

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 11
Men's basketball: NCAA Division II West Regional: Humboldt State at Western Oregon, 7:30 p.m.
Softball: Montana State Billings at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m.
Track and field: Western Oregon at NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships, all day.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
Baseball: Saint Martin's at Western Oregon (DH), noon.
Men's basketball: NCAA Division II West Regional: Semifinals, TBA.
Softball: Montana State Billings at Western Oregon (DH), noon.
Track and field: Western Oregon at NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships, all day.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6
Baseball: Saint Martin's at Western Oregon (DH), noon.

MONDAY, MARCH 14
Baseball: Stayton at Central, 4 p.m. Dallas at Silverton Jamboree, 3:45 p.m.
Men's basketball: NCAA Division II West Regional: Final, TBA.
Softball: Central at McKay, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15
Softball: Perrydale at Amity, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
Baseball: Philomath at Central, 4 p.m. Perrydale at Waldport, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Central at Franklin, 4 p.m. Perrydale at Waldport, 4:30 p.m.

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Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Registration for volleyball open

DALLAS — Registration for the city of Dallas' coed volleyball league is now open.
 Games begin April 12 and run Tuesday nights through May 17 at LaCreole Middle School.
 Deadline to register is April 8. Cost is \$175 per team of eight to 10 players.
 There must be at least three players of the opposite gender. Matches will be a best-of-five format.
 Forms are available online at www.ci.dallas.or.us/756/Adult-Recreation.
 For more information: David Brautigam, david.brautigam@dallasor.gov.

Men's basketball sign-ups open

DALLAS — Sign-ups for the city of Dallas' men's basketball league are now available.
 The league begins April 14 with games on Thursday through June 2.
 Cost is \$300 per team. The captain of each team is responsible for mailing in the team registration fee to the city of Dallas.
 Games will be held at LaCreole Middle School. Teams will consist of eight players per team.
 Forms are available online at www.dallasor.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4617.
 Registration is due by April 11.
 For more information: David Brautigam, david.brautigam@dallasor.gov.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Conference champs



DAN LEVINE/for the Itemizer-Observer

Western Oregon celebrates after winning the Great Northwest Athletic Conference men's basketball championship on Saturday night.

Wolves to host NCAA West Regional this weekend

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

LACEY, Wash. — Among Western Oregon's men's basketball seniors' numerous accomplishments, there was one thing missing from their resumes — a conference tournament title.
 In a year defined by setting school history, the seniors helped check that off their list.
 WOU defeated Alaska Fairbanks 78-71 on Saturday to earn the Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament title.

Alexander

Senior Devon Alexander helped lead the Wolves to their first conference title since 1997.

March Madness

What: NCAA Division II West Regional.
Who: No. 1 Western Oregon, No. 2 UC San Diego, No. 3 Cal Baptist, No. 4 Seattle Pacific, No. 5 Azusa Pacific, No. 6 Cal Poly Pomona, No. 7 Chico State, No. 8 Humboldt State.
When: Friday, Saturday and Monday.
Where: New P.E. Building, Western Oregon.
Admission: Adults, \$12; Seniors/students (with ID), \$10.
What's at stake: The winner of the west regional advances to the Elite Eight on March 23.

Northwest Athletic Conference tournament title.
 Senior Devon Alexander had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and red-shirt sophomore Alex Roth hit all four of his 3-pointers, helping the Wolves to the win.
 "It's honestly like a feeling of relief in the sense that we finally got it done," Alexander said. "It's what

we've been trying to get done since I came here. Being with (Jordan) Wiley, (Jordan) Schriber, Andy Avgi and those seniors, this was our main goal from the very beginning.
 ... To put Western Oregon in that elite club of championship teams, it's honestly an indescribable feeling."
 To have it come against Alaska Fairbanks, the last team to defeat WOU, made the moment sweeter.



Roth

See **WOLVES**, Page 13A

CENTRAL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Panthers fall to Hillsboro

By Lukas Eggen
 The Itemizer-Observer

HILLSBORO — Trailing by 18 in the second half, Central's girls basketball team could have quit.

Instead, the Panthers continued to fight, rallying to within five before falling to Hillsboro 42-35 in the first round of the state playoffs on Friday.

"I told them I was proud of them," Central coach Julie McDonald said. "We got down by 18 and we could have shut down. They kept fighting. That shows a lot of character and who they are. They fought to the end."

Senior Kylie Nash scored a game-high 15 points. Senior Alex Alvarez added 12 points.

The Panthers struggled in the second quarter, being shut out 9-0 and seeing the Spartans stretch their lead to double digits.

"They might have been a little too patient in the second quarter," McDonald said. "We weren't looking to be an offensive threat and



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Central senior Kylie Nash goes up for a shot during the Panthers' 42-35 loss to Hillsboro on Friday evening.

were just kind of being a little gun shy and letting them dictate what we do."

That began to change in the second half.

"We started moving the

ball and hitting shots," McDonald said. "We weren't looking to who else would get the job done for us."
 See **PANTHERS**, Page 13A

Stretching out



CALEB WALLACE/for the Itemizer-Observer

Dallas junior Oliva Nelson attempts to score over a Churchill defender on Tuesday. For a story on the Dragons' playoff run, see Page 13A.

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