

CENTRAL BOYS BASKETBALL

Central's rally comes up short

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

EUGENE — Central's boys basketball team saw a late rally fall just short against Churchill on Saturday. The Panthers fell in the first round of the 5A state playoffs 68-63.

The Lancers created some space in the first half. Central pulled to within 24-21, but a 13-5 run to close out the first half gave Churchill a 37-26 lead.

"They came out and punched us in the mouth first," junior Alec Barba said.

The Panthers were unable to get any closer than three the rest of the game.

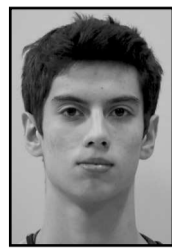
"We just got a little frazzled," Central coach Tim Kreta said. "We had some different guys in there at the time. We had some foul trouble with Kevin (Cable) and Harkie (Bal) picking up



Mendazona

two quick fouls. Peter (Mason) was on the bench at the time." The Panthers made several rallies during the second half, but each time Churchill held them off. Central closed to within 66-63 with six seconds left in the game. A pair of free throws sealed the win for the Lancers, who advanced to the state quarterfinals round against Summit on Thursday.

Barba and Peter Mendazona each scored 18 points during the game. "I let the players know this was their game. This was them playing lights out," Kreta said. "We came out and defended well. We only had two turnovers in the second half. We did every-



Barba

thing we planned for. As much as losing is bad, if we're going to go down, I want it to be with our best effort. I'm proud of them, absolutely."

The loss marked the end of a season that saw Central overcome early struggles in league play. "It was a learning experience," Barba said. "We went through ups and downs. It was a roller coaster, but it gave us a ton of experience. The junior class, the sophomore class, everyone is going to come back really strong next season."

Kreta hopes players see that it's not how a season begins, but how it ends that matters most.

"I hope they saw that the season is an uphill climb," Kreta said. "It's not just about showing up on the first day of tryouts and thinking we're the best. There's some growing pains."

It may have not been the fairy tale ending they had hoped for, but Central's players are proud of the way they faced adversity throughout the season.

"I looked at a team that started off 1-6 in league and just improved and got this close to getting to Gill Coliseum," Cable said. "It was pretty special."

The Panthers advanced to the first round after defeating Eagle Point 70-49 on Wednesday, sending players off with a win in their final home game of the season.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer
Central junior Peter Mason looks to pass during the Panthers' 70-49 win over Eagle Point on March 2.

DALLAS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dallas dropped in first round

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

SPRINGFIELD — The Dallas High girls basketball team stuck with the No. 2 seed, but in the end, Springfield defeated Dallas 47-35 on Friday.

The Dragons were eliminated after reaching the first round of the state playoffs.

Dallas jumped out to a 9-2 lead to begin the game and held a 26-22 lead in the third quarter before Springfield rallied.

"I'm sure many thought we'd get destroyed except the players and coaches of the Dallas Dragons basketball program," Dallas coach David Brautigam said. "We didn't play scared or timid. We played aggressive and



Nelson

confident. We came out like one of the top teams in the state." Freshman Emma Klassen scored eight points, while junior Olivia Nelson added seven points.

Dallas advanced to the first round after defeating Churchill 54-39 on March 1. Sophomore Tristin Savage had a team-high 15 points during the win.

Despite battling multiple injuries, Brautigam is more than happy with the way his team responded to a difficult season. "The reality is we only re-

turned one starter and player with major experience from the previous season, and experience in girls basketball is everything," Brautigam said. "We battled all season to finish fourth in the toughest conference in the state. I know our team believes if we were healthy, we'd finish better, but there isn't a thing I'd change about the season. Our players learned a lot about each other and we are better for it."

And that was more important to Brautigam than any wins on the court.

"Character in players and in a team are very important to me as a coach," Brautigam said. "This team developed exactly that — great character."

Panthers: Central ends 14-11

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Central pulled to within five twice in the last minutes of the game with a chance to close the lead more. In the end, the Panthers couldn't rally all the way back.

"Losing doesn't feel good, but these seniors have made it to state all four years," McDonald said. "Not many people can do that. That's pretty cool."

Central advanced to the first round after defeating Eagle Point 64-27 on March 1 in the play-in round.

Nash scored 19 points, while Alvarez added 14 points. Sophomore Krista Omlid recorded 11 rebounds.

