

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
Baseball: Dallas at Silvertown Jamboree, 3:45 p.m. Perrydale at Waldport, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Perrydale at Waldport, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
Baseball: Central at Philomath, 4 p.m.
Boys tennis: Central at Blanchet Catholic, 4 p.m. North Marion at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.
Girls tennis: Blanchet Catholic at Central, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
Boys tennis: Central at Philomath, 4 p.m.
Baseball: Central at Cascade, 4:30 p.m. Dallas vs. Astoria (at University Portland), 4 p.m. Perrydale at Amity, 4:30 p.m. Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon (DH), 1 p.m.
Girls tennis: Philomath at Central, 4 p.m.
Softball: Central at Taft, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
Baseball: Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon (DH), noon.
Softball: Western Oregon at Simon Fraser (DH), 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20
Softball: Western Oregon at Western Washington (DH), noon.

MONDAY, MARCH 21
Softball: Dallas at Medford Spring Break Tournament, 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22
Baseball: Central vs. Gladstone (at North Marion), noon.
Softball: Dallas at Medford Spring Break Tournament, 9 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
Baseball: Central at North Marion, 3 p.m. Lewis-Clark State at Western Oregon, 2 p.m.
Men's basketball: NCAA Division II Elite Eight: Western Oregon vs. Kutztown/West Liberty (at Frisco, Texas), TBA.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

Polk Pedalers set for Saturday ride


POLK COUNTY — The Polk Pedalers Bicycle Club will hold a ride Saturday at 8 a.m. Riders will meet at Perrydale School and take the Amity Spring loop, which is a 40-mile easy loop. There is no cost to participate. All ages are welcome to participate, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Helmets are required. Carpooling is also available. For more information: 503-623-6533.

STAT SHEET

6 The number of home softball games that Western Oregon has postponed because of rainy conditions. The Wolves saw a pair of home doubleheaders postponed on Friday and Saturday.

0 The number of home losses Western Oregon's men's basketball team had. WOU defeated the University of California, San Diego on Monday.

2015-16 ITEMIZER-OBSERVER ALL-REGION GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Pirate Captain

Senior carried Perrydale

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

PERRYDALE — On every team, each player has a role in contributing to the squad's success. There are others that, without them, a team would falter badly. Perrydale senior Telaney Newton was firmly in that second category for Perrydale's girls basketball squad.

The 5-foot-11 post did more than just lead; she carried Perrydale. Newton averaged 14 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks per game during her senior campaign. She was responsible for nearly half of the Pirates' total points per game (30.8), and guided a young squad to the second round of the 1A state playoffs.

Her role in leading arguably Polk County's most surprising playoff push makes her the *Itemizer-ObsERVER's* 2015-16 Player of the Year.

See CAPTAIN, Page 12A

Inside

- See the 2015-16 *Itemizer-ObsERVER* All-Region team on page 11A. Look for the All-Region boys basketball team in the March 23 issue.

By The Numbers

14	12	30.8
The number of points per game Newton averaged during the 2015-16 season, a team-high.	The number of rebounds per game that Newton grabbed during her senior season.	The number of total points per game Perrydale scored. Newton scored nearly half that total.

Elite: Avgi named Outstanding Player

Continued from Page 1A
 WOU won in front of a crowd of 1,569 fans — giving the seniors a perfect send off in their final home game. "It's definitely special," Nichols said. "The whole community can come together and enjoy a game for about two hours. The kids love it. It's fun when you're winning."

Avgi was named the Regional's Most Outstanding Player. Earlier that day, he was also named the West Region's Player of the Year as the Wolves (30-3 overall) matched the program's record for most wins.

"Coming in as a freshman, Western Oregon wasn't the greatest team," Avgi said. "I think we were below .500 or right at .500. When I came here, we got a new coach and we basically turned it around. It's always nice winning. It helps get the crowds out. This is big for the community. I love it here. It's just a great feeling."

Western Oregon earned a spot in the regional final by



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER
 Western Oregon guard Julian Nichols (right) shoots over an Azusa Pacific defender.

defeating Humboldt State 82-65 on Friday and Azusa Pacific 81-69 on Saturday. Redshirt sophomore Tanner Omlid scored a team-high 18 points against the Jacks. The next day, Avgi scored a game-high 22 points, and Devon Alexander added 19 points, seven rebounds and a steal as WOU got revenge on the team that ended its 2014-15 season.

"We're more focused on

what we're trying to do this season, but you can't take away the fact that they did beat us at their place last season," Alexander said. "It is sweet to get a little revenge and beat them here in front of our crowd."

Western still has work cut out for them, but they savored the moment Monday night.

"This is one of the greatest feelings I've ever had," Omlid, a Central High graduate, said. "It's like winning the state title all over again."

Soon, it will be back to business. WOU advances to the Elite Eight in Frisco, Texas. While the 2015-16 season has already been one for the history books, Shaw said the Wolves aren't ready to see it end just yet.

"Each time you play, it presents an opportunity to extend this journey," Shaw said. "We know whomever we play will be a championship-caliber team, but I think we can match up with anybody."

WOU fans make for special experience



It's no secret that Western Oregon athletics has had its share of attendance struggles. I've covered games where there were seemingly as many fans watching as when I played middle school basketball ... and I'm not sure which crowd was louder. Sadly, I've been to games where the loudest cheering came from players on the bench. The men's basketball team has seen that trend reverse. At the start of the season, the Wolves drew hundreds of fans. By the end, it was pulling in 1,000 to 1,500 fans regularly. On Friday, attendance ballooned to 2,098 — a season high. The atmosphere was like nothing else I'd seen at WOU. The crowd was loud enough that Wolves coach Jim Shaw had problems shouting instructions to his players. Fans started chants throughout the game.

See FANS, Page 12A

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