke 3, Maldonado 3, Melanson 2, Marcus, Ochoa, Stott, Ramey. **Totals 17 11-18 51.**

Central 15 9 20 10-54
Glencoe 7 12 6 26-51
 3-point goals — Central 8 (Barba 5, Mendazona 2, Bal 1); Glencoe 6 (McFadden 2, Van Dyke 1, McLean 1, Maldonado 1, Gerber 1).

Friday, Dec. 18 Result

Dallas 64, North Eugene 29

DALLAS 64, NORTH EUGENE 29

Friday's Box Score
NORTH EUGENE (29) — Woodworth 8, Bohrer 4, Enciso 4, Hill 4, Snyder 3, Proudft 2, Westwoods 2, Dodson 2. **Totals 10 7-10 29.**

DALLAS (64) — Richey 12, Minahan 11, Welty 10, Laizure 8, Wallace 6, Broadus 5, Dimick 4, Collins 4, Hanson 2, Courtney 2, Koons. **Totals 23 7-9 64.**

North Eugene 8 8 2 11-29
Dallas 20 15 12 17-64
 3-point goals — North Eugene 2 (Westwoods 1, Hill 1); Dallas 11 (Minahan 3, Richey 3, Wallace 2, Broadus 1, Laizure 1, Welty 1).

Saturday, Dec. 19 Result

Dallas 55, Grants Pass 53

DALLAS 55, GRANT'S PASS 53

Saturday's Box Score
GRANT'S PASS (53) — Hoy 15, Reed 9, Rund 6, Wallace 5, Phillips 4, Crume 4, Zozaya 4, Appling 2, Valadez 2, Musser 2. **Totals 23 7-9 53.**

DALLAS (55) — Minahan 21, Laizure 15, Broadus 6, Collins 4, Richey 4, Welty 3, Dimick 2. **Totals 21 11-17 55.**
Grant's Pass 13 16 6 18-53
Dallas 17 8 11 19-55
 3-point goals — Grant's Pass 0; Dallas 2 (Minahan 1, Welty 1).

Tuesday, Dec. 22 Game

Central at Stayton

Monday, Dec. 28 Games

Roosevelt at Central
 Dallas at North Medford

Tuesday, Dec. 29 Game

Dallas at Abby's Holiday Tournament

Wednesday, Dec. 30 Game

Dallas at Abby's Holiday Tournament

Falls City 0-3 1-6

Wednesday, Dec. 16 Results

Mohawk 59, Falls City 28
 Perrydale 60, Livingstone Adventist 32

PERRYDALE 60, LIVINGSTONE 32

Dec. 16 Box Score
LIVINGSTONE ADVENTIST (32) — O'Dell 8, Magee 8, Kroschel 6, Estrada 4, Kroschel 2, Castrorena 2, Hermus 2, Williams, Halvorsen, Villegas, Rivera. **Totals 13 2-4 32.**

PERRYDALE (60) — Janesofsky 31, Hawes 10, Cruickshank 7, Sagmoen 4, Barnes 4, Leppin 2, Bailey 2, Willis, Bibler, Pope, Rosenbaum **Totals 25 10-16 60.**
Livingstone Adv. 4 8 4 16-32
Perrydale 11 14 20 15-60
 3-point goals — Livingstone Adventist 4 (Magee 2, Kroschel 2); Perrydale 0.

Friday, Dec. 18 Result

St. John Bosco 53, Falls City 29

Saturday, Dec. 19 Result

Perrydale 62, Country Christian 46

PERRYDALE 62, COUNTRY CHRIST. 46

Saturday's Box Score
COUNTRY CHRISTIAN (46) — Grandle 14, Mann 12, Halverson 12, Chavez 5, Cunningham 3, Glimmer. **Totals 18 2-4 46.**

PERRYDALE (62) — Janesofsky 19, Bibler 13, Bailey 10, Barnes 9, Cruickshank 7, McGill 2, Willis 2, Hawes, Rosenbaum, Sagmoen, Leppin. **Totals 25 9-13 62.**
Country Christ. 11 10 8 17-46
Perrydale 22 13 12 15-62
 3-point goals — Country Christian 8 (Halverson 2, Mann 2, Grandle 2, Cunningham 1, Chavez 1); Perrydale 3 (Janesofsky 1, Cruickshank 1, Bibler 1).

Monday, Dec. 21 Result

Vernonia 78, Perrydale 37

VERNONIA 78, PERRYDALE 37

Monday's Box Score
PERRYDALE (37) — Janesofsky 16, Bailey 7, Bibler 5, Hawes 4, Cruickshank 2, Barnes 2, Pope 1, McGill, Willis, Rosenbaum, Sagmoen, Leppin. **Totals 11 15-27 37.**

VERNONIA (78) — Sullivan 17, Jones 13, Elliott 13, Mian 8, Connor 8, Schiemann 8, McCallum 6, Mederris 5, Clark. **Totals 35 0-4 78.**
Perrydale 6 10 10 11-37
Vernonia 18 17 24 19-78
 3-point goals — Perrydale 0; Vernonia 8 (Sullivan 3, Jones 3, Mederris 1, Elliott 1).

Tuesday, Dec. 22 Game

Perrydale vs. Monroe at St. Paul

Tuesday, Dec. 29 Games

Falls City at Alsea
 Perrydale at Gaston

FALLS CITY 42, MOHAWK 14

Dec. 16 Box Score
FALLS CITY (42) — Varney 12, Kidd 11, Davis 6, Ziola 4, Mack 4, Houghtaling 3, Hazelton 2, Ellingson, Tadlock, Limberg. **Totals 19 2-12 42.**
MOHAWK (14) — Hawk 4, Me. Little 3, Rylands 3, Lance 2, Mo. Little 2, Ellis. **Totals 3 8-12 14.**
Falls City 15 3 8 16-42
Mohawk 0 6 8 0-14
 3-point goals — Falls City 2 (Kidd 1, Varney 1), Mohawk 0.

Friday, Dec. 18 Result

Falls City 31, St. John Bosco 15

FALLS CITY 31, ST. JOHN BOSCO 15

Friday's Box Score
ST. JOHN BOSCO (15) — M. Crowell 8, Sindlinger 7, Bartholomew 2, Owen, G. Owen, Moore, Daxle. **Totals 4 4-9 15.**
FALLS CITY (31) — Varney 14, Kidd 6, Davis 6, Houghtaling 5, Ziola, Mack, Tadlock. **Totals 12 6-17 31.**
St. John Bosco 0 8 6 1-15
Falls City 8 11 5 7-31
 3-point goals — St. John Bosco 3 (M. Crowell 2, Moore 1); Falls City 1 (Kidd 1).

Saturday, Dec. 19 Game

Country Christian 62, Perrydale 26

Monday, Dec. 21 Result

Vernonia 63, Perrydale 19

Tuesday, Dec. 22 Game

Perrydale vs. Monroe at St. Paul

Monday, Dec. 28 Game

Falls City at Siletz Valley

Tuesday, Dec. 29 Games

Falls City at Alsea
 Perrydale at Gaston

GIRLS BASKETBALL

MID-WILLAMETTE

Team	League	All
Silverton	0-0	7-0
Corvallis		