Nash passed a career milestone during the win — reaching 1,000 points during her high school career early in the third quarter.

"I was pretty excited," Nash said. "That's been one of my main goals. That's pretty sweet."

The senior had her eyes on the milestone for more than a year.

"My junior year, me and my dad were looking at stats of other college players," Nash said. "I saw this one player had a thousand and something points. I knew then I wanted to get that 1,000."

Reaching that mark in her final home game only made the moment more

special.

"It means all the hard work I put into the sport is showing," Nash said. "It's going into college knowing I gave so much for my high school team and I was able to perform for them."

McDonald said there was a lot for her team to hang its hat on. And she hopes the Panthers take this season and continue to grow going forward.

"They've probably improved the most of any team I coached from the beginning to the end of the season," McDonald said. "They have a lot of positives to look at. I'm proud of the way they fought until the end."

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

Baseball splits with Concordia

Itemizer-Observer staff report

PORTLAND — Western Oregon's baseball team split a four-game series with Concordia on Saturday and Sunday to open Great Northwest Athletic Conference play.

The Wolves took the opening game of the series 9-2 before falling 2-0 on Saturday. Senior Trevor Podratz hit a home run in the top of the first inning to spark WOU during its victory. Pitcher Brady Miller threw nine strikeouts.

Western Oregon split a doubleheader on Sunday as well, earning a 4-1 win in the

first game before losing 1-0 in the second. Pitcher Garrett Alvarez earned a complete-game victory, while Podratz hit his second home run of the series.

Western Oregon (7-6 overall, 2-2 GNAC) hosts Saint Martin's on Saturday and Sunday for a pair of doubleheaders. First pitch is scheduled for noon on both days.

SOFTBALL FALLS TO CWU: The rain caused some changes to Western Oregon's softball team's schedule. The Wolves' home-opener against Saint Martin's on Saturday was postponed, while WOU traveled to face Central Washington on

Sunday. The Wolves dropped a doubleheader to the Wildcats 7-5 and 7-6. Senior Alyson Boytz threw a complete game in the first matchup. WOU led 4-3 before giving up four runs in the bottom of the fourth. Freshman Ryanne Huffman scored in the top of the seventh to pull the Wolves within two, but CWU held on. Huffman scored two runs in the second game of the doubleheader and Ashlee Lynch hit a home run, but Western Oregon dropped a second-straight close game. WOU (7-10 overall, 0-2 GNAC) will host Montana State Billings for a pair of doubleheaders. Play begins at 1 p.m. Friday and noon on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

CLASS 5A

MID-WILLAMETTE

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

Monday, March 14 Games

Stayton at Central
Dallas at Silverton
Jamboree

Wednesday, March 16 Game

Philomath at Central

CLASS 2A-1A

SPECIAL DISTRICT 2

Team	League	All
Central Linn	0-0	0-0
Country Christian	0-0	0-0
East Linn Christian	0-0	0-0
Kennedy	0-0	0-0
Perrydale	0-0	0-0
Regis	0-0	0-0
Santiam	0-0	0-0
St. Paul	0-0	0-0
Western Mennonite	0-0	0-0

Wednesday, March 16 Game

Perrydale at Waldport

COLLEGE

GNAC

Team	League	All
Central Washington	3-1	7-5
Northwest Nazarene	3-1	8-6
Western Oregon	2-2	7-6
Concordia	2-2	4-10
Montana State Billings	1-3	7-6
Saint Martin's	1-3	4-10

Saturday, March 5 Results

Western Oregon 9-0, Concordia 2-2

First Game

WOU 100 041 102-9 9 0
CU 000 000 002-2 3 0

Miller, Allison (9) and Oliver, Moser, Wilson (6) and Henderson, W.—Miller, L.—Moser. 2B—WOU: Podratz,

Etheridge, Oliver. 3B—WOU: Vanderkin. HR—WOU: Podratz.

Second Game

WOU 000 000 0-0 2 0
CU 200 000 X-2 5 1

Moran and Wakem; McGhee and North. W—McGhee. L—Moran. 2B—WOU: Pozanski.

Sunday, March 6 Results

Western Oregon 4-0, Concordia 1-1

First Game

WOU 111 010 000-4 8 1
CU 000 001 000-1 5 1

Alvarez and Oliver; Krueger, Eldridge (6) and Henderson. W—Alvarez. L—Krueger. 2B—CU: Crosby. HR—WOU: Podratz.

Second Game

WOU 000 000 0-0 3 0
CU 000 001 X-1 6 1

Steindorf and Oliver; Hadley and North. W—North. L—Steindorf.

Saturday, March 12 Games

Saint Martin's at Western Oregon (DH)

Sunday, March 13 Games

Saint Martin's at Western Oregon (DH)

BOYS BASKETBALL

MID-WILLAMETTE

Team	League	All
Corvallis	12-2	19-6
Silverton	11-3	17-8
Lebanon	9-5	16-9
Central	6-8	11-14
South Albany	6-8	13-13
Woodburn	5-9	10-14
Crescent Valley	4-10	10-14
Dallas	3-11	7-17

Wednesday, March 2 Results

Central 70, Eagle Point 49

CENTRAL 70, EAGLE POINT 49

March 2 Box Score

EAGLE POINT (49) — Quintero 16, Bell 16, Rodgers 7, Perkins 4, McHugh 2, Scott 2, Vasquez 2, Shopp, Nielsen, Hill, Spradley. **Totals 19-14-49.**

CENTRAL (70) — Barba 17, Mason 15, K. Cable 11, Stepp 10, Bal 8, Mendazona 6, Barry 3, Ibarra, Avila, Cantu, W. Cable, Abraham. **Totals 22-19-26-70.**

Eagle Point 12 10 14 13-49

Central 16 13 26 15-70

3-point goals — Eagle Point 5 (Quintero 4, Rodgers 1); Central 7 (Barba 5, Mendazona 1, Barry 1).

Saturday, March 5 Results

Churchill 68, Central 63

CHURCHILL 68, CENTRAL 63

Saturday Box Score

CENTRAL (63) — Mendazona 18, Barba 18, Stepp 11, Bal 5, Abraham 5, Mason 4, K. Cable 2, Barry. **Totals 21-10-14-63.**

CHURCHILL (68) — Wilson 23, Brant 9, Perez 9, Bibby 7, Hall 6, Stubbs 5, Geiger 5, Becker 3, Ellis 1. **Totals 20-24-31-68.**

Central 11 15 13 24-63

Churchill 17 20 12 19-68

3-point goals — Central 11 (Barba 6, Mendazona 4, Bal 1); Churchill 4 (Wilson 4).

GIRLS BASKETBALL

MID-WILLAMETTE

Team	League	All
Silverton	14-0	25-0
Corvallis	12-2	20-5
Central	8-6	14-11
Dallas	8-6	14-12
Lebanon	6-8	14-12
Crescent Valley	6-8	10-14
Woodburn	2-12	6-18
South Albany	0-14	4-20

Tuesday, March 1 Results

Central 64, Eagle Point 27
Dallas 54, Churchill 39

CENTRAL 64, EAGLE POINT 27

March 1 Box Score

EAGLE POINT (27) — Wood 17, Hart 4, Meerten 4, Beal 2, Miller, Crowe, Alden, SunMarco. **Totals 10-3-11-27.**

CENTRAL (64) — Nash 19, Alvarez 14, Omlid 8, Chavez 7, Girod 6, Riddell 4,

Broadus 4, Trevino 2, Kan, Berry. **Totals 22-17-22-64.**

Eagle Point 7 5 6 9-27

Central 13 19 19 13-64

3-point goals — Eagle Point 4 (Wood 4); Central 3 (Nash 2, Chavez 1).

Friday, March 4 Results

Hillsboro 42, Central 35
Springfield 47, Dallas 35

HILLSBORO 42, CENTRAL 35

Friday's Box Score

CENTRAL (35) — Nash 15, Alvarez 12, Girod 4, Omlid 4, Riddell, Chavez, Broadus, Trevino. **Totals 14-9-2-35.**

CHURCHILL (42) — Green 12, Gambee 9, Wilson 9, Rogers 9, Dy 3, Salas. **Totals 16-8-15-42.**

Central 8 0 6 21-35

Hillsboro 11 9 9 13-42

3-point goals — Central 7 (Alvarez 4, Nash 3); Hillsboro 2 (Dy 1, Wilson 1).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

GNAC MEN

Team	League	All
Western Oregon	18-2	27-3
Alaska Fairbanks	15-5	22-8
Alaska Anchorage	14-6	21-11
Seattle Pacific	14-6	22-8
Central Washington	13-7	18-8
Western Washington	9-11	16-15
Saint Martin's	9-11	15-13
Montana State Billings	8-12	11-17
Concordia	5-15	7-20
Northwest Nazarene	4-16	8-18
Simon Fraser	1-19	2-24

Friday, March 4 Results

Western Oregon 58, Seattle Pacific 57

WOU 58, SPU 57

Friday's Box Score

SEATTLE PACIFIC (57) — Penner 26, Carroll 14, Dienckx 8, Parker 5, Swanson 2, Simpson 2, Leavitt, Colosimo, Wooten. **Totals 20-15-15-57.**

WESTERN OREGON (58) — Alexander 19, Nichols 14, Avgi 10, Wiley 8, Omlid 5, Roth 2, Alaby, Thompson, Nestell. **Totals 21-13-21-58.**

Seattle Pacific 31 26-57

Western Oregon 32 26-58

3-point goals — Seattle Pacific 2 (Penner 1, Carroll 1); Western Oregon 3 (Alexander 2, Omlid 1).

Saturday, March 5 Results

Western Oregon 78, Alaska Fairbanks 71

WOU 78, AFU 71

Saturday's Box Score

ALASKA FAIRBANKS (71) — Williams 23, Kaba 19, Slocum 13, Davis 10, Duncan 4, Hadzisehovic 2, Ladines, Chavez, Pederson. **Totals 29-5-9-71.**

WESTERN OREGON (78) — Alexander 16, Wiley 16, Roth 14, Avgi 12, Nichols 9, Omlid 6, Alaby 5, Strickland, Thompson. **Totals 27-12-15-78.**

Alaska Fairbanks 34 37-71

Western Oregon 31 47-78

3-point goals — Alaska Fairbanks 8 (Williams 3, Slocum 3, Kaba 1, Davis 1); Western Oregon 12 (Alexander 4, Roth 4, Wiley 3, Alaby 1).

Friday, March 11 Games

NCAA Div. II West Regional (at WOU): No. 8 Humboldt State vs. No. 1 Western Oregon; No. 5 Azusa Pacific vs. No. 4 Seattle Pacific; No. 7 Chico State vs. No. 2 UC San Diego; No. 6 Cal Poly Pomona vs. No. 3 California Baptist

Saturday, March 12 Game

NCAA Div. II West Regional: APU/SPU vs. HSU/WOU; CPU/CBU vs. CSU/UCSD

Monday, March 14 Game

NCAA Div. II West Regional: Championship game

SOFTBALL

CLASS 5A

MID-WILLAMETTE

Team	League	All
Central	0-0	0-0
Corvallis	0-0	0-0
Crescent Valley	0-0	0-0
Dallas	0-0	0-0
Lebanon	0-0	0-0
Silverton	0-0	0-0
South Albany	0-0	0-0

Monday, March 14 Game

Central at McKay

Wednesday, March 16 Game

Central at Franklin

CLASS 2A-1A

SPECIAL DISTRICT 2

Team	League	All
Central Linn	0-0	0-0
Kennedy	0-0	0-0
Perrydale	0-0	0-0
Regis	0-0	0-0
Santiam	0-0	0-0
St. Paul	0-0	0-0

Tuesday, March 15 Game

Perrydale at Amity

Wednesday, March 16 Game

Perrydale at Waldport

COLLEGE

GNAC

Team	League	All
Concordia	2-0	12-7
Simon Fraser	5-3	14-11
Western Washington	5-3	10-8
Northwest Nazarene	2-2	8-9
Central Washington	2-2	14-3
Saint Martin's	0-0	15-2
Western Oregon	0-2	7-7
Montana State Billings	0-4	5-12

Saturday, March 5 Games

Saint Martin's at Western Oregon, ppd.

Sunday, March 6 Results

Western Oregon 5-6, Central Wash. 7-7

First Game

WOU 011 200 1-5 9 2
CUW 021 400 X-7 10 1

Boytz and Siolo; Wood, Copodonna (5) and Wilkerson. W—Wood. L—Boytz. 2B—WOU: Clark, CWU: Olague. HR—WOU: Gardner; CWU: Wilkerson, Copodonna.

Friday, March 11 Games

MSUB at Western Oregon (DH)

Saturday, March 12 Games

MSUB at Western Oregon (DH)